

The WSPEI Connector

June 2024

SUMMER IS HERE!

As the school year comes to a close, we're excited for what lies in store for the months ahead! This newsletter is jam packed with opportunities to learn, have fun and connect throughout summer.

Our Fall Workshop lineup is below. While registrations are not open yet, event details and flyers will be sent out via this mailing list as they become available. Keep a close watch on our website calendar for regular updates as well.

The WSPEI Connector will make it's return in August.

In the meantime, thank you for reading and we hope you have a fantastic summer! 🍷



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



Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative

SAVE THE DATES!

Fall 2024 WSPEI Learning and Networking Events Schedule

All WSPEI events are **FREE**, will be held virtually on ZOOM and are open to families, educators and community agency members. Flyers with registration will be available in June, 2024.

Sign up for our [email list](#) to receive the monthly newsletter and event notifications.

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Printable PDF of Schedule](#)

Topic Specific Workshops

The Family's Role in the CCR-IEP Process

This 3-session workshop is aimed at equipping parents and other family members with knowledge and confidence to actively engage in the IEP process. For families who have a child between the ages 3-21 who have an IEP.

Sessions will run from 6-7:30 pm on October 15, 22 & 29, 2024. Educators are encouraged to participate as well!

Families As Partners

This series of four educational and leadership sessions for families is focused on building relationships with school staff and other supportive individuals in order to enhance student outcomes.

Our fall sessions will be held on Tuesdays at 5:30-8:30 pm, September 10, 17, 24 & October 1 OR on Fridays 9:00 am-noon, September 27, October 4, 11 & 18, 2024

Navigating Special Education Resources

Participants in this workshop will gain fundamental information and knowledge about special education, as well as explore resources and specific tools and strategies to use when collaborating with school staff to support and advocate for their child's needs.

- Sessions are held from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.
- Session 1 Topics: Acronyms/Terms; Birth-3; Pre-School; Communication
- Session 2 Topics: Evaluation Reports; IEPs; Transition(PTP); General Information.
- Session dates: 11/14/24 & 11/21/24

Engaging & Supporting Families Through Groups & Networks

A 4-part workshop series for families of a child with an IEP, Community Agency Members, and Educators held on Thursdays from 9:00 - 11:00 am, September 12, 19, 26 & October 3rd, 2024. Using the Serving on Groups curriculum participants will: Learn how to form a group, and identify a purpose and structures to ensure the group works well together. Assess and grow their strengths, knowledge, and skills for effective participation and leadership within a group.

Continuous Monthly Network and Learning Opportunities

Family Support Community

A monthly learning opportunity designed for families and other caregivers supporting a child(ren) with a disability. These meetings occur on the first Wednesday of the month from 7-8 pm and the first Thursday of every month from 12-1:00 pm. Our supportive community meetings provide valuable learning opportunities and mutual support. They take place from September through May.

Family Engagement Community of Practice & Learning

A learning community for educators, administrators, statewide agencies, community partners, and families focusing on family engagement specific topics. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month September to May, 4:00-5:30 pm.

Book Discussions

Powerful Partnerships; A Teacher's Guide to Engaging Families for Student Success

Karen Mapp, Ilene Carver and Jessica Lander.

In *Powerful Partnerships*, the goal is to strengthen family engagement practices and, in doing so, strengthen classroom success for all students. This work is incredibly impactful. In order for you to achieve the best possible results, one important factor is the strong ties you build with the families and community members that your school serves. Those strong partnerships are important to maximize student learning.

Discussions will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5:30, October 16, 30 & November 13, 2024.

Crucial Conversations, Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High

Patterson, Grenny, McMillan, Switzler

How do you deal with topics that are sensitive yet important to you? Your daily interactions can hold pivotal moments, with outcomes that affect the quality of your relationships, careers and life. This book by Kerry Patterson et. al. helps you to identify and effectively conduct "crucial conversations", so you can overcome difficult or sensitive issues, to improve results and achieve your desired outcomes.

3 Sessions Thursday 9-10:30 am; 10/17, 10/ 31 & 11/14/2024

WI FACETS Family Engagement Newsletter - June 2024

This month's issue focuses on ADD/ADHD; accessible playgrounds and details about the new Shortened School Day Bulletin.

Plus resources, resources and more resources!

[June 2024 Family Engagement Newsletter](#)

Upcoming Wisconsin Conferences

Save the Dates and more

[2024 Endless Possibilities Conference - WI FACETS](#)

Date: Friday, August 2, 2024 Location: Waukesha County Technical College, Pewaukee Campus

8:00 am-3:30 pm

\$50

[Register Here](#)

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

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

[Self Determination Conference 2024](#)

Registration Opens July 8, 2024

A Seat at the Table! NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US!

