



## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

July, 2023

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### Identify the Signs - A Campaign by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

By Wendy Overturf

[Identify the Signs](#) (sponsored by ASHA) aims to educate the public about the warning signs of communication disorders. Speech, language, and hearing disorders are treatable and early detection is a major contributor to speedier recoveries, shortened treatment periods, and reduced costs for individuals and society.

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 228,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Some of the resources on the ASHA website are restricted to members only. But the resource that is being shared is open to all and includes information that is valuable to parents, educators, and caregivers.

**Know the Signs of Speech and Language Disorders**(Source: Identify the Signs website)

#### Children: Signs of a Language Disorder

- Does not smile or interact with others (birth and older)
- Does not babble (4–6 months)
- Makes only a few sounds or gestures, like reaching (7–9 months)
- Does not understand what others say (10 months – 2 years)
- Says only a few words (19 months – 2 years)
- Does not put words together to make sentences (19 months – 3 years)
- Speaks using words that are not easily understood by others (3–4 years)
- Has trouble with early reading skills: pretending to read or finding the front of a book (4–5 years)

**What Parents/Caregivers Can Do...**

[Read Full Article](#)

**There are no scheduled webinars in July. However, be sure to check some of our online resources. And check out the Endless Possibilities Conference information below!**

**[IEP Mini-Modules:](#)** These 30 to 40-minute modules break down what you need to know about the IEP process. You can watch through the entire ten-part series or jump right in with the modules that are most interesting to you. Clicking on the module will direct you to a registration page. After filling out the required information, you will be able access the recorded video(s).

**[Training Webinar Recordings:](#)** This link has many of our archived webinars in case you missed one or perhaps want to review it again. The webinars are all organized into categories. Just select the title of the webinar you would like to view. Please note: You will have to provide some basic registration information before you can access the recording. If there was a slide deck that was used during the webinar, it is included as well.

### **[Endless Possibilities Conference 2023: Guiding Families through Challenging Times](#)**

**A Virtual Conference for Families and Professionals Who Support Students with Disabilities**

**Keynote:** The Impact of Toxic Stress and Trauma

**Date:** August 4, 2023

**Fee:** \$40 (A limited number of parent scholarships are available, [contact WI FACETS](#) for more information.)

**Registration deadline is 7/30/23. Interpretation to Spanish will be provided for all sessions.**

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## HOME LEARNING

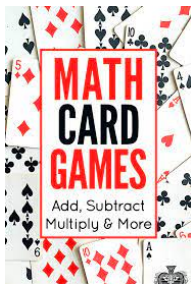


### **[Children's Activity Calendar: July 2023](#)**

Help kids make the most of summer with a July calendar full of themed book suggestions and activities. July 9<sup>th</sup> is the birthday of John Newbery. The Newbery Medal was named for 18<sup>th</sup>-century British publisher, John Newbery, who is considered "The Father of Children's Literature." The medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

This [website](#) gives a complete listing of the award winners since 1922 as well as a short summary of each book. (While the library location link will not be applicable most local libraries will carry these books.)

### **[20 Fun and Easy Fourth of July Activities to Do with Kids](#)**



### **[Kids Math Card Games with Just a Deck of Cards](#)**

Whether comparing numbers, adding, subtracting, dividing, or multiplying, one simple deck of cards can be used to play countless math games. This collection of kid friendly math card games is likely to include some that are familiar and some new, and they're all good for reinforcing important mathematical concepts through game play

### **[Calendar of Math Activities for July](#)**

This calendar has a daily elementary level math practice skill that will help your child keep engaged in learning during the summer.





## National Blueberry Day-July 8th

“More Blueberries” is a story about young twins enjoying and sharing their favorite snack and is full of rhyming words. As you read the book with your child be sure to stop and talk about the rhyming words. The ability to recognize and produce rhyming words is an important phonological awareness (hearing parts in the word) skill. Research indicates a direct correlation between learning rhyming and eventual reading readiness.

