



Resource Family Connection

News, Events and Information Benefiting
the Children of Waukesha County

August 2013



Fostering a Child with an IEP By: Adoption Resources of Wisconsin

Many children who are in foster care experience difficulties in school. Traumatized by the abuse and neglect which brought about their placement in foster care, along with the trauma of being removed from their families, most of these children have difficulty directing their attention and energies to learning in school.

In addition, frequent transfers from school to school and multiple moves may add further strain to the burden these children carry.

Handling the emotional and developmental problems which are part of their young lives does not make school a primary focus for many of these children. These vulnerable children require special educational provisions for many of them to progress in school.

By law, children have a right to special educational services from the ages of 3 years old up to 21 years old or not yet graduated from high school if they are affected by disabilities based on emotional, learning, or physical disabilities. These disabilities are categorized as:

- Cognitive disabilities (CD)
- Hearing impairments (HI)
- Speech and language impairments (SL)
- Visual impairments (VI)
- Emotional behavioral disability (EBD)
- Orthopedic impairments (OI)
- Autism
- Traumatic brain injury (TBI)
- Specific learning disabilities (SLD)
- Other health impairments (OHI)
- Significant developmental delay (SDD)

Some children require physical or occupational rehabilitation to meet their educational goals.

When a child has such disabilities, schools are required by law to create an Individual Educational Plan (IEP), specific to that child. This plan is based on an evaluation conducted by the school to determine what disabilities the child has and which services must be in place to help a child meet individual educational goals.

The IEP is developed by a team of people, which may include teachers, guidance counselors, special education directors, social workers, nurses, administrators, and school psychologists.

Others who should be involved include: people from supporting agencies, foster parents, involved relatives, and the child when possible. An in-depth evaluation is conducted of the child prior to

this meeting. Specific plans of action are then proposed to help the child meet defined educational goals.

As part of the assessment, parents may be asked for input that is often invaluable to the total assessment. You may be asked to complete a home assessment or inventory to describe the child's behaviors and abilities.

However, foster parents are not a part of the IEP team unless the birth parent gives written permission for the foster parents to be part of the team.



Wisconsin schools must follow strict Wisconsin and federal education laws and regulations in creating these educational plans and in implementing them. These regulations are created to protect the educational rights of all children to an education that accommodates their individual needs and abilities.

As a foster parent, make sure you have complete and detailed information about the educational rights of the children you foster and the process for obtaining appropriate education and special educational services.

You may request an evaluation for a child if you suspect that he or she has a disability which affects his or her ability to be successful in school. Ideally, you should make this request along with the child's parents and the child's social worker.

If the child you foster has an IEP and is involved in special educational services, it's even more important to stay in good communication with the child's teachers, the special education teachers and aides, guidance counselors, school social worker, administration and anyone else who is involved regularly with the child.

If your child has been identified as having an IEP and has been in special education in a previous school prior to a new placement, an evaluation is given to the new foster parents by the social worker. It's the responsibility of the new school to request the records. If there's an IEP, the law mandates continuity of special educational services for the child by the new school.

Complex laws and regulations govern the IEP process. However, there are excellent resources at the state and national level to help foster parents understand this process. Many can be accessed through our center. These excellent resources help foster parents navigate through the complexities of the assessment and IEP process.

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Local Activities

Waukesha YMCA

YOUTH NIGHTS GRADES 2 - 6

We'll have the Virtual Vault, open swim, open gym, concessions, piñata, games and more! Come dressed for the fun. Bring a swimsuit, towel and padlock. Register in advance or at the door each night. No entry after 7:30 PM, no re-entry once you leave. SATURDAYS 7:30-10:00 PM

- ★ September 21 Fall Back Into Fun
 - ★ October 19 Fun Fright Night (Wear appropriate costumes)
 - ★ November 16 Winter Wonderland
 - ★ December 21 Holiday Hoopla
- Member \$5 Program Participant \$8

KIDS' NIGHT OUT GRADES 4K - 5

Join us for a night of games, gymnastics, Kids' Gym fun, crafts and swimming. Pizza and snacks will be served. Bring your swimsuit, towel and bag. Register by Friday at noon.

