

Family Engagement Newsletter



Interactive Activities to Promote Speech and Language Development

By Wendy Overturf

Schools have been closed since mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and learning has been moved online. Parent involvement now is more important than ever to support children with their speech-language development. Even though the school year is over, there are many fun and engaging ways that parents can incorporate speech and language practice into their child’s daily routines.

- ◆ Car rides, walks, or even strolls around the house offer opportunities to work on language. Try playing license plate tag to target speech sounds. As each license plate goes by on the opposite side of the road, think of words together that begin or end with the letters you see. (e.g. PAE564 = pea, pie, pat) Or play "I Spy" to work on categories (e.g. I spy something that is a vehicle; car, truck, tractor) or speech sounds (e.g. I spy something that starts with the /k/ sound; kite, car).
- ◆ Make TV time interactive and language infused. Sit on opposite sides of the couch and find a favorite show or try a new one. Then have each person pick a character to be and mute the TV. Now fill in the dialogue yourself based on the images. You’ll be amazed by the stories kids make up. Or play a guessing game—pausing the TV and try to guess how a character is feeling based on facial expressions and background images.
- ◆ Aside from harnessing children’s musical abilities, songs help children learn new words. Lyrics have a sense of rhyme and rhythm so it will be easy and entertaining for kids to sing along to songs. In addition, simply putting a [tune to an activity](#) can be a fun game that you can play with your children.
- ◆ The repetitive chanting, reading, writing, or hearing of rhymes promotes good listening skills and memory retention which are vital components of speech and language development. You can also narrate what you do at home with [rhyming words](#) or let your children tell you about their favorite toys using rhyming words. Check out this [interactive video](#) for examples on how to have fun with rhyming words.
- ◆ Understanding the concept of opposites (antonyms) is important as it helps a child learn how to compare two different things and to develop a more concrete understanding of a specific concept (e.g. hard vs soft). Learning opposites also improves a child’s ability to describe things. Play "I Spy" with your child. Say, "I spy something that is old." Your child needs to respond by naming the opposite, "I spy something new." This [website](#) has a comprehensive list of opposites and includes not only preschool and lower elementary school words, but also some that are geared toward older children.
- ◆ The benefits of reading with children [of all ages](#) for their language and general development cannot be overstated. Reading with children allows for engaging, authentic and language-rich interactions. Reading with your child helps your child develop new concepts and vocabulary as well as allowing your child to hear clearly articulated sounds and words.



The opportunities for speech and language activities are everywhere throughout the day. With little change to routines, using some of the above suggestions will go a long way in improving your child’s speech and language development.

Statewide Events

[24th Annual Wisconsin American Indian Studies Summer Institute](#) (Virtual Event)

Dates: Monday, July 27-31, 2020 (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

Location: Zoom Video Conferencing (Online).

About the Summer Institute

An active, highly participatory, week-long workshop designed to increase participants’ understanding of issues related to the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the American Indian nations and tribal communities in Wisconsin. The goals of this institute relate to both American Indian Studies and the education of Native American students, aiming to improve teaching and learning and to enrich student services, resulting in becoming more culturally responsive. Participants will learn how to adapt or develop new techniques best suited to their unique circumstances.

PLEASE NOTE: Educators who work with students with disabilities, of all races, are encouraged to attend. Wisconsin Act 31 addresses curriculum that is required for all students, of all races and cultures. But since American Indian students tend to be disproportionately identified as requiring specially designed instruction, the summer institute will provide additional information and ideas that can help with the engagement of American Indian students with disabilities in their academic and functional instruction.

Opportunities for further exploration regarding working with students with disabilities will be made available, based on participant interest.



Statewide Event



Virtual Conference

[Endless Possibilities Conference 2020 - A Closer Look at Invisible Disabilities](#)

Keynote: Navigating Unfamiliar Spaces with an Invisible Disability.

Presenter Christina Irene, author of "Talking Splat: Communicating About Our Hidden Disabilities."

Sessions Include:

- Communicating About Hidden Disabilities: Tips and Tools
- NAMI Mental Health & Verbal De-escalation Training
- Compassion Resilience
- Breaking the Phonics Code for Struggling Readers
- Basics of Autism within Special Education
- Making Sure Your 504 Plan is Not Invisible
- Supporting Neurodiversity
- Success Stories Panel
- A Comprehensive Approach to Bullying Prevention: Creating Supportive and Responsive Environments to Address Bullying

Virtual Conference Date: August 7, 2020

Registration is Now Open!