[“More Blueberries.”](#) Read Aloud

Making a blueberry pie is a great way to celebrate National Blueberry Day. Get creative and try something different like a [blueberry crumble](#) or a [blueberry cobbler](#).

**Smoothies** are a great way to get your fruit fix in the summertime! Blend together some frozen blueberries, yogurt, and honey and voila, you have a delicious and healthy treat!



## Rhyming Activities

### [Make a Rhyme, Make a Move](#)

Help your children develop their phonological awareness and rhyming skills with this cool [rhyming song](#) that engages your children with movement, dance, and most importantly an opportunity to practice their awareness of words that rhyme

### **Play I Spy with a Rhyming Twist**

Try this new rhyming twist on the classic I Spy game with your child. Choose an object in the room for your child to find (for example, a block) Then think of a word that rhymes with your chosen object and include it in the spy clue. For instance, “I spy something that rhymes with sock.” Your child then needs to find something in the room that rhymes with your clue. After your child guesses the object correctly, try and think of as many words as possible that rhyme with it. [\(from pbs.org\)](#)



### [Summer Food Service Program | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

The **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** is a federally-funded, state-administered program that reimburses program operators who serve free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income areas during the summer months, when children do not have access to school meals.

**2023 SFSP Sponsors & Sites (6/19/23):** This file is updated weekly throughout the summer.



**Milwaukee Public Schools will offer meals for children age 18 and under at more than 70 sites during the summer.** Free breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be offered and will vary by location. Stop by for a well-balanced breakfast including whole grains, fruit, and local milk. Lunches and dinners include an entrée, fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and local milk.

Parents or students can find the nearest meal location and check dates, schedules, and offerings on the [MPS Nutrition Services page](#).

# UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

## [Wisconsin Summer Inclusion Institute 2023](#)

**Dates:** July 25-26, 2023

**Location:** Virtual

This annual event celebrates inclusive practices across the state of Wisconsin and offers opportunities to learn from other professionals, consultants, and presenters as well as collaborate with your school teams, administration, co-teachers, paraprofessionals, and families. Institute Staff and DPI Consultants will be available to assist you and your colleagues in planning and problem-solving. **Register by 7/16/23.**

## [Youth Mental Health First Aid Training](#)

**Dates:** July 25-26, 2023, 8am-12pm

**Location:** CESA 7, Green Bay, WI

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan to help young people in crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders. This is a no cost event.

## [Endless Possibilities Conference 2023: Guiding Families through Challenging Times](#)

**A Virtual Conference for Families and Professionals Who Support Students with Disabilities**

**Date:** August 4, 2023

**Fee:** A FULL DAY of LEARNING for a GREAT VALUE at \$40!

A limited number of parent scholarships are available, please [contact us](#) for more information.

**Registration deadline is Sunday, July 30th. Interpretation to Spanish will be provided for all sessions.**

### **Keynote: The Impact of Toxic Stress and Trauma**

Dr. Amy Nelson Christensen will provide an overview of the current understanding of a trauma sensitive school, define what is meant by trauma sensitive practices, and provide an outline of how families and schools can partner together to create a positive learning environment for all. She will explore the difference between trauma and toxic stress as well as the intersectional issues of students of color who struggle with toxic stress or traumatization and how all of this relates to special education services.