- ★ Friday, October 11 6:00-9:00 PM
 - ★ Friday, November 8 6:00-9:00 PM
- Member \$15 Program Participant \$20

NO SCHOOL FUN DAYS - A NO SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM AGES 4-12

The Waukesha YMCA offers safe, quality care for your child when Waukesha Public Schools are closed. Join us for fun games, sports, swimming, gymnastics, arts & crafts, Kids' Gym and Virtual Vault fun! Bring a lunch, swimsuit, towel and padlock. Children ages 4-5 will

be grouped separately and will not swim. Register in advance to ensure availability. Children ages 4-6 and Wisconsin Shares' participants must complete state licensing paperwork three days in advance. No transfers or online credits will be given within three days of the program.

- ★ September 30
 - ★ October 24
 - ★ October 25
 - ★ November 27
 - ★ December 2
 - ★ December 23
- Full Day 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Free Extended Care
7:00 - 8:30 AM and 4:30 - 6:00 PM
No School Fun Day Pricing
Member Program Participant
Full Day \$30 \$38

Waukesha County Parks System

Saturday Explorations

When: Each Saturday in August

Where: Retzer Nature Center

Description: The Wildlife of Mid-Summer Adults and Families

Nature's Playtime

When: Mon, August 12 & 26, 10:30am – 3:30pm

Where: Retzer Nature Center

Description:

- ★ Ages: 2 - 4 (each child must be accompanied by an adult)
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- ★ Ages: 7-12
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Fee:

- ★ \$4 for children 2 - 6 (1 hour program)
- ★ \$5 for children 7 - 12 (1.5 hour program)

Register By: Wednesday prior to class date. (Walk-ins welcome for an additional \$1 per class)

Royal Families KIDS Camp - Hartland

Oakwood Church in Hartland, WI is sponsoring Royal Families KIDS Camp - Hartland for foster children ranging from 6-12 years of age.

This camp is specifically for foster children in the Waukesha Community. Camp dates are from August 18-23, 2013.

The deadline for application is August 15th and there are still spots available!

If you are fostering a child who meets these qualifications and are interested in this program, please contact your assigned social worker. This is a great opportunity for foster children to connect with one another and for foster parents to take time for themselves.

<http://hartland.royalfamilykids.org/>



Calling All Creative Kids!

Do you want to be famous?

It's your chance to put your artwork on display

It's not too early to begin working on your art work. The ROKs committee is having its eighth annual non-competitive Art Show on **Thursday, November 14** in the **new Waukesha County Human Services Center**.

Every year we display art done by the talented kids who work with WCDHHS. Some of the artwork has included drawings, paintings, sculptures, jewelry, poems, stories and "Sculpey" figures. We have also had a flautist, poet, singer, sketch artist, guitarist, cellist and a drum circle that have performed at past Shows. If you can sing, dance or play a musical instrument, we would love to have you be part of the program on November 14. From young children to older teenagers, all art efforts are included in the Show. The committee also has some funds that can be used to purchase supplies for those young artists who need them. Please contact your social worker if you need supplies or if you are interested in performing at the Show.



Please think about being a part of this year's Show and mark your calendars for November 14. We'd love to have you join us. The young people who have participated in the past have enjoyed having the chance to show others their artistic efforts. We look forward to your involvement. If any young people, parents or caregivers have any questions, please contact your worker. More information about the Show will be included in future Newsletters.

Finally, as in years past, we invite any artists to create a mural to be displayed at the Agency. The theme of this year's mural is **One Thing We All Have In Common Is That We Are All Different**. If you would like to participate in this, you need to submit to your worker by September 1 a draft sketch of what your mural will look like. The sketches will then be reviewed for approval and the mural(s) will be unveiled at this year's Show.