[Information & Registration](#)

Registration Fee: \$20

Parent scholarships are available. Contact via email [Lori Karcher](#), at WI FACETS or call (414) 374-4645.

Learning Opportunities



At Home Learning Strategies



[Children's Activity Calendar: July 2020](#)

July's calendar highlights Park and Recreation Month, National Picnic Month, and Hot Dog Month. It is also filled with fun holidays like World Emoji Day and National Hamburger Day. The calendar shares children's programming activities, craft projects, book suggestions, and more to help you and your child have a spectacular July.

[Early Literacy Calendar: July 2020](#)

The month of July is filled with sunshine, good books, and lazy days. Parents and youngsters can beat the boredom this summer with the fun math, science, and early literacy activities in this calendar. It includes fun ways to celebrate special events like Independence Day, Anti-Boredom Month, and everybody's favorite — National Ice Cream Month!

[KIDSTIR Virtual Summer Camp](#)

A camping adventure full of yummy food and interactive games to bring everyone together. Five days of fun themes. Cook up a science experiment, make pizza for movie night, and cool down with water balloons!



[Make Your Own Ice Cream](#)

Try this easy recipe that kids can make in a sealable plastic bag! (Recipe from KIDSTIR)



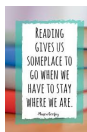
[Camp Kinda](#) - A different kind of camp for a different kind of Summer!

Here is a free, virtual summer camp experience designed to keep kids engaged, asking questions, and having fun even while they're stuck at home. "Open" each weekday starting June 1 to September 1. On any given day, kids may be exploring the art of graphic novels, unlocking the mysteries of history, or jumping into the world's craziest sports.

[Also available in Spanish.](#)

[Marcus Center for the Performing Arts](#) - Activity booklet full of arts related fun and activities

Check out the [Milwaukee Zoological Society's "fun stuff" webpage](#) for lessons about animals, animal-related challenges and animal-related arts, crafts and recipes. The Racine Zoo's ["Bringing the Zoo to You" page](#) has similar activities.



Keep your child involved with reading this summer. The **Milwaukee Public Library** is offering a virtual story time. Check the [calendar](#) for July dates and times.

National Geographic Kids [offers free online quizzes](#) on topics ranging from animals to planets to sports and food.

[Geometric Drawing Challenge-Tessellations \(for older children\)](#)

What do fish scales, plant cells, and floor tiles have in common? They are tessellations – repeated patterns with no overlaps or gaps. Explore pattern making and create your own tessellation.



Get ready for fun 4th of July facts in this [learning video](#) for kids and adults alike! Learn some interesting facts about the 4th of July, like how many hot dogs are eaten in America on the 4th, or how many people travel by car for the holiday. Also learn some of the history of this very special holiday!

Mark July 4th with your own family celebration. Make some [homemade instruments](#) and have a backyard parade, or make your own [fireworks in a jar](#).



Try some easy [Red, White & Blue Recipes](#) for 4th of July that you can make with your child. Not only do the snacks look patriotic and taste great, but following a recipe can help reinforce reading and sequencing skills.



Online Resources



[Center for Parent Information and Resources](#)

This website provides fact sheets about milestones of typical speech and language development. It also provides information about speech and language impairments and provides links to many other resources related to speech and language development.

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

This site outlines services for students with speech and language disabilities. There is information on eligibility criteria as well as links to other resources on the web.

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

This is a very comprehensive site offering information on language development activities for children from infancy to age six. These are activities parents can do with their children that not only promote language development but also to assist in helping children learn to read.

[The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders \(NIDCD\)](#)

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), conducts and supports research in the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language. An informational article on aphasia can also be found on the [website](#).

[American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#)

This link provides information about your child's communication development-kindergarten through fifth Grade. (Also available in Spanish)

[The Stuttering Foundation](#)

The Stuttering Foundation provides free online resources, services and support to those who stutter and their families, as well as support for research into the causes of stuttering.

[icommunicate](#)

The website contains information relating to speech and language difficulties, child development, milestones, autism, apraxia, hearing impairments, stuttering and stammering, and dyslexia and literacy difficulties. It also has links to many more resources related to speech and language.

[Summer Reading Lists for Reluctant Readers](#)

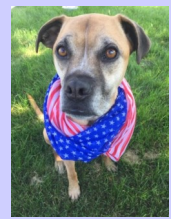
During the summer, many children won't get the same amount of reading practice that they get in school. Books that engage the imagination can provide the motivation to keep up skills until school starts again. This website gives some lists of books to captivate reluctant readers, no matter what their age.