#### **Breakout Sessions:**

- Building a Trauma Sensitive IEP
  - Homelessness Among Youth
- Building a Trauma Sensitive School through Family-School Partnerships
  - Making a Pathway that is Eased for Children with Hope and Support
    - Life Hurts. Have you Considered Forgiveness?
- (Re)Settling in: Immigrant and Refugee Students and Families in Schools
  - Addressing Vicarious Trauma in Educators and Families
  - Addressing the Educational Rights of English Learners (ELs)
    - How to be Trauma Informed in a Racialized World
  - Boundaries: Tools to Create a Safer World for your Child

### **Suicide Prevention Training QPR: Question, Persuade, and Refer**

**Date:** August 8, 12:00-2:00 p.m. ([for educators](#))

August 8, 5:30-7:30 p.m. ([for parents, coaches, and community members](#))

**Location:** CESA 7, Green Bay, WI

Participants will learn about the nature of suicidal communications, how to make immediate interventions and referrals, and practice interventions and referrals through role-playing. Those attending will leave the training with the knowledge and skills to recognize the warning signs of suicide, offer hope, and get help (how to question, persuade, and refer). These are both no cost events.



## [Equitable Multi-Level Systems of Support \(EMLSS\) Project Conference](#)

**Dates:** August 8-9, 2023

**Location:** Kalahari Resort, WI Dells

The former PBIS Leadership Conference has a new name and new focus.

CESA #1 is excited to announce an amazing summer learning opportunity through a partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. This year's conference experience will have a focus on supporting the whole child - meeting all students' academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.

## [State Superintendent's Conference on Special Education & Pupil Services Leadership](#)

Perry Zirkel is the keynote speaker with legal updates. [View the tentative agenda with topics listed here](#). Due to space restrictions this year, there is a registration capacity. Payment must be received by Friday, September 8, 2023, or your registration spot will be offered to someone on the conference waitlist. Walk-in registrations will not be available this year. [Lodging information](#) is available on our website. Please note the cut-off date for the room block is Sunday, August 20, 2023.

**Date:** September 20, 2023

**Location:** Glacier Canyon Lodge, WI Dells, WI (In-person event)

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### [Considering Related Services from a Speech-Language Pathologist Webinar](#)

This recently recorded webinar from April 2023 outlines IEP team considerations for adding related services from a speech-language pathologist to address a student's unique disability-related needs and IEP goals.

### [Discipline Discussions: The Power of Asking “Why”](#)

Valerie Williams, Director of the Office of Special Education Programs, writes, *“Thinking of behavior as a form of a communication forces us to shift our mindset and consider the purpose of a child’s actions by asking the critical question of why the child is using behaviors that are inconsistent with school or early childhood program expectations. This seemingly simple question can lead educators and families to a much deeper conversation about what a child may be trying to express and communicate through this behavior.”*

The entire article and additional resources related to this topic can be found on the [Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services website](#).

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## ONLINE RESOURCES



### [Center for Parent Information and Resources \(CPIR\)](#)

Find fact sheets about milestones of typical speech and language development. CPIR also provides information about speech and language impairments and links to many other resources related to speech and language development. Resources are also available in Spanish.

### [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

Get information about services for students with a speech or language impairment. There is information on eligibility criteria for special education as well as links to other resources that are on the web.

### [U.S. Department of Education](#)

This very comprehensive site offers information on language development activities for children from infancy to age six. There are suggested activities parents can do with their children that promote language development and assist in helping children learn to read.

### [The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders \(NIDCD\)](#)

The NIDCD, part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), conducts and supports research in the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.

### [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\)](#)

Find information about your child's communication development from kindergarten through grade 5. Also available in Spanish.

### [How Does Your Child Hear and Talk?](#)

(This webpage is part of the [ASHA website.](#))

Your child starts communicating with you long before they say their first word. Learn more about what your child should do in their first 5 years and how you can help.

### [The Stuttering Foundation](#)

The Stuttering Foundation provides free online resources, services, and support to those who stutter and their families, as well as support for research into the causes of stuttering.

### [icommunicate](#)

icommunicate provides a wealth of information about a wide variety of speech and language disorders (such as apraxia, phonological delay, aphasia, dysarthria, stuttering etc.), communication development, hearing impairment, autism, brain injury, special needs and learning difficulties, and assistive communication (AAC).

