



## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

June, 2024

Volume 12 | Issue 6



### Updated Bulletin from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI): Shortened School Day

In March 2024, the DPI released new guidance related to “shortened school day” which replaces the previous bulletin 14.03. This article will provide some of guidance from the DPI website, but the complete bulletin (24.01) can be found [here](#).

#### (from Bulletin 24.01)

Each year the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (department) receives numerous questions from parents, school districts, and other partners about shortened school days for students receiving special education services. The department has revised this bulletin to address those questions and to provide further clarification and guidance in this area.

In Wisconsin, each student’s individualized education program (IEP) team determines their educational placement. [Wis. Stat. § 115.78\(2\)\(c\)](#). In determining the appropriate educational placement for a student, the IEP team must follow the least restrictive environment (LRE) requirements. Under LRE requirements, IEP teams must ensure each student is educated, to the maximum extent appropriate, with their nondisabled peers. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal from the regular education environment should not occur unless education in the regular educational environment with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. [Wis. Stat. § 115.79\(1\)](#). It is not appropriate to shorten the school day for a student with a disability unless the student’s IEP team determines a shortened day is required to address the student’s unique, disability-related needs.

[Read Full Article](#)

# UPCOMING WI FACETS EVENTS

All webinars are scheduled from 12 pm to 1 pm CST, unless otherwise noted.  
(If you missed a training date, you can still get a recording of the webinar by registering.)

## [Panel de expertas sobre la transición de jóvenes hacia la vida adulta](#)

**Panelistas:** Aracely Portillo, Marbella Cáceres y Maria Castillo

**Fecha:** June 13, 2024 12:00pm

There are very limited webinars during the summer. However, be sure to check some of our online resources. [IEP Mini-Modules](#): These 30–40 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 are able to access the recording. If there was a slide deck that was used during the webinar, it is included as well.

## [Supporting Literacy at Home | WI FACETS](#)

Check out the NEW self-directed, interactive online literacy modules NOW available!  
Literacy Training Series for Families on the WI FACETS website.

The purpose of this series is to help families better understand how to effectively support their children’s literacy development at home and to increase communication with their children’s teachers and school about literacy-related goals. While this information is beneficial to all families for supporting their children’s literacy development, this series was specifically developed for families of students with special education needs.

---

## HOME LEARNING



### [Children’s Activity Calendar: June 2024](#)

Get kids excited about summer with activities and reading suggestions to celebrate Flag Day, Juneteenth, Sunglasses Day, book birthdays, and much more.

### [Early Literacy Activity Calendar: June 2024](#)

Sunny days are finally here! Explore some of these creative ideas to keep kids engaged over the summer. June is filled with new book suggestions, unique holidays, simple math activities, and more.



### **Fun, kid-friendly learning at baseball games**

Are you taking your younger children to one of your other children’s baseball games or perhaps to a professional baseball game? At times, they may become disinterested in the game. Here are a few

learning activities that you can incorporate when they become restless with the game itself.

**Players' Numbers:** Just asking, *Which player is on first base? What's his number? or Which guy has the largest number on his shirt? Can you find the player with the smallest number? Who's wearing a larger number—the guy on first base or the first base coach?* Just talking about the numbers—and having kids recognize them and identify them—is a great learning opportunity for younger kids. Often kids don't have many opportunities to identify double-digit numbers; this is a fun place to have them practice.

**I Spy—Words in the Park:** There are many words to read in a ballpark. From the ads on the fence, to the names on the scoreboard, to the words on the concessions, words are often everywhere. You could find a word in the ballpark and see if your child can find it. Or, you could find a word with the letter “g” and see if your child can find other words that start with “g.”

**Related Activities:**

[Baseball Poetry and Baseball Songs](#)—This is a large collection of baseball poems and baseball songs, each honoring the game of baseball.

Check out this [word search](#) of baseball terms.

### [Accessible Playgrounds for Children with Disabilities in Wisconsin](#)

Inclusive playgrounds are designed and built to be accessible for all kids, including those with disabilities. Some of the amenities that make the playgrounds fun for everyone include:

- Bird nest swings, which allow more than one child to swing at a time and have been shown to be therapeutic for children with autism
- Liberty swings, which allow children with wheelchairs to swing
- Braille and sign language alphabets printed on the play equipment
- Metal slides to avoid electrostatic buildup, which can interfere with cochlear implants
- Poured-in-place rubber surfaces so kids in wheelchairs can easily navigate the playground
- Ramps that allow kids in wheelchairs to get to the highest points of the play structures
- Wheelchair-accessible merry-go-rounds

### [Accessible playgrounds to visit in Wisconsin](#)



#### **First Day of Summer - 6/20/24**

The summer solstice is the first day of summer. Check out these read alouds to learn more about this day.

