



# Family Engagement Newsletter

## Family-focused Tutorial from the National Center on Improving Literacy

By Wendy Overturf

The Mission of the [National Center on Improving Literacy \(NCIL\)](#) is to increase access to, and use of, evidence-based approaches to screen, identify, and teach students with literacy-related disabilities, including dyslexia. Taking part in your child's literacy development can improve your child's reading ability, comprehension, and language skills. It can also improve your child's interest in reading, attitude toward reading, and focus.

NCIL has developed an [online tutorial](#) for families that want to learn more about supporting their child's literacy development at home. This tutorial expands upon information in NCIL's [Supporting Your Child's Literacy Development at Home Literacy Brief and Infographic](#). This module is part one of a four-part series on key roles that families can play for children's literacy success. The tutorial provides evidence-based strategies, tips, and reading activities to help children develop literacy skills from preschool through adolescence, all in an interactive online experience. As parents enter the tutorial, they select the age group of their child (preschool, elementary, adolescent) and then the content is tailored to that age group. The information and suggestions given are accompanied by short video clips illustrating the suggestions given (e.g., how talking with your child can help to develop his or her language and literacy skills), so that parents can see how the strategies look and sound in action.

Parents and caregivers play an important role in supporting children's literacy development, especially when children are having difficulty. You can support your child in four key ways - by listening, looking, helping, and encouraging - while you and your child participate in reading activities together. As you try out the literacy tips and activities in this module with your child, you can:

**Listen:** Note which sounds, letters, words, or ideas seem hard for your child and what she sounds like when reading aloud.

**Look:** Watch for the skills or tasks that appear difficult for your child. See if they improve with practice.

**Help:** Pause and give your child a chance to correct a mistake. Then try giving her a hint or prompt to figure it out.

**Encourage:** Talk with your child about the book or activity. Offer praise when successful and reassure her when difficulties arise.

If you want to learn more, you can search [the NCIL Resource Repository](#) for literacy resources and activities you can do with your child at home or in your community. These activities can be sorted by audience, topic area, and resource type to find resources matched to skills identified in the online module.

### Statewide Events

**[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. Visit the [WSPEI website](#) for more information about PIP and for locations and dates of the 2018-2019 PIP trainings .

**[Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment \(YiPPE\)](#)**

YiPPE is an opportunity for youth with disabilities (ages 14-21) and their parents to learn about the transition process in a unique way. [Learn more](#) about YiPPE and the dates and locations of free 2018-2019 trainings.

**[WI Statewide Transition Academy](#)**

Providing information relating to all areas of transition to a wide audience: educators, para-professionals, parents, youth, or agency members.

**Dates:** October 16-17, 2018

**Location:** Wisconsin Dells, WI

**[Wisconsin Early Childhood Association Conference \(WECA\)](#)**

Designed for anyone interested in the well-being of young children, with a focus on professionals working with children from birth to age 8 and their families.

**Date:** October 25-26, 2018

**Location:** Middleton, WI

## Statewide Events

### [2018 Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference](#)

This event works to empower people with disabilities in Wisconsin to have more control over their lives.

**Date:** October 29-31, 2018

**Location:** Kalahari, WI Dells

### [Wisconsin School Counselor Association Fall Summit](#)

Providing ideas and resources to support the important work of school counselors.

**Date:** November 1, 2018

**Location:** Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton, WI

### [Keys to Success Conference](#)

For families and educators providing support to children with disabilities ages 3 -21. Keynote Speaker: Ann Brand, "Tending the Heart: Mindful Practices for Educators and Caregivers. This is a no-cost event sponsored by WPSEI.

**Date:** November 3, 2018, 8-3 pm

**Location:** Elk Mound HS, Elk Mound, WI

### [Children Come First Conference](#)

Theme: Collaboration

Keynote speakers: Dr. Ross W. Greene and Dr. Tina R. Goldstein.

**Date:** November 12-13, 2018

**Location:** Glacier Canyon Lodge at Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

### [Special Education Conference 2018](#)

This year's conference will feature Dr. Ross Greene as the Keynote speaker. Dr. Greene is the originator of the innovative, empirically-supportive approach now known as the Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS), as described in his influential books *The Explosive Child*, *Lost at School*, *Lost & Found*, and the recently released *Raising Human Beings*.

**Date:** November 19-20, 2018

**Location:** Kalahari, WI Dells

**Learning Opportunities**



## At Home Learning Strategies

[PBS KIDS Raising Readers](#) is a national literacy campaign, and part of the Ready to Learn initiative, focused on building reading skills at home, at school, in child care, and in the community. The Ready To Learn initiative is developing engaging PBS KIDS [Raising Readers](#) television programs, exciting games, playful Web sites, and easy-to-use learning resources for kids, parents, caregivers, and teachers—all with the goal of helping children ages 2 to 8 get ready to read.



