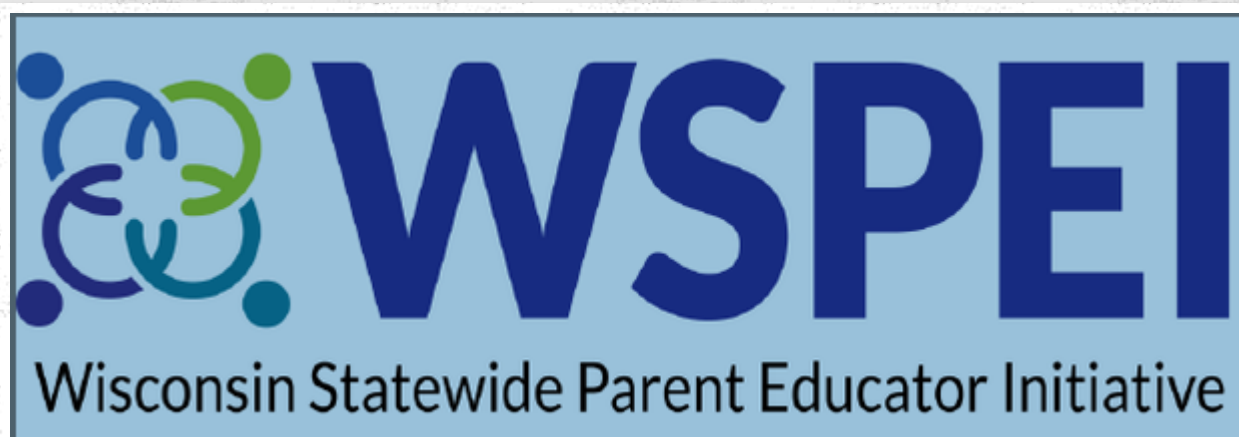


# Summer is Here!

June Newsletter 2023



*The Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative*

*Connector*

*Dear Families,*

As students and educators around Wisconsin are wrapping up classroom work, we here at WSPEI have been busy planning workshops and learning opportunities for you once 'back to school season' rolls around. A preview of all our fall offerings is listed below. We are excited to learn together and hope you can join us!



In the meantime, enjoy the warmer days and quiet moments with your kids!

Congrats! You made it to summer break! 🍉🗨️



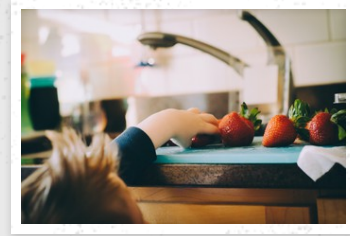
### *Live*

In the sunshine.  
Swim in the sea.  
Drink in the wild air.  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson



### *I wonder*

What it would be like to live in a  
world where it was always  
June. — L.M. Montgomery



### *I have only...*

To break into the tightness of a  
strawberry, and I see summer.  
— Toni Morrison  
([more summer quotes here](#))

## *Fall 2023 Learning Events for Families*

### **Family Support Community**

A monthly learning opportunity offered to families and other caregivers supporting a child(ren) with a disability. Meeting on the first Wednesday of the month beginning in September.

Registration:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0tdeuppz8pH9LC04yfdM17xfoEJSQjQH9a#/registration>

### **Family Engagement Community of Practice and Learning**

A learning community for educators, administrators, statewide agencies, community partners, and families focusing on family-engagement-specific topics. Meeting the second Wednesday of the month beginning in September. Registration: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvc-msrj4sEt1FyR\\_ST\\_c94f2pVJP7LEMT#/registration](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwvc-msrj4sEt1FyR_ST_c94f2pVJP7LEMT#/registration)

### **Families As Partners**

A five-session education and leadership opportunity for families focused on building relationships with school staff and others that can improve student outcomes. First session is September 26, 2023. Registration:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3VN1Awh43\\_WPZCuqpVzjkSrIZZzeVyHq84eQYQTE44W112g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3VN1Awh43_WPZCuqpVzjkSrIZZzeVyHq84eQYQTE44W112g/viewform)

### **Serving on Groups that Make Decisions**

A 4-part series that will enable participants to form a group, identify a purpose, and grow skills for effective participation in decision making groups that engage and support families in their school and community. Beginning mid-October. Registration:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvdumhpz0uHNc40LxTr91dKFOjIUuq18ae#/registration>