[Free Online Speech and Language Apps for Kids](#)

This site provides links to free online apps that offer parents a way to refine and practice their child's speech and language skills at home.

[What's the Difference Between a Speech Impairment and a Language Disorder?](#)

Often the words *speech* and *language* are used interchangeably. However, these words have very different meanings. Check out the link to learn more.



WI FACETS

Webinars
Trainings
Workshops

Event title links to information & registration for WI FACETS FREE workshops & webinars:

By phone, Sandra: 877-374-0511
All webinars 12:00—1:00 PM
(unless otherwise noted)

[Transición de Nacimiento-a-Tres a la Escuela](#)

Training in Spanish - To register, contact [Nelsinia Ramos](#), or call (414) 374-4645,

Date: July 9, 2020

Presenter: Melissa Velez, CESA 5

[It's My Life: Taking the Lead! A Virtual Youth Conference](#)

A **FREE** summit about self-determination, employability skills, disability disclosure and postsecondary educational resources. Meet other teens and learn how to plan for your future.

For high school students with disabilities who are interested in becoming leaders and advocates for themselves and others with disabilities.

This event is a collaboration of: WI FACETS, TIG, CESA 1, Elmbrook Schools and WSPEI.

Dates: July 30-31, 2020,
10am-4pm (tentative)

For additional information, email [Matthew Zellmer](#) or call: 414-374-4645.

[Special Education and COVID-19- An Update](#)

Date: August 11, 2020

Presenter: Jeff Spitzer-Resnick, Systems Change Consulting

This webinar will serve as an update to the webinar that was presented in June. Any changes that have occurred over the summer months will be discussed.

WI FACETS ARCHIVED WEBINARS

available for download on our [website](#).



Do you have a young child with a delay or disability? The Birth to 3 Program is here to support you.



While families face uncertainties during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, young children with delays or disabilities are still in need of support. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) [Birth to 3 Program](#) is here to support children and their families through this public health emergency.

The Birth to 3 Program strives to help children grow and learn to their fullest potential. Families of children with developmental delays or disabilities under the age of 3 can get support and services from the program.

DHS and local county Birth to 3 Programs are able to adapt supports and services to the unique challenges each family and community is facing. Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) teams and families work together to find the best way to stay in touch during this time. When in-person contact isn't possible, services are delivered over the phone and through online video applications and platforms. Everyone works to make sure children get the support and services they need at all times. If you believe your child has a delay or disability, or has been diagnosed with one, [contact your county](#).



The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has released a new bulletin relating to [Additional Services due to Extended School Closures](#).
(COVID-19)

Research to Read

Teaching of Speech, Language and Communication Skills for Young Children with Severe Autism Spectrum Disorders: What Do Educators Need to Know?

Hui Min, L., & Lay Wah, L. (2011). Teaching of speech, language, and communication skills for young children with severe autism spectrum disorders: What do educators need to know? *New Horizons in Education*, 59(3), 16-28.

[Article Link](#)

Globally, there is an increased prevalence of preschool and school-age children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Current reports show that about one in every 110 children fall within this category of disorders. Consequently, the successful inclusion of these children in both regular and special education classes is becoming a critical issue to address. In this paper, attention is placed on the children's speech, language and communication skills which are the primary deficits associated with this category of disorders. Approaching it from the perspective of speech and language therapy, this paper will offer insights and suggestions to educators in regular schools and special education programs on how to teach speech, language, and communication skills to young children with severe Autism Spectrum Disorders. A case study is illustrated to provide the objective exemplar of how a child with severe ASD could learn and improve once being given the appropriate, evidence-based, and individualized teaching management and intervention. The teaching of speech, language, and communication skills to children with severe ASD requires a prior understanding of their behavioral patterns and learning styles. The teaching could be targeted to help them to develop the deficient skills and to use compensatory strategies to facilitate communication. A better understanding of how to teach children with severe ASD in schools will lead to a better teaching and learning experience for both the teachers and the children, with important implications on promoting sustainable inclusive education for these children.

This monthly update is provided by the 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, contact: Wendy Overturf at woverturf@wifacets.org.*



Contributions to the Newsletter

Upcoming newsletter topics: August: Other Health Impairment
September: Assistive Technology
October: Learning Disabilities

To submit contributions of articles, events, or resources, you may use the attached word document. Send submissions to woverturf@wifacets.org. If unable to access form, you may send information in an email.

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.

***The WI FACETS Family Engagement E-Newsletter
can be found online at:***

<https://servingongroups.org/resources>



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