### **Birthday Parties**

Check out a variety of [themed birthday parties](#) with Ideas for invitations, party favors, and food choices. Most of them have activities that help promote literacy development. A [Book Birthday Party](#) can include an activity of reading your child's favorite book together or one of these [books so funny you'll laugh out loud!](#)

[Get Ready to Read!](#) is designed to support educators, parents, and young children in the development of early literacy skills in the years before kindergarten. Intended for use with all children, the resources and information provided on this site promote skill-building, communication between adults, and ways to address concerns.

### **Fall Family Fun**



Playing with fall leaves offers a lot of learning opportunities for kids. You can observe and compare the color of leaves, discuss the [science](#) behind the color changes, and even use the leaves to learn about math concepts like counting, size, and measurement.

**Fly a Kite**— Use the brisk, fall wind to your advantage and take the kids out to an open field or local park to fly kites.

**Harvest Apples**— [Apple picking orchards in Wisconsin](#)



### **Halloween Math**



Trick or treat! These [cool Halloween math games](#) are hands-on, engaging, and get kids excited about learning math! This website is packed with spooky favorites and interactive web-based games and have activities for grades 1-8.

**Carve Pumpkins**— Challenge your older kids with these [pumpkin carving ideas](#), such as this [Cornny Jackie Pumpkin](#).



Inspire younger kids to get involved with one of these [painted pumpkin crafts](#). With few supplies, and no carving tools, they can create a cute [mummy pumpkin](#), an [office supply pumpkin](#) and many more.



## Online Resources: Learning Disabilities

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

This website has a variety links to resources related to learning disabilities.

### [The National Center for Learning Disabilities](#)

The mission of the NCLD is to improve the lives of all people with learning difficulties and disabilities by empowering parents, enabling young adults, transforming schools, and creating policy and advocacy impact. The website has information on learning disabilities, resources, as well as link to a newsletter.

### [Learning Disabilities Association of America \(LDA\)](#)

LDA provides support to people with learning disabilities, their parents, teachers and other professionals with cutting edge information on learning disabilities, practical solutions, and a comprehensive network of resources. These services make LDA the leading resource for information on learning disabilities.

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

This website provides guidance for implementing Wisconsin Criteria for Specific Learning Disabilities as well as links to other information related to learning disabilities.

### [Understood](#)

The goal of the website is to help parents whose children, ages 3–20, are struggling with learning and attention issues. It provides information to empower parents to understand their children’s issues and relate to their experiences. With this knowledge, parents can make effective choices that propel their children from simply coping to truly thriving. Website is very parent-friendly and offers links to information related to learning difficulties. Archived webinars are also available.

### [AdLit](#)

AdLit.org is a national multimedia project offering information and resources to the parents and educators of struggling adolescent readers and writers. AdLit.org offers articles that provide research-based and best-practice information for educators, parents, and others interested in helping young people become better readers and writers.

### [Children of the Code Project](#)

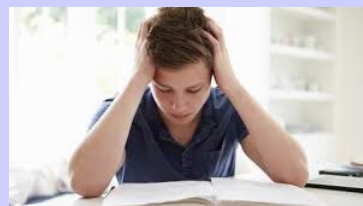
The mission of the Children of the Code Project is to help educators, parents, and all who care for children develop a deeper first-person understanding of the challenges involved in learning to read.

The Children of the Code project has five major components:

- television, DVD and Web documentary series
- college, university, and professional development DVD series
- cross-indexed website/database containing videos and transcripts of interviews with the world's leading experts in fields related to reading
- variety of professional development events for educators
- A series of presentations for parents, policy makers, and the general public

### [The International Dyslexia Association \(IDA\)](#)

IDA is a non-profit, scientific, and educational organization dedicated to the study and treatment of learning disabilities, dyslexia as well as related language-based learning differences. The purpose of IDA is to pursue and provide the most comprehensive range of information and services that address the full scope of dyslexia and related difficulties in learning to read and write. Their website has links to research, interventions, as well as newsletter.



### **Interventions for Adolescent Struggling Readers-A Meta-Analysis with Implications for Practice**

Scammacca, N., Roberts, G., Vaughn, S., Edmonds, M., Wexler, J., Reutebuch, C. K., & Torgesen, J. K. (2007). Interventions for adolescent struggling readers: A meta-analysis with implications for practice. Portsmouth, NH: RMC Research Corporation, Center on Instruction.

