

Family Engagement Newsletter

Family Engagement and Summer Learning

By Wendy Overturf

Summertime has a way of creeping up on us and school is suddenly out! Every year during the summer children can lose almost two to three months of learning. This is what is known as "summer slide." Over time, these losses can really add up. The amount of summer learning loss varies by child, across ages, and income levels. Summer is a vital period in a child's academic development. Active family engagement in the summer can help learning continue.

It is not always easy keeping children engaged during the summer break, especially if parents are working. Nevertheless, there are some things parents can do. Before the end of the school year, be sure to talk with your child's teacher about some informal activities that might be done at home. This may also include academic skill practice that will assist the child to progress on IEP goals.

There are many other ways parents can help their children continue to learn during the summer. Parents can turn their children's interests into powerful learning opportunities.

Have fun! One of the best parts of summer is having a little extra family time. This is a chance to have fun, explore your child's interests and make learning part of your everyday routine. For example, if your child loves soccer, figure out the percentage of goals blocked or passes completed (there's a lot of math in every sport)! If your child has a special collection, ask your child to compare the differences and similarities of each item.

Discover what your community has to offer. Take advantage of free community or library programs that have academic support and activities for children. Visit a zoo or museum to explore new interests. Many have free resources or discount days. A short road trip adventure—whether by car, bus or train—can be an exciting way to learn and bond as a family.

Support life skills. Encourage life skills that help your child thrive in school and the real-world. For example, help your child understand that they can learn through hard work. This will help your child take on challenges with confidence.

Let them see you learning, too! Children often copy what they see, including habits and attitudes related to lifelong learning. Let your child see you learning and working hard to achieve your goals. Whether you are reading the news and talking about what's happening in the world, you are modeling how learning is an amazing part of life!

(Activities adapted from Matthew Boulay, Ph.D., founder, the National Summer Learning Association founder and the author of "Summers Matter: 10 Things Every Parent, Teacher, & Principal Should Know About June, July, & August," and Bibb Hubbard, founder and president of Learning Heroes.)



Statewide Events

Wisconsin DPI Autism Training
[Supporting Autistic Thinking Style](#)

Statewide training to assist in on-going staff development designed to improve educational outcomes for children with autism.

Date: June 19-20, 2018

Location: Comfort Suites, Johnson Creek, WI

[2018 WI Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Conference](#)

Date: June 11-13, 2018

Location: Osthoff Resort, Ellkart Lake, WI

[Wraparound Milwaukee Resource Fair](#)

Wraparound Milwaukee serves families living in Milwaukee County who have a child who has serious emotional or mental health needs, is referred through the Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice System and is at immediate risk of placement in a residential treatment center, juvenile correctional facility or psychiatric hospital. For more information, contact Wraparound Milwaukee at (414) 257-6024.

Date: June 15, 2018

Location: Zoofari Conference Center 9715 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

[Best Practices in Inclusive Education](#)

Dates: July 23-25, 2018

Location: Westwood Conference Center, Wausau, WI



Statewide Events

[Collaborative & Proactive Solutions: Understanding and Helping Students with Social, Emotional, and Behavior Challenges](#)

Presenter: Dr. Ross Greene

Date: July 31, 2018

Location: Appleton, WI

[WI American Indian Studies 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 WI.

Date: July 30-August 3, 2018

Location: Red Creek Elementary, Black River Falls WI,

[Endless Possibilities Conference](#)

"Supporting our Most Vulnerable Students." Keynote speaker Hasan Davis, J.D. will talk about his journey as a Hope Dealer, from juvenile delinquent to J.D., and how adults can champion the lives of children. Breakouts on working with schools, discipline, manifestation determination, foster care, homeless youth support, juvenile justice and more. The cost to attend is \$35. Graduate credits and foster parent training hours are available.

