

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

This month's topic: *Bullying Prevention*

Upcoming Statewide Events

2013 Fall Self-Advocacy Workshops Sponsored by WI FACETS

These workshops are designed for transition-aged students with disabilities, parents, educators, and service providers.

Dates:

10-2-13-Workshop #1:
What to Expect in College
10-30-13 - Workshop #2:
Healthy Relationships

Location: WI FACETS 600 W
Virginia St. Milwaukee WI

Cost: Both workshops are free

Registration: Contact Matthew
Zellmer at 414-374-4645 ext.
203 or mzellmer@wifacets.org

Wisconsin Annual Early Childhood Conference

The WECA Annual Conference is
Wisconsin's leading child care
conference!

Date: October 10-12, 2013

Location: Kalahari Conference
Center, WI Dells

Cost: 1 day: member=\$85; non-
member=\$105 until Sept. 1

2 days: member=\$145; non-
member=\$185 until Sept. 1

Phone: 800-783-9322 ext.
7227

Registration:

training@wisconsinearlychildhood.org

Discovering Work: Employment Strategies for Youth with ASD/DD

Date: 11/5/13, 8:30am-3:30pm

Location: Fox Valley Technical
College, Appleton

Registration: Starting Early
October

For more information, go to:

[http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/
connections/
future_meetings.php](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/connections/future_meetings.php)

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

"Principal" Bridge Maker

By Matthew Zellmer

From the HFRP FINE Newsletter,
Vol. V, Issue I

Many parents of children with disabilities strongly desire to be actively involved in their child's school, but may not know where to start.

Principals have a vital role to play in making this process of discovery easier. They can not only make it an expectation for their school they can model it and personally create opportunities for families to engage.

Perhaps the best way for family engagement to materialize is for principals to view themselves as "deal breakers." One principal from PA embraces this, saying that if he does not take the lead, family engagement probably won't happen, because unlike a standardized test, it

does not "have to." But if the principal strives to act as the bridge between home and school and provides training for staff, the more likely it is that families feel welcome to give input.

Technology can play a major role in engaging families. The principal from PA started a Twitter account for his school; he walks the halls and averages 5 to 10 tweets per day to share learning moments he witnesses and to post the inspiring visuals he sees outside classrooms. The school trains parents on how to use Twitter and posts the tweets on its Family Engagement Wiki for those without Twitter accounts. Teachers also have their own accounts and the principal maintains one personally to keep families even more informed.

It all serves to give families real-time progress reports and keep them connected to their child's school experience. And since Twitter remains free for all, schools only need to be willing to try it. So if there's a will, what started largely as a way to combat the continual frustration of seeing the same small group of parents at family involvement meetings became the gateway to what could be a whole new level of engagement. Success would literally be priceless.



RESEARCH TO READ

Investigating Cyberbullying: Emerging Research and E- safety Strategies within Families and Communities

Burgess, Jill, and Catherine
McLoughlin. *Communities, Children
and Families Australia* 6.1 (2012):
3.

[www.researchgate.net/
publication/236590755_Investigati
ng_cyberbullyingemerging_research
_and_e-
safety_strategies_within_families_a
nd_communities/file/
e0b4951822397c0973.pdf](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/236590755_Investigating_cyberbullyingemerging_research_and_e-safety_strategies_within_families_and_communities/file/e0b4951822397c0973.pdf)

Research from Australia but

has key global information.
Abstract: As new technologies and ways of communicating become increasingly central to daily life, new forms of social aggression using digital tools are emerging globally. Social networking technologies have brought about opportunities to engage in cyberbullying and place considerable pressures on families, schools and communities to remain informed and vigilant to this developing phenomenon. While research findings suggest that up to one in four children

report being cyberbullied, the impact of this negative behavior is often hidden from parents, caregivers, teachers and the broader community. This paper aims to provide an overview of the forms and effects of cyberbullying by reviewing the research literature, the incidence of, and factors contributing to cyberbullying. The paper also explores emerging approaches to developing e-safety strategies across Australia.

Autism Society of Wisconsin Fall Conference: All Kids can Succeed: Effective Interventions for Behavioral and Social Challenges – Presented by Jed Baker

This conference addresses the challenges presented by children who have difficulty regulating their feelings and interacting socially.

Date: October 16, 2013

Location: Liberty Hall Banquet & Conference Center, Kimberly, WI

Cost: Member- \$120; Non-Member-\$150; Individual w/ASD- \$75

Phone: 920- 558-4602

Email:

conference@asw4autism.org

Register:

http://www.asw4autism.org/conferences_workshops.html

Family Connections

Parents, children, and educators won't want to miss this opportunity for informational sessions, networking, activities, and more!

Date: October 26, 2013, 8:30a.m.-4:00p.m.

Location: Vision Forward Association 912 N. Hawley Blvd., Milwaukee WI

Cost: \$4 per individual; \$10 per family

Registration: Kathryn Brzakala for more information and registration at (414) 615-0166 or kbrzakala@vision-forward.org.

