



CHILDREN'S VOICE

WAUKESHA COUNTY'S CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

-March 2022 -



The 33rd Annual Wisconsin Autism Conference will be held in-person, April 29 & 30, 2022 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. After two years of virtual educational programming, we are excited to focus the conference on reconnection and on the honoring and sharing of experiences that bring us together. The conference will feature over 30 breakout sessions, an Exhibit Hall and two keynote sessions presented by world-renowned speakers. There will also be 14 virtual bonus content sessions available to participants after the in-person conference.

Parents and caregivers that have attended in the past have commented that attending helped them understand their son or daughter better, helped them feel more connected & better supported, and helped them learn about important resources to assist them on their journey.

The cost to attend is \$200 for an Autism Society member, \$225 for a non-member, and \$100 for an autistic individual.

We do have the ability to directly bill WPS for families who are eligible to pay the registration fee with CLTS Waiver funds. The conference qualifies as either Consumer Education and Training (S9445) or Training for Unpaid Caregivers (S5111). Additional information about the process of registering a CLTS participant can be found here: <https://www.autismgreaterwi.org/annualconference/>

PARENTS UNITED CONFERENCE



COLLABORATIVE & PROACTIVE SOLUTIONS (CPS)

Presented by: Kimberly R. Hopkins, LICSW, Director of Outreach and Communications at Lives in the Balance

March 9th, 2021 over Zoom or in person at:
Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel
375 S Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI 53005

SESSION FOR PARENTS - 12:30pm - 3:30pm

CPS is the empirically supported model Dr. Ross Greene describes in his influential books, *The Explosive Child*, *Lost at School*, and the recently released books, *Lost and Found* and *Raising Human Beings*.

The CPS model provides a compassionate understanding of kids' behavioral challenges and a non-adversarial, effective approach for reducing challenging behavior, improving communication, and repairing relationships. This model has been implemented in schools, inpatient units, residential facilities, treatment programs, and juvenile detention facilities. You will leave with an understanding of the underpinnings of Dr. Greene's Approach, along with practical assessment and intervention tools that can be brought back to and used in diverse settings.

Register Here: <http://parentsunitedwi.org/register-now/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DHS UPDATE



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

DHS and Wisconsin Pediatricians Say Now is the Time to Catch Kids Up on Vaccines and Well-Child Visits

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has joined the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP) to urge families to make sure their children are up to date on well-child visits and vaccinations.

"In 2020, there was a significant drop in clinic visits. This resulted in delays in vaccinations, screenings, referrals, and general guidance to keep families healthy," said Dr. Sarah Campbell, WIAAP president.

While many doctors adapted through telehealth and took steps to make sure patients weren't exposed to COVID-19, the decline in the number of office visits and routine vaccinations is alarming and could have long-ranging impacts on a child's health and the health of the community.

Wellness visits for children should be scheduled with a child's doctor regularly from birth through age three, then yearly after that. Different vaccinations are given at different times as a child grows. Medical providers and local public health departments are encouraged to follow the [CDC vaccine schedule](#) for optimal protection. Guidance is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

View the entire [news release](#).

HAPPY
St. Patrick's
DAY



A Transition Presentation for Supporters of Young Adults with Disabilities

Join us for a discussion about the process of transitioning from children's services to adult services and supports!

Topics that will be discussed during this transition presentation:

- What is the ADRC and what role do they play during the transition process?
- What is publicly funded long term care and how is eligibility determined?
- What options are available for decision making?
- How will the young adult support themselves financially?
- What housing options are available?
- What opportunities are there for training, education and employment?
- Are there additional mental health resources available?

March 30th | 4-6pm | Guest: DVR (Employment Options)

July 8th | 4-6pm | Guest: GWAAR (Decision Making)

September 14th | 4-6pm | Guest: WisPACT (Special Needs Trusts)

December 7th | 4-6pm | Guest: Social Security (SSI, SSI-E, SSIMA)

Register Today

Space is limited

<https://forms.gle/2NCXbr5Mank7DEfq8>

Aging and Disability Resource Center
of Waukesha County

(262) 548-7848
514 Riverview Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53188



WAISMAN CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

12th Annual
Virtual

Waisman Center Day with the Experts: Down Syndrome

Learn about advances in research and clinical services and hear from a panel of experts—individuals with Down syndrome and family members.