October 21-23, 2024

Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells

[Special Education Conference 2024](#)

November 14-15, 2024

Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

We have some great keynote speakers scheduled including Mills Rodgers and Kate Swenson.

Mills is a national speaker on topics related to education equity of diverse populations, mental health, and personal development. He is a champion of children with special needs, with a daughter being disabled and having been a special education teacher.

Kate Swenson is a mother of a son with autism and will walk you through his journey from diagnosis, to early intervention, to transition to school services and the emotional toll these processes take on a family. Be prepared to be inspired, moved, cry and laugh.

[Children Come First Conference](#)

October 7-8th, 2024

Kalahari Resort • Wisconsin Dells, WI

More information coming soon!

Keep kids safe in summer!

This easy checklist shares everything you need to know!

Programming from Families Matter Outreach Program

Fall 2024 Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YIPPE)

YIPPE is FREE to families!

An opportunity for youth with disabilities, ages 14 to 21, and their parents to learn about the transition process in a unique way while building real life skills in the areas of employment, education, living, and health!

For downloadable flyer, dates and registration information: [YIPPE Webpage](#)

Fall 2024 Parents in Partnership for Transition(PIP-T)

PIP-T is a series of top-notch trainings to prepare you for what comes after high school for your youth with a disability between the ages of 14 and 21. This workshop has virtual and in-person options.

This program covers the same topics as YIPPE but is for parents who have youth who are unable to fully participate in YIPPE activities.

For downloadable flyer, dates and registration information:

[Virtual PIP-T Webpage](#)

[In-Person PIP-T Webpage](#)

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE FROM VARIOUS WISCONSIN ORGANIZATION AND AGENCIES

📦 Workshops and Trainings 📦

School Health Services Day!

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!!

Hosted by CESA 9

When: June 11th 8:15-3:15

Where: Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center - Rothschild

Register: CESA 9 ([neoncrm.com](https://www.neoncrm.com))

June 11 Schedule:

8:15-8:45 Networking & coffee

8:45-9:00 Welcome by Dr. Lamont

9:00-9:45 Session 1 - Rashes and skin conditions (Dr. Stratman and Dr. Faraaz)

10:00-10:45 Session 2 - HIPAA vs FERPA; delegation (Louise Wilson, DPI)

11:00-11:45 Session 3 - Anxiety/depression- CHOW (Jenna Hanson)

11:45-12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:30 Session 4 - THC & vaping- Marathon Co HD (Laura Fischer & Jenna Flynn)

1:45-2:30 Session 5 - De-escalation techniques (Cheryl Post)

2:30-2:45 Break 2:45-3:15 Session 6 - Closing, debrief, roundtable discussions, DOOR PRIZES

[Parent2Parent](#)

Support Parent Training - Dates throughout Summer 2024

This training is for parents (birth/adoptive/foster) and caregivers of children with special needs. Connecting with another parent who has a child with a similar disability or special needs can be one of the most helpful resources a parent will have - it can help make their journey a little easier. Trainings prepare you to give support to another parent who is parenting a child with special needs. Join us for our Support Parent Training and help us meet the increasing need for peer support by becoming part of Wisconsin's network of trained Support Parents for Parent to Parent of Wisconsin.

Select the date/time that works for you when registering for tickets. You are required to attend only ONE training.

Click here to find the schedule of dates and register:

[Parent to Parent of Wisconsin Support Parent Training Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

University of Wisconsin - Extension Division Summer Parenting Classes and Programs:

Many options and opportunities to connect and learn this summer:

[Parenting and Family Relationships](#)

[Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities](#)

Know your Rights Webinar

Thursday Jun 13, 2024

12:00-1:00 pm

Join the BPDD Living Well team to learn about the Let's Talk About Rights Guide for Self-Advocates. Learn about how the tool can be used to educate yourself on the rights that all people with disabilities have and how you can get support to assert your rights. Hear from self-advocates on why rights education is so critical to protecting the rights of people with disabilities.

[Register for Online Webinar Here](#)

A Summer Learning Event:

Everyday Choices: Teach Your Child to Make Choices in their Everyday Lives

Parents and Family Members: Please join this 3-part series to talk about how making choices helps children to have; Better behavior, Better communication, and more Self-Determination.

This is an online event.