Conference August 3, 2018

Location: UW-Whitewater

[Information & Registration](#)

[Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative \(WSPEI\) Training Opportunities for Families of Children with Disabilities-2018-2019](#)

Parents in Partnership (PIP) is a statewide program which deepens the ability of families and educators to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. PIP is a leadership development training for parents who have children with disabilities ages 6-14 that takes place over five weekend sessions during the year. For more information about PIP and for the locations and dates for the 2018-2019 PIP trainings visit: [the website.](#)

At Home Learning Strategies



This month's home strategies are from [understood.org](#), a great resource for families of children with learning and attention issues.

Multisensory Learning

Multisensory learning, which is learning that engages more than one sense at a time, is a great option for students with attention issues.

Try these strategies for [multisensory math](#) – like using manipulatives, drawing, tapping ,or music to work on skills.

Multisensory learning works for reading too – try downloading these [color-coded word building tiles](#) to boost phonics and spelling skills. Then, download this [mat](#) to read, build and write words with the tiles. Or, for comprehension, download these [story sticks](#) – they will prompt you to ask your child questions about what they are reading.

For children who struggle with writing, try these [graphic organizers](#), which help organize thoughts visually.

When they're not playing outside...

Summer is around the corner, and hopefully your kids are enjoying the weather outside. But for those rainy or too-hot days, try these [math board games](#) that make practicing math skills fun.

Summer vacation has a lot of fun times, but can also involve waiting around (road trip, anyone?). Try these [summer learning activities](#) to keep your children busy while boosting literacy skills.

Adult activity: See what it's like to [experience](#) attention issues through the eyes of a child.



Summer Reading

Use this book-inspired [bingo sheet](#) to encourage your child to read all summer long.

[The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge](#) is a free, online reading program designed to help students turn the "summer slide"—the learning loss which can occur over the summer months—into a "summer leap" by discovering the joy and magic of reading for fun. The 2018 theme is "A Magical Summer of Reading,"

Online Resources ADD/ADHD

[Center for Parent Information and Resources \(CPIR\)](#)

The link below **connects to a webpage that provides brief, but detailed fact sheets on ADHD**. The fact sheet gives information about ADHD, describes its characteristics, offers tips for parents and teachers, and provides links to related information and organizations with special expertise as it relates to ADHD. [CPIR website](#)

[Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder \(CHADD\)](#)

CHADD is a national non-profit organization providing education, advocacy and support for individuals with ADHD. In addition, the informative website, CHADD also publishes a variety of printed materials to keep members and professionals current on research advances, medications, and treatments affecting individuals with ADHD.

[Understood](#)

The goal of this website is to empower parents to understand their children's learning and attention issues and relate to their experiences. With this knowledge, parents can make more effective choices for their children. One can also subscribe to a weekly newsletter pertaining to learning and attention topics.

[ADDitude Magazine](#)

The website provides practical information about raising children with ADHD, including behavior and discipline strategies, help making and keeping friends and organizing for success. There are a multitude of education and learning resources to help students (and the teachers who work with them) succeed at school. While the website also includes the option of a paid subscription to the magazine, the majority of the articles are free and accessible.

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(DPI\)](#)

This website has information on how a child with ADHD may qualify for special education services under "Other Health Impaired" (OHI). It also includes links to several online resources related to identifying and programming for students with ADHD.

[WebMD](#)

This website has many resources pertaining to the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD. The website also includes overview of some of the more common medications that are used in the treatment of ADHD.

[Office of Civil Rights \(OCR\) Resource Guide on Students with ADHD and Section 504](#)

The U.S. Department of Education's [Office for Civil Rights \(OCR\)](#) issued guidance clarifying the obligation of schools to provide students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with equal educational opportunity under [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)

[Endless Possibilities: Juvenile Justice & Mental Health Conference](#)

Conference for educators, parents, and others to gain much more information related to mental health, education, and family supports. Sponsored by WI FACETS - Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support, Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative, and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

August 3, 2018, 8:30-3:30UW-Whitewater, Hyland Hall

[Information & Registration Link](#)



UPCOMING WEBINARS

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

By phone, Sandra: 877-374-0511

All webinars 12:00—1:00 PM
(unless otherwise noted)**Creando la visión: Preparando a su hijo hacia la vida adulta****Date:** June 7, 2018**Presenter:** Nelsinia Ramos,
WI FACETS**Youth Leadership Summit**

A free Summit all about leadership, advocacy, college, careers and healthy relationships. For high school students with disabilities who are interested in becoming leaders and advocates for themselves and others with disabilities. Meet other teens and learn how to plan your future. For information, contact Matthew Zellmer, WI FACETS, mzellmer@wifacets.org or 414-374-4645, ext. 203.