### [Summer Reading Lists for Reluctant Readers](#)

During the summer, many children will not get the reading practice that they get in school. Books that engage the imagination can provide motivation to keep up skills until school starts again. The website gives some lists of books to captivate reluctant readers and includes books for children of all ages.

### [What's the Difference Between a Speech Impairment and a Language Disorder?](#)

Often the words speech and language are used interchangeably. However, these words have very different meanings. Check out the link to learn more.

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## Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS)

### **Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS)**

In the coming months PBIS will be a new section in the newsletter. Each month a short tip will be shared related to this topic. In addition to its use in schools, there are also approaches that parents can use at home. This month's article is a general overview of "What is PBIS?"

(The following information is from [the Wisconsin of Public Instruction website.](#))

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) is a systemic approach to proactive, school-wide behavior within an equitable multi-level system of supports framework. PBIS integrates all the data, systems, and practices affecting student outcomes every day. It is a way to support everyone--especially students with disabilities--to create the kind of schools where all students are successful. When combined with an academic response to the intervention process, districts and schools operationalize a complete and integrated system of supports for all learners.

PBIS applies evidence-based practices and strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school culture. PBIS is not a curriculum



you purchase or something you learn during a one-day professional development training. It is a commitment to address student behavior through systems change. When implemented well students achieve improved social and academic outcomes, schools experience reduced exclusionary discipline practices, and school personnel feel more effective. ([National PBIS Technical Assistance Center](#)).

Schools implementing PBIS build on existing strengths, complementing and organizing current programming and strategies. PBIS has been successfully implemented in thousands of schools in over 40 states, resulting in dramatic reductions in disciplinary interventions and increases in academic achievement. Data-based decision making is a hallmark of PBIS, allowing successes to be easily shared with all relevant stakeholders.

### **Why Parents Should Want to Learn More about PBIS**

PBIS refers to the positive things adults do and say to support, teach, respond, and encourage expected child behaviors across home, school and community settings. Families may find using PBIS at home and community settings helpful in their everyday parenting efforts (from the [Family-School-Community Alliance webpage](#)). Additionally, the U.S. Department of Education [announced the release of new guidance](#) in July 2022 from its Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) which stated that IEP teams must consider the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) and other strategies for any child with a disability whose behavior impedes their learning or that of others.

## RESEARCH

### **Reading to Learn from the Start: The Power of Interactive Read-Alouds**

Wright, T.S., American Educator, v42 n4 p4-8, 40 Win 2018-2019.

#### [Read Full Article](#)

Interactive read-alouds, where adults read text to children and facilitate discussion of the text, are an incredibly effective method for supporting children's literacy learning. In this article, Tanya Wright, an associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education at Michigan State University, describes some of the knowledge and skills that children must develop to become successful readers. Wright also shares evidence that read-alouds can support students in this learning. In other words, interactive read-alouds have the power to help children read to learn as they learn to read. Through interactive read-alouds, children can learn about the world, learn new vocabulary, learn about text and how text functions, and acquire a broad range of skills and strategies they will need as they become independent readers.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEW SLETTER

Upcoming Newsletter Topics:

**August: Other Health Impairment**

**September: Assistive Technology**

**October: Learning Disabilities**

To submit contributions of articles, events, or resources you may use the [Word document](#). Send submissions to [Wendy Overturf](#). If you are unable to access the form, you may send the information in an email.

Material appropriate for the monthly newsletter include web links to family involvement/parent leadership resources, advertisements for statewide trainings for parents, youth or parent/educator audiences, information about statewide parent agencies, recent research pertaining to family engagement, and family engagement success articles.

This monthly update is provided by Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support (WI FACETS) to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement. If you would like to receive this monthly update or if you would like to have your name removed from the distribution list, please email [WI FACETS](#).

The WI FACETS Family Engagement E-Newsletter can be found online: [www.servingongroups.org/newsletter](http://www.servingongroups.org/newsletter)



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WI FACETS | 600 W. Virginia St., Suite 501, Milwaukee, WI 53204

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