[Article Link](#)

**ABSTRACT:** Reading instruction for older students with reading difficulties is a topic increasingly in need of well-informed support and research-based guidance (Deshler, 2005; Dole, 1996). This report summarizes aspects of recent research on reading instruction for adolescent struggling readers. It both synthesizes research findings to determine the relative effectiveness of interventions for struggling older readers and outlines the implications of these findings for practice. Its purpose is to advance the knowledge of technical assistance providers working with state departments of education and local education agencies concerning reading-related issues for students with reading difficulties and learning disabilities (LD). While our methods and general findings are described, they are presented in terms of their impact on practice and policy. Specific suggestions for implementing these and other research findings are provided in an accompanying practice brief. This report is limited to reading interventions at the late elementary, middle, and high school levels and represents one data source for decision-making about instruction for older readers with reading difficulties or disabilities. While other elements of adolescent literacy, such as writing and oral communication skills, are critically important for older students with related deficits in these aspects of literacy, this report does not address them. It is limited to reading interventions because sufficient literature exists to warrant a meta-analytic synthesis.

## 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)

#### [WSEMS: Mediation](#)

**Date:** October 1, 2018

**Presenters** Nissan Bar-Lev, CESA 7  
and Courtney Salzer, WI FACETS

#### [Serving on Groups 6: Understanding and Using Data](#)

**Date:** October 2, 2018

**Presenter:** Kedibonye Carpenter,  
WI FACETS

#### [Serving on Groups 7 & 8: The Role of Families and Skills for Serving on Groups](#)

**Date:** October 9, 2018

**Presenter:** Jan Serak, M.A.

#### [Services of TIES and Community Outreach WI/Waisman Center-UCEDD](#)

**Date:** October 10, 2018

**Presenters:** Axel Junker  
Rachel Weingarten, Community  
Outreach WI

#### [Self-Advocacy: What to Expect in College](#)

**Date:** October 16, 2018, 6-8 pm

**Location:** WI FACETS office

Contact [Matthew Zellmer](#)  
(414) 374-4645x203

#### [Specific Learning Disabilities](#)

**Date:** October 17, 2018

**Presenter:** Elizabeth Cook, WI DPI

#### [Bullying and Harassment](#)

**Date:** October 23, 2018

**Presenter:** Bonnie Vander Meulen,  
WI FACETS

#### [Self-Advocacy Spotlight](#)

**Date:** October 24, 2018, 6-8 pm

**Location:** WI FACETS office

Contact [Matthew Zellmer](#)  
(414) 374-4645x203

#### [Latino Autism Support Group](#)

**Date:** October 27, 2018,  
10:00-12:00

**Location:** WI FACETS

**Contact:** (414) 374-4645, ext. 231



## Wisconsin Council on Special Education

The Council on Special Education is a committee appointed by the State Superintendent to advise the WI Department of Public Instruction in matters related to the education of all children with disabilities in Wisconsin.

### The Council's duties include:

- Advisement of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities within the state.
- Advisement in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the federal department of education.
- Advisement in developing plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports.
- Advisement in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities and on any other matters upon which the state superintendent wishes the Council's opinion.
- Commenting publicly on any rules proposed by the department regarding the education of children with disabilities.
- Reviewing the findings of facts and decisions of hearings and appeals brought before the state superintendent.

### Parents, educators and others may wish to contact the Council with suggestions or concerns regarding:

- child find activities
- child and parent rights
- due process
- individualized education program development and usage
- in-service activities
- least restrictive environment
- operation of the multidisciplinary team
- placements
- use of federal funds

All Council meetings are held at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (125 S. Webster Street, Madison, Wisconsin, (608) 266-1781) and are from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Members of the public are welcome to attend and time for public appearances is scheduled at the beginning and end of each Council meeting. If you wish to speak at a Council meeting, please email [Rita Fuller](#).

**Meeting Schedule 2018-19:** December 7, 2018 - March 15, 2019 - June 21, 2019

### Public Forum

As authorized by the State Superintendent, the Council may conduct one public forum per year. The purpose of this forum is to gather input from families, school administrators, educators, community representatives, and others, on the unique challenges and successes of special education in Wisconsin. Information gathered will be used by the council in advising the State Superintendent on matters affecting the education of Wisconsin's children and youth with disabilities. The Council is receptive to hearing about any topic upon which people may choose to comment.

The 2018 Public Forum will take place remotely through the use of distance technology on **Wednesday, October 17, 2018** from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Remote sites will be held at each CESA Office and at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (125 S. Webster Street, Madison, Wisconsin). You are highly encouraged to attend the public forum to share your thoughts. You may pre-register. More information via Google survey [here](#).

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](mailto:woverturf@wifacets.org).*



## Contributions to the Newsletter

**Upcoming newsletter topic: November: Emotional Behavioral Disabilities**

**December: Communication**

**January: Transition**

*To submit contributions, you may use either the attached word document for contributing articles, events, or resources. Send submissions to [woverturf@wifacets.org](mailto: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.