Saturday, March 12, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

- 9:00 - 9:05 a.m. **Welcome**
Qiang Chang, PhD, Director, Waisman Center
- 9:05 - 9:30 a.m. **"Positive Behavior Strategies to Support Individuals with Down Syndrome Across the Lifespan"**
Martha Walter, PhD, Psychologist, Co-Director, Waisman Down Syndrome Clinic
Behavior can be an important form of communication. This presentation will focus on ways of learning more about what an individual with Down syndrome may be communicating with their behavior as well as ideas for ways to reduce the likelihood of challenging behaviors and offer alternate behaviors that meet the individual's needs. This presentation will also focus on how to increase and maintain positive behaviors and how to assess and work through challenging behaviors..
- 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. **"Behavioral and Cognitive Profiles in Down Syndrome Across the Life Course"**
Sigan Hartley, PhD, Associate Professor, Human Ecology and Waisman Investigator
This presentation will provide an overview of research on common behavioral and cognitive profiles seen in individuals with Down syndrome in childhood and adulthood. These profiles include both behavioral and cognitive strengths and challenges that have impacts for learning and the ability to function in school, everyday activities, and employment settings
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **PANEL DISCUSSION** that includes individuals with Down syndrome and family members.

Please register at www.waisman.wisc.edu/event/experts-down-syndrome-2022/

Hosted by the *Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin (DSAW)- South Central, GiGi's Playhouse, and the Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Sponsored by the *Friends of the Waisman Center*



dsaw
Down Syndrome
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
awareness • acceptance • assistance
South Central



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
educ. insir. center.

Madison, WI

Waisman Center | 1500 Highland Avenue | Madison, WI
EVERYONE WELCOME

For additional details, call 608.263.5837 or email palumbo@waisman.wisc.edu

ST. FRANCIS CHILDREN'S CENTER

Family Activity Center: Winter/Spring 2022 Event Schedule

Our Family Activity Center (FAC) provides programming for families with children with special needs. It is a place to gain support and resources and to network with others. All events are FREE and some events will be via Zoom. RSVP at sfckids.org/FAC or by contacting Cherie Purdy, program coordinator, at 414-351-7635 or cpurdy@sfckids.org.

For Children & Families:



Sibshops:

Saturdays, Jan 8 • Feb 12 • Mar 12 • Apr 9
10:00 am - 11:30 am

Sibshops is a lively celebration of the many contributions made by brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. These siblings, ages 8-12, will engage in recreational activities while gaining support. Our January 8th session will be held on Zoom, but all other sessions will be in-person at SFCC. [Register Here!](#)



Valentines Day Kits

At home activity

The FAC is excited to offer Valentine Craft & Activity Kits for families who have a child with special needs. The kits provide an opportunity for families to bond and celebrate the holiday. Families must register by February 3rd in order to participate. [Register Here](#) or by visiting our [website!](#)



Spring Planting

Saturday, Apr 30
9:00 am - 10:30 am

Join us in celebrating the opening of our new outdoor playground at St. Francis Children's Center! We will be planting spring flowers and making use of the new inclusive playground. For more information visit our [website](#) or email our FAC coordinator at cpurdy@sfckids.org.



Family Paint Night

Friday, Apr 1
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Join us in-person at our Family Activity Center for a family paint night! The FAC will provide materials for this fun, inclusive evening to be spent with other families who have children with special needs. [Register Here](#) or on our [website!](#)



Super Saturdays at the Family Activity Center

Saturdays, Mar 19 • Apr 16
9:00 am - 11:00 am

The Family Activity Center is excited to bring back Super Saturdays at the FAC! Super Saturdays will happen every third Saturday of every month and provide families with the opportunity to spend their morning making use of our inclusive center. Families are welcome to bring friends to meet even more new friends and families with children with special needs. We ask all participants to check the FAC Facebook page for COVID-19 event cancellations. For more information visit our [website](#) or email our FAC Coordinator at cpurdy@sfckids.org.

For Parents & Caregivers:



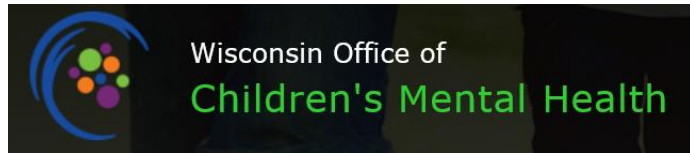
Advancing Adult Compassion Resilience

Tuesdays, Jan 18 – Feb 22
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Join the FAC in this 6-week class via Zoom, which will focus on developing and maintaining compassion resilience. The class will be led by FAC Coordinator, Cherie Purdy, and SFCC's Birth to Three Teacher, Cheryl Moser, and it will discuss ways to set boundaries and develop skills to manage expectations within our families. Registration for classes is required but attendance to every class is not required. [Register Here](#) or by visiting our [website](#).