Session 1: Communication July 18, 2024, 6:30-7:15pm

Session 2: Self-Determination August 15, 2024, 6:30-7:15pm

Session 3: Inclusion September 19, 2024, 6:30-7:15pm

[Sign up here](#)

WisconsinSibs

Attend the full two-day training to become a registered **Sibshop Facilitator!**

Upon completion you can start your own local Sibshop or host for WisconSibs.

Registration includes training, day 1 light breakfast and lunch, day 2 light breakfast and lunch.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from WisconSibs, an organization dedicated to supporting

Fri, Jun 28, 2024 8:30 AM - Sat, Jun 29, 2024 3:30 PM

DoubleTree by Hilton Madison Downtown, 525 W Johnson St, Madison, WI 53703

[Link to Register-Facilitator Training](#)

🌿 **A Unique STEM Camp and An Employment Retreat** 🌿

[Nature's Navigators STEM Camp | Center for Climatic Research](#)

Join us for **Nature's Navigators STEM Camp** for autistic youth entering grades 6-12, held August 21-25, 2024 at the Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in the Wisconsin Dells.

The camp focuses on hands-on, nature-based learning in an environment that celebrates neurodiversity. Click above link for all the details!

[ERI Career Retreat](#)

Employment Resources, Inc

We invite you to explore future job potential at our summer **Career Frontiers Retreat: Set for Success!** Focused on youth with disabilities and their families.

Join us to explore different types of jobs and learn about what kind of skills you will need to find and keep a job!

Any questions can be directed to Jolene Wanek: wanek@eri-wi.org, or Beth Wroblewski:

wroblewski@eri-wi.org

Thursday, June 20, 2024

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday, June 21, 2024

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Tundra Lodge Resort & Waterpark

865 Lombardi Ave, Green Bay, WI 54304

ERI will make room reservations for accepted participants.

Space is limited to 20 youth. Registration will close when capacity reached.

[Register Here](#)

♥️ **Some fun, yet vitally important activities!** ♥️

[Islands of Brilliance](#)

This website offers a vast array of learning programs for autistic students, their families and siblings. Check it out! So many wonderful things on this website.

Creativity on the Road:

Sandbox@ Programs running in Rhinelander, Merrill and Manitowish

[Sandbox@ Roadshow – Islands of Brilliance](#)

Two Wisconsin Theatre Companies making theatre and the arts accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Learn more:

[The Penguin Project](#)

- [Wausau Area Chapter](#)

[Pink Umbrella Theater Company](#) (Milwaukee Area)

Spooner Exceptional Rodeo

Put on your boots and come join the fun!

Thursday, July 11th at 6:30

[Exceptional Rodeo](#)



Wisconsin Children Come First Advisory Committee

Nominations Open for 2024 Wisconsin Children's System of Care Champion Award

The Wisconsin Children's System of Care Champion Award recognizes an individual's or agency's extraordinary contributions to ensuring children with mental health and substance use challenges and their families are valued, understood, and supported in their communities.

Nominations are due July 12, 2024. [Complete this online form to submit a nomination.](#)

The 2024 Wisconsin Children's System of Care Champion Award will be presented at the [Children Come First Conference](#) October 7-8, 2024, in the Wisconsin Dells.

Fall 2024 Leadership Trainings for Parents and Caregivers

Wisconsin Family Leadership Institute

The Fall 2024 Schedule and Registration are now available!

When families of children with disabilities and special health care needs are at the decision-making table, programs are improved and more accessible. Resources and services are created by

the people making decisions. Parents can be meaningful contributors to shaping the systems that support their children and others.

We offer **two levels of WiFLI, Foundations and Advanced**, so you can start where your experience level is and build your leadership skills to reach far beyond.

Visit website for all the information and links!

[Wisconsin Family Leadership Institute-WiFLI](#)

Partners In Policymaking

Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking is a six-session advocacy and systems change training program that develops future leaders across the state who are able to work with legislators and communities on policies and initiatives that will support the full participation and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of life.

November 1 & 2, 2024 (Madison*)

December 6 & 7, 2024 (Virtual only)

January 10 & 11, 2025 (Virtual only)

February 21 & 22, 2025 (Virtual only)

April 4 & 5, 2025 (Madison*)

May 2 & 3, 2025 (Madison*)

Visit [website](#) to download application packet. Applications Due October 4, 2024

Did you know...?

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

Please share ideas of any resources and information you would like to see from WSPEI! Email us!

- Email: wspei@cesa12.org
- Website: <https://wspei.org/>
- Phone: [833-879-7734](tel:833-879-7734)
- The Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (CFDA #84.027A) acknowledges the support of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in the development of all products or publications and for the continued support of this federally-funded grant project.



The WSPEI Grant

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