[The Longest Day of the Year: The Solstice!](#)  
[What is the Summer Solstice? Facts for Kids](#)



#### **Father's Day - 6/16/24**

Sharing and saving your favorite memories of your dad or a father-figure in your life will keep your favorite memories fresh in your mind. Try remembering the times he served you, made you laugh, taught you something important, or inspired you. This activity can help him feel loved and appreciated.



### **Build reading and writing into everyday activities.**

Some ideas to pass along:

- \*watching TV with the sound off and closed captioning on,
- \*reading directions for how to play a new game
- \*helping with meals by writing up a grocery list, finding things in the grocery store, and reading the recipe aloud for mom or dad during cooking time.
- \*Encourage your child to write notes to relatives or friends.



### **Looking for at-home gardening activities?** [Start here!](#) (The website has activities for all ages.)

Gardening is a great way to spend time together as a family! On this website a team of garden education specialists have developed garden activities and theme-garden ideas specifically for parents, grandparents, and caregivers gardening with kids of all ages.

If you want to start a garden with your kids, they have two pieces of advice. First, start small. Container gardening is a great way to begin your family garden. Second, grow what your child is interested in. That could be their favorite veggie, or flowers in their favorite colors. Remember, learning is always happening and the key is to keep things fun.

---

## UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

### [WI FACETS Endless Possibilities Conference: Engaging Every Family for Student Success](#)

The conference will provide resources and tools to build effective teams to support our students with disabilities to succeed in school as well as in life! Learn from families who have built positive partnerships with their children's schools and communities as well as from experts in the areas of equity and inclusion, mental health, and neurodiversity. Educators and families are encouraged to attend the conference together.

#### **Keynote: "The Influence and Effect of SMALL's Engagements"**

Presenters: Troney Small & Dr. Ricardo Anderson

Troney will engage participants in a personal expressive talk about his family's journey. The connections with families, parents, and children allow relationships to thrive in ways to create a pathway that is eased for children to reach their full potential. When there is an understanding and respect of each family's dynamics, beliefs, values, and priorities, individuals show a genuine effort to work together to achieve the goals for the family. Troney will discuss the impact of "Adultification" and raise awareness about how our community can strengthen partnership with families for student success for all.

#### **Breakout sessions include:**

- Family Partnering and Community Engagement Action Planning
- Lessons Learned Along a ReMARKLEable Journey
- Understanding "Sensory"
- Helping Kids from Hard Places by Building Trust and Partnership with Foster Families
- Individuals with Disabilities in Charge of their Lives: Supported Decision-Making and Early Choice-Making
- Welcome to College: Accessible and Inclusive

**Date:** Friday, August 2, 2024

**Location:** Waukesha County Technical College, Pewaukee Campus.

[Registration is open!](#)

---

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

[Katy's Kloset](#) Medical Equipment Lending Library, a service of [Team Up! with Families](#), is a volunteer-driven, non-profit (501c3) organization that lends medical equipment and supplies at no charge to thousands of individuals in need each year. Equipment and supplies are donated to Katy's Kloset by individuals who wish to recycle and share items that they no longer need. Volunteers clean, inspect, and repair the equipment before it is loaned back out to the community.

They also distribute a variety of medical supplies, such as incontinence, wound care, feeding and ostomy supplies. Durable medical equipment and supplies are loaned at no cost to the community, but they suggest a donation to ensure the viability of this important service.

Distribution of items is by appointment only. Appointments are made by calling or using the web store. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Check this [website](#) for information on how to make a lending request. Contact: 262-746-9034

---

## ONLINE RESOURCES: ADD/ADHD

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

The link connects to a webpage that provides brief, but detailed fact sheets on ADHD. The fact sheets give information about ADHD, describe its characteristics, offer tips for parents and teachers, and provide links to related information and organizations with special expertise relating to ADHD.

### [Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder \(CHADD\)](#)

CHADD is a national non-profit organization providing education, advocacy, and support for individuals with ADHD. In addition, the informative website publishes a variety of printed materials to keep members and professionals current on research advances, medications, and treatments affecting individuals with ADHD.

### [Local CHADD Affiliates-Wisconsin](#)

This link provides contact information about local CHADD affiliates in Wisconsin. One can also use this link to find local affiliates in other states.