Thank you.

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One excellent resource is the Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support, Inc. or FACETS. You can reach them at 877-374-4677, or at: <http://www.facets.org>.

Know that you are an important link in meeting the special educational needs of the children you foster. Your daily support and encouragement can make all the difference in the educational achievement of these vulnerable children.

Resources

Books:

- Every Child Deserves a Chance: A Parent's Welcome to the Special Education Process
- S.A.F.E. at School
- Writing Measurable IEP Goals & Objectives
- Our Labeled Children: What Every Parent and Teacher Needs to Know About Learning Disability

Other Resources:

- *Special Education In Plain Language: User Friendly Handbook on Special Education Laws, Policies and Practices in Wisconsin*, Fall 2007, Third Edition;
<http://www.specialed.us/pl-07/pl07-index.html>
- *Educational Services for Children Placed in Out-of-Home Care*
<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped.bul00-11.html>

Wisconsin Agencies

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

(800) 441-4563
TTY: (608) 267-2427
Fax: (608) 267-3746
Website: <http://www.wdi.wi.gov>

Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training and Support (WI FACETS)

(414) 374-4645 / (877) 374-4677 (toll-free)
TDD: (414) 374-4635
Fax: (414) 374-4655
<http://www.wifacets.org/>
Email: wifacets@wifacets.org

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI)

(877) 844-4925 (toll-free)
<http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/parent.html>

Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System (WSEMS)

(888) 298-3857 (toll-free)
Fax: (262) 538-1348
(262) 538-1618 (TTY)
<http://www.wsems.us>

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)

(608) 267-0214 / (800) 928-8778
<http://www.disabilityrightswi.org>

Legal Action of Wisconsin

(414) 278-7722
<http://badgerlaw.net/Home/PublicWeb/LAW>

National Agencies

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

(800) 872-5327 / TTY: (800) 437-0833
Fax: (202) 401-0689
Website: <http://www.ed.gov>

Back to School Dates

Brookfield.....	September 3
Elmbrook/Brookfield.....	September 3
Menomonee Falls	September 3
Milwaukee	September 3
Muskego	September 3
New Berlin	September 3
Waukesha.....	September 4



Clothing Closet



As we are getting ready to for the move to the new building, we will not be accepting any donations beginning Monday, August 19th. Once we have relocated and settled into our new location, we will announce when the Clothing Closet will reopen. Thank you to everyone who has made donations and if you

do have donations please consider donating to some of the agencies below:

Goodwill: <http://www.amazinggoodwill.com/donating>

The Women's Center: <http://www.twcwaukesha.org/Donation.html>

St. Vincent DePaul: <http://stvincentwaukeshacounty.org/donate-2/>

Purple Heart: <http://www.purpleheartpickupwi.com/>

Thank You Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church

The thoughtful and kind women of Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wind Lake came together to make these beautiful quilts for our foster children. The intricate detail and design reflect the amount of time and energy spent on these wonderful gifts. We would like to express our immense gratitude from those whose hearts are warmed by this gesture. Thank you!



Training and Events



Training Offered By Waukesha County

Parent Café

September 12, 2013
5:30 PM

Center for Excellence
N4W22000 Bluemound Road
Waukesha

To register for childcare, RSVP or for questions call, 262-548-8080.



Waukesha County Foster Parent Required Pre-Placement Training

Prospective Foster Parents need to do Part 1 of the training on the following website: <http://www.wcwt.wisc.edu/foster-parent-training> (Please bring your training certificates to the class)

We will then meet to discuss the learning points and answer your questions.

August 5, 2013

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Waukesha County Human Services

500 Riverview Ave.
Brookfield Room G137 - Enter Door 6.
Call Madeline Prange to register at 262-548-7267.

Relative Caregivers Support/ Education Group

Third Tuesday of each month.

