

It's Fall, Y'all!

October 2023 WSPEI Connector

Happy fall! 🍂 🐾

Along with cooler temps, shorter days, and falling leaves, Parent-Teacher conferences are another sure sign of autumn. This issue of the Connector offers some valuable resources for preparing for this important meeting between families and their child's teachers.



We also included upcoming happenings offered by the Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative and other organizations around the state, an updated DPI bulletin, plus In-person and Virtual Conferences with a focus on families and students.

By this time my blood type is pumpkin spice...☕



"It's like going

back to school. You know, autumn! Time for Harry Potter."

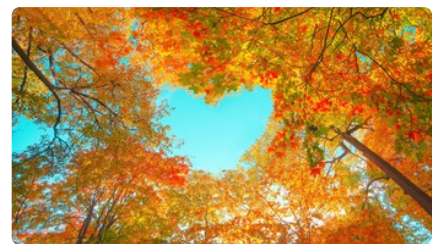
– Robbie Coltrane



"Life starts

All over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

– F. Scott Fitzgerald



"She loved the fall,

All the sun-faded colors of summer repainted by vivid reds and golds."

– [Naomi Ragen](#)

Are you looking for resources or have questions about special education?

The Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI) can help! The *WSPEI Statewide Family Phone Support Coordinators* support families and districts with:

- ▶ General Special Education Concerns and Questions
- ▶ Information about the IEP Process
- ▶ Relevant Resources and Referrals

WSPEI can be reached at wspei@cesa12.org and at (833) USWSPEI or 833-879-7734. Please visit our website: wspei.org



WSPEI Vision:

All families and school communities have the beliefs, knowledge and skills to meaningfully engage in effective decision-making to improve outcomes for students of all abilities.

WSPEI Mission:

Develop Strong Relationships – Build Effective Partnerships

¿Busca recursos o tiene preguntas sobre educación especial?

¡La Iniciativa Estatal de Padres-Educadores de Wisconsin (WSPEI) puede ayudar! Los *Coordinadores Familiares de WSPEI del Estado* apoyan a las familias y distritos con:

- ▶ Dudas y preguntas generales sobre educación especial
- ▶ Información sobre el proceso de IEP
- ▶ Recursos relevantes y referencias

Es posible comunicarse con WSPEI a wspei@cesa12.org y al (833) USWSPEI o al 833-879-7734. Visite nuestro sitio Web: wspei.org



Visión de WSPEI:

Todas las familias y comunidades escolares tienen la creencia, conocimiento y destrezas para tomar decisiones importantes de forma eficaz para mejorar los resultados para los estudiantes de todas las habilidades.

Misión de WSPEI:

Desarrollar sólidas relaciones – Crear relaciones eficaces

WPSEI Facilitated Networks

Information for Winter/Spring workshops will be coming soon!

[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.

[Family Engagement Community of Practice](#)

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.

Resources to Prepare for Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences

Three timely articles from [Understood.org](#) can help you prepare for a productive Parent-Teacher Conference Meeting

[Getting Ready for Your Meeting](#)

[Tips for a Successful Parent-Teacher Conference](#)

[3 Ways to Involve Your Child in Parent-Teacher Conferences](#)

Upcoming Conferences

[Self Determination Conference](#)

2023 Self-Determination Conference

Be Curious: Explore the Possibilities

October 16-18, 2023

Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI & Virtually

[Children Come First Conference](#)

Keynote Speaker: Angeline Boulley author of The Firekeeper's Daughter

November 6-7th, 2023

Kalahari Resort • Wisconsin Dells, WI

[Circles of Life Conference - Family Voices of Wisconsin](#)

May 16-17, 2024

Holiday Inn

Stevens Point, WI

[Be A Presenter Application](#)

Virtual Conference - Community of Practice on Autism and Disabilities

Stories of Belonging: School Engagement and Connections

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

8:30am-12:00pm -Virtual and Volunteer Locations

Live & Recorded Panel Of Education Professionals & Self Advocates With Disabilities
Join us for a virtual conference focusing on how educators, professionals, and families can create a positive and inclusive environment for students with disabilities by understanding and facilitating feelings of belonging via school connection and engagement. This Event is Free.

To sign up to attend virtually or find out if an in-person host site is near you, click below to register:

[Registration](#)

UPDATED Bulletin from the Department of Public Instruction

Providing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports to Students with Disabilities and Use of Functional Behavioral Assessments

Parents United Brochure-Virtual Informational Workshops for Wisconsin Families

Parents United is a coalition focused on empowering parents of children with disabilities to become effective advocates and informed decision-makers.