### [ADHD and School](#)

This is a toolkit developed by CHADD for parents which has strategies to help with school success. The toolkit includes resources tailored to ADHD struggles such as how to create routines, how to set up a homework station, and how to structure home-school communication.

### [Understood](#)

Understood is a nonprofit dedicated to shaping the world for difference. They provide resources and support so people who learn and think differently can thrive — in school, at work, and throughout life. The goal of this website is to empower parents to understand their children's learning and attention issues and relate to their experiences. With this knowledge, parents can make more effective choices for and with their children. The site also has some great suggestions for students such as [5 self-advocacy sentence starters for middle schoolers with ADHD](#).

### [ADDitude Magazine](#)

The website provides practical information about raising children with ADHD, including behavior and discipline strategies, helping in making and keeping friends, and organizing for success. There are a multitude of education and learning resources to help students (and the teachers who work with them) succeed at school. While the website also includes the option of a paid subscription to the magazine, most of the articles are free and accessible.

## [WebMD](#)

This website has many resources and articles pertaining to the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD. The website also includes an overview of some of the more common medications that are used in the treatment of ADHD.

## [Office of Civil Rights \(OCR\) Resource Guide on Students with ADHD and Section 504](#)

The U.S. Department of Education's [Office for Civil Rights \(OCR\)](#) issued [guidance](#) in 2016 clarifying the obligation of schools to provide students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with equal educational opportunity under [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#).

## [Free Webinar Replay: How ADHD Affects Executive Function in Adults and Kids](#)

In this hour-long webinar-on-demand by Russell Barkley, Ph.D., participants will learn how to identify executive function deficit disorder, the seven major types of executive function, treatment strategies for managing executive function deficits, and more.

## [American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry \(AACAP\)](#)

AACAP's "Facts for Families" provides concise up-to-date information on issues related to ADHD that may affect children, teenagers, and their families.

---

# POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS



Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports ([PBIS](#)) is a strategy schools use to teach children expected behavior. Check this [article](#) for more detailed information on PBIS.

Is your child struggling with homework completion? Here are several tips.

**Teach Time Management Skills:** Help your child develop time management skills by creating a homework schedule together. Break down assignments into manageable tasks, prioritize them, and allocate time for each task. Teach them to use tools like timers or planners to stay organized.

**Celebrate Achievements:** Celebrate your child's successes and achievements related to homework completion, whether it's mastering a difficult concept, completing a challenging assignment, or showing improvement over time. Celebrating their accomplishments reinforces their confidence and motivation.

---

# RESEARCH

## **Understanding the “battleground” of homework and ADHD: A qualitative study of parents’ perspectives and experiences**

Gavin, B., Holme, I., Minihan, E., O'Reilly, G., & McNicholas, F. (2023). Understanding the “battleground” of homework and ADHD: A qualitative study of parents’ perspectives and experiences. *Social Sciences & Humanities Open*, 8(1), 100587.

[Read Full Article](#)

Children with Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are known to have poorer academic outcomes and experience challenges with homework. The aim of this research is to explore parents' subjective experiences and perspectives of the challenges presented by ADHD and homework and consider what type of intervention may be helpful to parents. In depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with participants (n = 13). Transcripts were analyzed for thematic content. Results showed homework was experienced by parents of children with ADHD as a persistently stressful part of their family's daily life. Eight themes were

identified. Given the poorer academic outcomes of children with ADHD together with the challenges parents experience, a targeted parenting intervention to address these challenges is needed and warrants further research.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

**Upcoming newsletter topics:**  
**July: Speech and Language**  
**August: Other Health Impairment**  
**September: Assistive Technology**

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)



This document was produced under grants from the U.S. Dept. of Education, (PTIC-#H328M200017) and WI Dept. of Public Instruction (CFDA# 84.027A/2024-M132-WIFACETS-342) to WI FACETS. The content does not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Dept. of Education, WI Dept. of Public Instruction, or WI FACETS. You should not assume endorsement by the U.S. Dept. of Education, WI Dept. of Public Instruction, WI FACETS, U.S. Dept. of Education Project Officer, David Emenheiser; or WI Dept. of Public Instruction Grant Director, Rita Fuller of any product, commodity, service, or enterprise mentioned in this publication. This product is public domain. Authorization to reproduce it in whole or in part is granted. The citation should be U.S. Dept. of Education, WI Dept. of Public Instruction, and WI FACETS, Milwaukee, WI, 2024.

WI FACETS | [www.wifacets.org](http://www.wifacets.org)



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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!