Children Come First

The highlight of the Family Ties 24th Annual Children Come First Conference is sure to be meeting Dan Habib, maker of and start in "Who Cares About Kelsey". You may also know this filmmaker from another of his films, "Including Samuel".

Date: November 11, 2013

Location: Stoney Creek Inn, Rothchild, WI 54474

Registration: <http://fs11.formsite.com/wifamilyties/2013CCF/index.html>

RESEARCH TO READ

Bullying and Students with Disabilities: The Untold Narrative

Rose, Chad A., Susan M. Swearer, and Dorothy L. Espelage. *Focus on Exceptional Children* (2012). www.researchgate.net/publication/255982267_Bullying_and_students_with_disabilities_The_untold_narrative/file/60b7d5217a0548824c.pdf

Abstract: The documentary *Bully* followed five families whose lives had been turned upside down by bullying. The movie shows the devastating consequences of bullying and the depressingly poor response on the part of adults. What the movie does not address is the mental health history of one of the boys, who commits suicide, as well as

the developmental disabilities affecting another boy in the movie, who was born prematurely (Bazelon, 2012). Understandably, this is a difficult narrative. The filmmakers did not want to delve into the complexity of mental health issues and bullying for fear of creating a story line that those who are bullied are obvious victims. However, by not addressing the issues of ADHD, bipolar disorder, Asperger syndrome, and developmental disabilities, an important narrative was missed. Bullying is a complex phenomenon, and both mental health and physical health difficulties play into involvement in bullying. While

there is no narrative that those who are bullied somehow deserve such egregious treatment, we shirk our professional responsibilities if we do not shed light on the compelling evidence that youth with disabilities are at great risk for involvement in bullying—both for bullying others and for being bullied (AbilityPath.org, 2011; Rose, Monda-Amaya, & Espelage, 2011). The purpose of this article is to review the research on bullying and students with disabilities and to propose an inclusive narrative: when differences are celebrated rather than used as fuel for maltreatment, a world will be created where bullying is not tolerated. This will be a better world for everyone.

STATEWIDE AGENCY:



United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) was started in 1954 by a group of parents of children with Cerebral Palsy and incorporated in Wisconsin in 1954. UCP seeks to advance the independence, productivity and rights people with all disabilities in Wisconsin and throughout the country. Interestingly enough, UCP is more than just its name. In southeastern Wisconsin, 65% of consumers served have disabilities other than cerebral palsy. UCP's core programs and services are independent and supported living services, information and

referral, employment services and respite care. All of these further the organization's mission of seeing the person, seeing their abilities, seeing the opportunities and seeing their accomplishments, rather than their disability. All of UCP's programs and services are driven by the consumer's interests and preferences and guided by the vision of life without limits for people with disabilities. UCP injects the right amount of care and empathy into helping people accomplish their goals for healthy and productive lives. It has spent

decades building a solid reputation among consumers and their families and cultivating partnerships with other businesses and community organizations. And whether it means recreation to give young people a break from their parents, being able to stay in their family home as long as possible, or securing meaningful employment, UCP is there to help dreams come true. To find the United Cerebral Palsy office nearest you, go to www.ucp.org and search by location or find them on Facebook.

FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES

TOPIC: BULLYING PREVENTION

Stop Bullying: This website is great for parents and students. It includes information on how to be more than a bystander, cyber bullying, the responsibilities of the adults and what kids can safely do when they witness bullying. This site would be a great starting point to have a conversation with parents and their children.

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/index.html>

Pacer's National Bullying Prevention Center: Facts, handouts, videos, and a tool kit can all be found on this website. This site also offers templates for letters, and good advice on what can be done by students, teachers, and parents.

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/unity-day.asp>

What to do When Your Child is the Bully: No one said raising kids would be easy. But nothing cuts to the core of a parent's insecurity greater than when our mini-me's behave in a way we find reprehensible. Stories from parents who have faced this will find the information in this article helpful and reassured that there is something you can do.

<http://www.care.com/child-care-gulp-what-to-do-when-your-child-is-the-bully-p1017-q8563941.html>

Committee for Children: Information is in abundance on this site including prevention, research, and resources for children of all ages.

<http://www.cfchildren.org/advocacy/bullying-prevention/why-kids-dont-report-bullying.aspx>

Social and Emotional Learning and Bullying Prevention: While bullying is a pervasive problem in many schools, schools can take specific steps to improve the school climate and encourage positive interactions designed to reduce or prevent bullying. Although this is a rather lengthy article, it is well worth the time to read it.

<http://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/SEL-and-Bullying-Prevention-2009.pdf>

Bullying Prevention for Schools, Families, and Community Partners: This guide offers best practices in preventing bullying prevention. In addition key questions and case studies. Many useful resources are embedded in the content as well as a list of helpful resources. The guide is very easy to read and describes strategies for preventing bullying within a variety of contexts. This is one of those never-ending sites that has excellent links that could keep you engaged in this topic for hours.