WI Facets Family Engagement Newsletter, Resources from WSPEI, Training Calendar

Our mission is to provide and broaden opportunities that enhance the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families, with emphasis on support for underserved families in the community.

[October 2023 Newsletter](#)

This month's topic is Learning Disabilities

These resources may help school staff support your student:

[Accommodations - What Are They and What Do They Do](#)

[School Accommodation Ideas](#)

[School Modification Ideas](#)

[Wisconsin Training Calendar | WI FACETS](#)

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me..."



Fall Poems | Poetry Foundation

Poems to read as the leaves change and the weather gets colder.

[poetryfoundation.org](https://www.poetryfoundation.org)

WI Family Voices Fall Schedule

Family Voices of Wisconsin promotes a system of comprehensive health and community support that assures the health and well-being of children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities and their families.

Supporting Neurodiverse Students Series

Come join a learning community around topics connected to students with neurodiverse needs. This cohort will meet monthly from 3:30-4:30 to learn with and from each other.

Assistive Technology Forward

The AT Forward Project supports educators, practitioners, caregivers and families to increase student autonomy in utilizing Assistive Technology tools to support access, engagement, and progress in learning

The Birth to 3 Program Works With and for Families

The Individualized Family Service Plan Team

Once the child is found eligible for the Birth to 3 Program, a team (including you) works together to decide which services best fit your family's goals and outcomes. This Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team includes, but is not limited to:

- You, the parent(s) or caregiver(s)
- Other family members as requested
- An advocate or friend as requested
- The service coordinator
- At least one professional who evaluated the child
- Service providers

The Individualized Family Service Plan

Together, the team creates the IFSP. Your family's routine, values, culture, and priorities are used to guide the IFSP. It includes goals and outcomes important to your family and the strategies, resources, supports, and services that are needed to reach them.



All county Birth to 3 Programs:
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/contacts



The Birth to 3 Program is Wisconsin's early intervention program mandated by Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/family



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

P-02928 (03/2021)



Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program

A good start in the first 1,000 days

The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program serves families with children under the age of 3 years who have delays or disabilities.

Once a child is found eligible, a team of professional service providers partners with your family to support growth and learning. Family culture, beliefs, and individual needs help shape how services are delivered.

Important Steps to Support the Development of the Child

1. You or another adult in the child's life notices signs of a delay or disability.

Every child learns and grows at their own pace, but there are general milestones every child should meet as they develop how they play, learn, speak, act, and move.

Parents and caregivers often notice signs of delays in these areas. Doctors or child care professionals tell families if they notice these signs as well.

When a possible delay or disability is noticed, acting early is the best way to positively impact the development of the child. Learn more about acting early at actearly.wisc.edu.

2. You contact your local county Birth to 3 Program.

You can contact your local county Birth to 3 Program to learn about the program. They will help you understand if the program is right for the child and family and answer any questions you have.

If the child's doctor, nurse, child care staff, teacher, or other professional believes the Birth to 3 Program could benefit the child, they will refer you to the program. In most cases, they will talk with you before making a referral.

3. You meet with a team to see if the child is eligible.

Once the county receives a referral and with your consent, a team (including you, as a parent or caregiver) will evaluate the child to see if they are eligible for the Birth to 3 Program.

The team will discuss how the child:

- Learns (cognitive development).
- Moves, sees, and hears (physical/motor development).
- Communicates and understands others (speech, language, and communication development).
- Responds to and develops relationships with others (social and emotional development).
- Eats, dresses, and cares for daily living needs (adaptive behavior and self-help development).



4. The child is eligible and services begin.

After the evaluation, the team will meet to talk through the results and identify if you are eligible for early intervention. A diagnosis is not needed to be eligible.

You will work with a primary service provider to help the child learn, interact, and thrive at home, in child care, and during other everyday activities like going to the library, store, or park. The primary service provider will be determined by your family and child's goals and outcomes.

As a parent or caregiver, you will learn how to be the child's first and best teacher. You will learn about communicating the child's needs, helping the child learn and grow, and understanding your rights.

Your family and primary service provider will be supported by the full team of professional services providers, which includes a service coordinator, special education teacher, and therapists.

Share with others! Tell us what you think! We would love to hear from you!

Email feedback and ideas of resources and information you would like to see from WSPEI

Email: wspei@cesa12.org

Website: <https://wspei.org/>

Phone: [833-879-7734](tel:833-879-7734)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinStatewideParentEducatorInitiative>



Did you know...?

Equinox comes from the Latin words for 'equal' and 'night'? Meaning that on the equinox, the day and night is roughly equal in length. Read more about it here!



WSPEI is using Smore

www.wspei.org

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