MENTAL HEALTH/MINDFULNESS RESOURCES



Self-care/Self-help – What You Need to Show Up as Your Best Self

Caring for your children and family is a big responsibility, and you can't do it as well as you may want to without taking care of yourself. See our flyer on self-care ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) and view our video below, featuring Franchesca Vasquez, Resident Therapist and Family Navigator at Foundations Health and Wholeness, and parent Rachel Zwicky.

Watch the video here:

<https://youtu.be/Sqfmlwvucqg>

Basic Needs – Parents Can't Parent if Basic Needs aren't Met

Watch our video below featuring Barb Austin, Family Support Worker with Children's Wisconsin and parent Russell Wrycha tips and encouragement about seeking help in meeting basic needs.

Watch the video here:

<https://youtu.be/Oi5T2JbunVk>

Predictability, Purpose, and People – The 3 Ps of Parenting

The 3 P's can help parents manage stress and anxiety during the pandemic. First Lady Kathy Evers discusses these with Dr. Marcia Slattery, Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics/Director, UW Anxiety Disorders Program, Department of Psychiatry – UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

Watch the video here:

<https://youtu.be/wpFw-6WzPsU>

FUN ACTIVITIES

Milwaukee County Zoo Free Day

March 5th: 9:30am – 4:30pm

Milwaukee County Zoo

10001 W Bluemound Rd

Milwaukee, WI 53226

Betty Brinn Children's Museum Sensory-Friendly Sessions

The Betty Brinn Children's Museum welcomes children with autism spectrum (ASD) or sensory processing disorders (SPD) and their families to their Sensory-Friendly Sessions.

BETTY BRINN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM SENSORY-FRIENDLY SESSION TIMES:

March 9 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am

March 23 from 5:30 am to 7:30 pm

Purchase tickets [HERE](#).

The Winter Train Show at the Domes

The Mitchell Park Domes winter train show opens to the public on January 29, 2022. The show, featuring trains and trains through the beautiful flowers and scenes and deep green fern foliage, has been an annual tradition at the Show Dome for years!

Non-resident Admission is \$8 adult, \$6 juniors (6-17 years old), \$6 Persons with Disability, \$8 Seniors (60+), and FREE for children under 5.

Must have a ticketed timeslot. Purchase [HERE](#).

2022 Domes Winter Hours:

Wednesday and Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am to 8:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



Virtual Disability Advocacy Day - Registration Open
March 16, 2022 10:00 am - 12:00pm Join us *virtually on Zoom*

Disability Advocacy Day is a virtual event focused on connecting disability advocates with their legislators to talk about issues that matter. Participants learn about issues during a short briefing, then work in teams to plan what they want to say. Everyone will get their legislators' phone numbers to call right after.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Registration deadline is March 8!
- Everyone **MUST** register to participate
- Use your **VOTING** address to register. Business addresses or PO Boxes are not allowed.

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

10:00– 12:00 - Check in to the Zoom meeting -Briefing on issues -Small group discussion and support for calling your legislators

Afternoon: Call your legislators!

Register online [HERE](#)

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT HOME

Click on the photo below for some fun and creative ways you can celebrate St. Patrick's Day at home with the kids:



CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS STAFF

Vickie Smith	262-548-7241
Erin Zellmer	262-548-7381
Ted Wuerslin	262-548-7269
Sara Rydzik	262-548-7997
Kim Hawke	262-970-6665
Allison Anschutz	262-970-6685
Krista McNeil	262-548-7348
Sara Sobrofski	262-548-7370
Esme Jaramillo	262-548-7146
Julie Kunath	262-970-4794
Paige Blanchette	262-970-6629
Maddy Attewell	262-548-7862
JoAnne Ayers	262-548-7442
Aubrey Winkie	262-548-7212
Katie Lehrke	262-548-7338
Emily Partlow	262-548-7772
Jessica Wegner	262-548-7353
Courtney LaBuy	262-970-6668
Stephanie Binder	262-970-6610
Alissa Hetzel	262-896-6829
Jenna Chaplock	262-548-7930
Cheresse Hughes	262-896-3376
Ashley Cabunac	262-970-6677
Cailey Moran	262-970-6669
Mary Pitcher	262-548-7719
Amelia Kennedy	262-548-7232
Emilie Roper	262-548-7891
Bethel Bode	262-548-7034

We would love your feedback!

The Children with Special Needs Program would like your feedback regarding our newsletter! What can we add? What should we change? Do you have resources to share?

Please email Sara Sobrofski at:

ssobrofski@waukeshacounty.gov