### **Powerful Partnerships Book Study**

Join families from throughout the state of Wisconsin to take a deeper dive into the work of Karen Mapp, Ilene Carver and Jessica Lander. Discussions held on Thursdays beginning October 5, 2023. Registration: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMoceGpqTwiH9V3td-t-63IIS\\_Af7TIRXa#/registration](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMoceGpqTwiH9V3td-t-63IIS_Af7TIRXa#/registration)



### Topic-Specific workshops

Three-hour learning workshops that focus on various disability topics including "Partnering with Schools Around Behavior" and "The Family Role in IEP Meetings" plus many more. Workshops will begin in October. Registration not available at time of publication.

Be sure to check our website throughout the summer for up to date information:

<https://wspei.org/learning-opp/family-partnerships/>

## ♥ Suggestions for Families ♥

### Ideas for Summer Learning!

You'll find inspiring & creative ideas here that are adaptable to any age group.



#### 25 Activities to Keep Kids' Brain...

[www.educationworld.com](http://www.educationworld.com)

As students set out on summer adventures, send their parents a much-needed "life preserver"--a list of 25 activities to share and enjoy.



#### Outside Safety Checklist for Kid...

[www.verywellfamily.com](http://www.verywellfamily.com)

Summer is a time for fun, but a safety checklist of some simple tips can ensure that kids stay safe while playing outside.



#### 10 Mouth-Watering Smore Varia...

[www.campingforfoodies.com](http://www.campingforfoodies.com)

Campfire S'mores Recipes: 10 Mouth-Watering Smore Variations! The one we call "Tropical Therapy" is my personal favorite. I'm guessing your family will be just as excited to try all of our awesome smore variations as our family was in creating them!

## Summer Learning for Families and Educators

*Virtual Conference ENDLESS  
POSSIBILITIES - Guiding  
Families Through Challenging Times*

**WHEN**

Friday, Aug. 4th, 9am-2:45pm

**WHERE**

This is an online event.

**MORE INFORMATION**

Keynote Speaker - Amy Nelson Christianson

"The Impact of Toxic Stress and Trauma"

Plus sessions throughout the day

Additional Information can be found on our website:

<https://wspei.org/learning-opp/conferences/>

[https://wspei.org/documents/endless-possibilities-2023\\_1.jpg](https://wspei.org/documents/endless-possibilities-2023_1.jpg)

*WPS&I Spotlight*





## *Heidi Lehman is the 2022-23 Recipient of The Kasidhe Olson Outstanding Parent Award*

The Kasidhe Olson Award recognizes a parent who has made outstanding efforts to improve the lives of families of children with disabilities in their community.

Heidi and her husband Michael have been married for 18 years. They have four children on the Autism spectrum aged 16-4 years old! In addition to being a tireless advocate for her children and running a busy household, Heidi is on the Board of Directors for both Wisconsin Family Ties and the Autism Society of Central Wisconsin. She is Parent Leader for the Wisconsin Care Integration Initiative at the Waisman Center, is on the Act Early State Team and a member of the Wisconsin Integrated Transition Planning Project as well as the Forest/Vilas/Oneida County CCoT and she completed the Partners In Policymaking program in 2018.

The WSPEI Grant has been fortunate to have Heidi as District Family Engagement Liaison for the Rhinelander School District for 8 years prior to her becoming a Family Engagement Coordinator for CESAs 9 & 10 3 years ago. One colleague states: "Heidi's compassion and resilience are evident. She shows every day how much she cares for others and acknowledges

their struggles. Her relentless effort to build connections with and infuse confidence in families has been appreciated by many".

Looking to the future, Heidi is pursuing her Master's Degree in Special Ed through UW-Whitewater. To refill and recharge, Heidi loves reading, scrapbooking and getting out to enjoy the wonders of the Wisconsin Northwoods.

Our heartfelt congratulations to Heidi and her family!

## *Summertime in Wisconsin*

### Did you know...?

The sun sets more slowly around the solstice? Learn all about it here.




### *Connect with us!*

 Facebook

This is our inaugural issue and we want to know what you think! What content would you like to see in future issues? Please send any ideas/feedback to email address below.

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*"Some of the best memories are made in flip flops"*