August 20, 2013

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Parents Place

1570 E. Moreland Blvd., Waukesha, WI
262-549-5575

Free childcare available. Please call Parents Place to reserve your spot.

Waukesha County Relative Resource Families
Please RSVP to Janis (262-896-8069) or Libby (262-548-7277)

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Relative Caregiver Picnic

August 17, 2013

Noon to 3:00 PM

Minooka Park, Waukesha



Training

Parents Place Programs
262-549-5575 www.ppacinc.org

Effective Discipline for the Challenging Child

Tuesdays, August 5 - 26 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

This is an opportunity to learn new parenting tools that will replace the old ineffective discipline techniques that are not working. Children will learn to be accountable for their behavior. The focus of this group is on parents of children five years of age and older.

Love and Logic

Tuesdays, August 6 - 27 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Uncontrollable Child

Tuesdays, Sept. 10 - 24 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Many young children have not learned to control their angry emotions and resort to hitting, biting and throwing things. This course looks at possible motivations for such behaviors and how parents can take steps to control them.

Healthy Parenting/Strengthening Families

Mondays, Sept. 16 - Oct. 28 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM

This 7 week multi-faceted program will benefit the entire family, and provide for creating a healthy, well-rounded life style.

Social Skills and Self Esteem

Tuesdays, Sept. 17 & 24 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Many children struggle with social skills. Whether they are considered aggressive, shy or are socially isolated this group is designed to give them the basic skills to make and keep friends.

Active Parenting for the Challenging Times

Thursdays, Sept. 19 & 26 from 10:00 - 10:30 AM

All families face challenges, and often parents become stuck in repetitive, unproductive patterns that don't support the loving, nurturing relationships you had envisioned. In this class, explore how a deeper self-understanding can help you raise children who thrive.

Special Speaker - Feingold Diet

Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Join Parents Place to learn more on The Feingold diet, a food elimination program developed by Ben F. Feingold, MD. The Feingold Diet is based on the premise that allergic reactions or sensitivities to certain foods cause or contribute to ADD/ADHD symptoms.

Contact Numbers:

Waukesha County
Health & Human Services
262-548-7212

Rebecca Hollister, Supervisor
262-548-7271

Mary Alice Grosser, Supervisor
262-548-7272

Kathy Mullooly, Supervisor
262-896-6832

Madeline Prange, Foster Care Coord.
262-548-7267

Libby Sinclair, Relative Licensing
262-548-7277

Social Workers:

Jennifer Adler..... 262-548-7265

Suzanne Arnold..... 262-548-7348

Samantha Comaris ... 262-548-7394

Megan Fishler 262-896-8570

Laura Jahnke..... 262-548-7359

Becca Kuester..... 262-896-6857

Stacy Kurkiewicz..... 262-548-7262

Maria Maurer 262-548-7345

Jessica McDonald 262-548-7639

Susan Peck..... 262-896-8574

Janis Ramos..... 262-896-8069

Michael Reed..... 262-548-7347

Greg Rewolinski 262-548-7270

Elizabeth Russo 262-548-7349

Kim Sampson..... 262-548-7273

Mark Sasso 262-548-7346

Linda Senger 262-548-7698

Kinship Workers:

Linda Finn..... 262-548-7254

Deb Fosberg..... 262-548-7256

Children's Mental Health Outreach
262-548-7666

Medical Emergency: 911

Family Emergency: 211

Foster Parent Mentor

Jen Mersfelder..... 262-542-2926

David Mersfelder..... 262-542-2926

If an Allegation of Abuse or
Neglect has been made against
you, please call:

FASPP
Norma Schoenberg
920-922-9627

June 2013 Placements

Level 2 Placement:
52 Children

Treatment Foster Care:
12 Children

Group Homes:
1 Children

Residential Care Facilities:
15 Children

Level 1 Placements:
38 Children

Level 2 Foster Homes:
106 Homes

Level 1 Foster Homes:
31 Homes