Date: Monday, June 18, 2018
(All day) to Friday, June 22, 2018
(All day)**Location:** Independence First, Milwaukee, WI**or****Date:** Monday, July 9, 2018 (All day) to Friday, July 13, 2018 (All day)**Location:** Mequon Nature Preserve**Latino Autism Support Group**

DSD Servicios para personas con discapacidad en Milwaukee: Información para la transición a la adultez.

Date: June 23, 2018, 10 am-noon**Location:** WI FACETS**Contact:** Nelsinia Ramos
WI FACETS (414) 374-4645

Instructional Trends



Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is defined as “the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.” The definition involves two parts: acquisition of skills, and application of the skills – just learning a new skill does not mean a child will know how or when to use it.

The acquisition and application of these skills have shown positive outcomes for students, such as higher test scores (11 percentile points) for students who received comprehensive SEL instruction.

Wisconsin is one of the states working with Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) to expand standards around SEL. While all states have standards for early childhood SEL, Wisconsin is one of only 8 that covers from pre-K through 12th grade as well. Full day trainings will be available in each CESA next school year, and online modules are being developed as well.

The new standards, [available on the DPI website](#), cover self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills and decision-making.

DPI released a [press statement](#) with more details about social emotional learning and the new guide. Superintendent Evers stated, “...a growing body of research shows that [academic knowledge] must be supplemented with concepts like persistence, problem solving, adaptability, and communication skills. Those are part of social and emotional learning and contribute mightily to safety, respect, and equity in our schools, the workplace, and society.” Jessica Nichols, an education consultant at the Department of Public Instruction supporting students with IEPs who have social and emotional learning related needs, explained that SEL benefits staff as well: “The SEL Competencies not only serve as a guide for educators to support the social and emotional development of students, but also to really reflect on their own SEL skills and intentionally serve as a model for students.”

Ms. Nichols also highlighted the importance of families: “As schools identify SEL as a priority, it is a great opportunity to partner with family and community members. This partnership is crucial to ensuring the specific needs of a given community are addressed in the implementation plan.”

For more information, check out this 4:31 minute [video](#) called Positivity Through Social Emotional Learning, and this [infographic](#) about SEL in Wisconsin’s K-12 schools.

Research to Read

"The Use of iPads in the Literacy Learning of Students with ADHD."

German, Samantha. (2017)

[Article Link](#)

ABSTRACT: This research explores literacy learning when using technological devices with students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The purpose of this research was to explore how to implement technology in the classroom more efficiently during literacy instruction. Additionally, this study explored how to make sure students with diverse needs are reached through learning when technology is integrated into instruction. Data were collected for over a period of six weeks using semi-structured interviews, observational notes, and student retelling during tutoring sessions. Data were analyzed to how technology impacts student engagement and comprehension while reading.

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, please [click here](#) or contact: Wendy Overturf at woverturf@wifacets.org.*



Contributions to the Newsletter

Upcoming newsletter topic: July: Other Health Impairment
August: Other Health Impairment
September: Assistive Technology

To submit contributions, you may use either the attached word document for contributing articles, events, or resources. Send submissions to woverturf@wifacets.org. If unable to access form, send 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.



This document was produced under U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs Grant No. H323A070022-11. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the Department of Education. No official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of any product, commodity, service or enterprise mentioned in this publication is intended or should be inferred. This product is public domain. Authorization to reproduce it in whole or in part is granted. While permission to reprint this publication is not necessary, the citation should be:

State Personnel Development Grant (2015). Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Madison, WI. Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, and Support, Inc.