<http://www.bullyingprevention.org/index.cfm/ID/2/Best-Practices/>



Regional Special Education Conference – Supporting Children Who Have Experienced Trauma (trauma informed care) This conference will address how trauma impacts a child at home, in the school, and in the community

Date: Saturday, October 19, 2013 8:30-3:15PM

Location: Wintergreen Resort & Conference Center, WI Dells

Cost: free

Registration: contact Sandra McFarland at 877-374-0511 or smcfarland@wifacets.org

Six Degrees of Self-Determination: Self-Determination Conference

An educational and inspirational conference focused on the ways that self-determination changes and enhances lives for people with disabilities in Wisconsin.

Date: October 29-31, 2013

Location: Kalahari Resort, WI Dells

Cost: Consumer- \$90; Consumer with a scholarship-\$25; Family Member- \$100; Professional- \$200

Registration: <https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1224601>

Sponsored by: Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) and People First Wisconsin

Special Education Conference Over 30 sessions will be presented that will appeal to regular and special educators.

The New Special Education Teacher Academy will be offered as a pre-conference on Oct. 29, 2013 and will offer sessions for educators new to special education.

Date: October 30-31 2013

Location: Kalahari Convention Center, WI Dells

Cost \$199 until September 30 and after that \$249

Registration & more information: online at <https://www.edevents.org/conferences/4/special-education-conference>

Across The Lifespan Conference

This conference includes PK-12, post secondary education, adulthood and seniors. Our attendees represent the fields of assistive technology, education, case management, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language pathology, and rehabilitation counselors. Students of these professions, consumers and family members also make up a fair share of our attendees.

Date: November 14-15

Location: Glacier Canyon Center, WI Dells

Registration: on-line only; Closes November 11, 2013 <http://www.atacrosslifespan.org/>

Cost: \$75 2-day cost

WI FACETS Phone Workshops

Registration for all phone workshops: Contact Sandra McFarland at 877-374-0511, smcfarland@wifacets.org or on line at www.wifacets.org

Opciones para Solucionar Desaxuerdos de Educacion Especial

When: 9-27-13 noon-1p.m.
Presenter: Nelsinia Wroblewski

Foundations of Early Learning: The CSEFEL Model Parent Training, webinar

When: 9-30-13, noon-1:30
Presenter: Marlea Linse

Introduction to Serving on Groups that Make Decisions

When: 10-3-15, noon-1p.m. and 7 p.m.-8p.m.

Presenter: Emilie Braunel

Challenging Behaviors: The Next Steps Part 1 (early childhood)

When: 10-7-13, noon-1:30p.m.
Presenter: Marlea Linse

Response to Intervention: An Update, webinar

When: 10-8-13, noon-1:30
Presenter: Rebecca Kassulke

How to Record Special Education Services

When: 10-9-13, noon- 1p.m.
Presenter: Nissan Bar-Lev

Facilitated IEPs

When: 10-10-13 noon-1p.m.
Presenter: WSEMES

Challenging Behaviors: The Next Steps Part 2 (early childhood)

When: 10-14-13 noon-1:30p.m.
Presenter: Marlea Linse

Early Childhood and AT

When: 10-15-13, noon-1p.m.
Presenter: Marlea Linse

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Next month's newsletter topic: *Healthy Mind & Body*

There are two ways to submit contributions. Use either the online form at <http://bit.ly/WO9a39> or use the attached fillable PDF form for contributing articles, events, and resources.

Send the fillable PDF form submissions to mzellmer@wifacets.org or ebraunel@wifacets.org

Deadline for submitting contributions to each month's issue is by the 20th of each month at noon. For time sensitive training advertisements, the information should be sent a minimum of two weeks prior to the event date; ideally a month ahead of time.

Material appropriate for the monthly newsletter include web links to sources of 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. Family engagement success or impact stories can be written at an individual or family level, classroom level, school building level, district level, county level, CESA level, etc.

Your submittal may not be in the final copy of the upcoming month's newsletter if it was in a previous month's email, the event date has passed, the web link doesn't work, or there is already an article in place. Articles and resources will be saved to be used for later newsletters. We reserve the right to edit contributions as needed.

This month's update is provided by WI FACETS to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement.

* **WIFACETS website:** <http://www.wifacets.org> 

Please visit the following links to the Parent Leadership Hub web page of the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) website:

* **Just in Time Information (JITI):** http://wispdg.org/pl/res_jit.html

* **Resources:** <http://www.wispdg.org/pl/resources.html>

* **Multi-Media Workshops, Video and Webcasts:** <http://wispdg.org/pl-multi.html>

DISCLAIMER

Inclusion of information in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by Wisconsin FACETS, the Department of Public Instruction, the U.S. Department of Education, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

NOTE: If you would like to receive this monthly update or if you would like to have your name removed from the distribution list, please contact:

Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS SPDG Coordinator at 715-561-2559 or ebraunel@wifacets.org

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mzellmer@wifacets.org.

