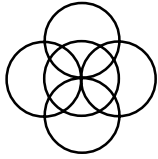


# Birth to 6 EVENTS



A BULLETIN FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EARLY INTERVENTION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Issue L—June 2005

## The Push to Involve Parents

Simply put, parents have power. As a child's first teachers, research shows that a mother and father have significant influence on early development. And history proves that powerful parents are even capable of shaping public policy. You might recall that The Arc, a grassroots parent organization, through groundbreaking partnerships with professionals and policy-makers, brought children with disabilities out of institutions and into the classroom.

Today, it is clear that in order for programs that support children with disabilities to move forward, and for children to ultimately succeed, parent involvement at all levels is essential. This edition of *Birth to 6 EVENTS* highlights Wisconsin examples of how parent involvement

can allow for real consumer input, more efficient planning, and enhance every child's potential. Clearly, when families and providers work side-by-side, both are enriched.

## Share Your EVENTS

Now you can share a special version of *Birth to 6 EVENTS* with the families you serve. We have created a template for a simple newsletter that you can modify and distribute to parents. Consider adding your own logo and information to our basic content and letterhead. Please let us know how you use it. You'll find the on-line version here: [www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/EVENTS](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/EVENTS).

Please share your copy of *Birth to 6 EVENTS* by forwarding the electronic version or making copies of the issue.

We welcome your feedback – [pugh@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:pugh@waisman.wisc.edu). The direct link to this issue is [www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/JuneEVENT.PDF](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/JuneEVENT.PDF). If you would like to receive automatic e-mail updates on Birth to 3 issues, including a link to the most recent copy of this newsletter, send a blank e-mail to [b3etn-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:b3etn-subscribe@yahoo.com).

**Current Early Intervention Articles are On-line at:**

[www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/interactivelearn.html](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/interactivelearn.html)

**See Page 9 for More Information**

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Barron County's child development events, an April 5 event pictured here, have been extraordinarily successful at getting parents involved. See story page 3.

# LEADER PERSPECTIVE

## One Leader's Perspective on Involving Families

By Lisa Pugh



You wouldn't think Keith Keller of La Crosse County's Birth to 3 Program would have time to make a home visit. On any given day he's juggling not only Birth to 3 programming duties, but Family Support,

Medicaid waivers, autism services, foster care and respite programs. Yet, he sees making personal connections with families as a requirement of his work.

"I am always amazed at how resilient families are. When I come back from some of these visits and talk to my supervisor about the families we are supporting, she's always amazed at that too," says Keller. "I think it helps us, and other people – the policymakers above me, see what the needs are in the community and how we can meet those needs in the community."

Keller also seeks parent input on his local advisory boards. He coordinates a Family Support Advisory Committee, which also functions as his local Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council, and he has started a larger coalition that includes mental health agencies, schools and community groups serving young children. Each of these teams includes parents as members.

"Parent involvement in those committees helps us realize what's important for the families – we can sit back in our offices and think we know, but until we hear it directly, we're only speculating."

Keller also encourages his staff to promote parent involvement when they visit families' homes. He has worked closely to change the role of the Birth to 3 service coordinator to be less of an administrator and more of an integral support person for families.

"I look to them (service coordinators) for the pulse of what's happening with families. They are in those homes

monthly," says Keller. "We get a better sense of other areas that they need help with. The service coordinators have expanded their knowledge base of what's available to families in the community. They tell families about different options."

And when Keller listens to families during home visits or reads his program survey results, he recognizes that this program is making a difference. He continues to link program success with the focus on parent involvement.



Keith Keller, La Crosse County Birth to 3

"It helps families to know that they have access to people in more administrative functions," says Keller. "Families feel valued when supervisors and managers go out to their homes."

An ongoing benefit of parent involvement in La Crosse County has been shared problem-solving around systems issues, identification of community resources and successful child find activities.

Recently, Keller has been working to build stronger connections between his Birth to 3 contracted agencies. Together, with the help of Birth to 3 RESource's Kathy Boisvert, the group has developed a shared mission statement and philosophy. Keller's newly revised system encompasses a greater appreciation of the family's role in providing quality services.

"The directors of La Crosse County's Birth to 3 agencies are very invested in working with families. They see there's power in that," says Keller. They (families) keep us focused on what's really important. What helps keep kids in the community and keep them safe is a message we really need to hear from families."

Keith Keller can be reached at [keller.keith@co.la-crosse.wi.us](mailto:keller.keith@co.la-crosse.wi.us) or by phone: 608.789.4819.

# SIDE BY SIDE

## Learning Side By Side with Parents

By Lisa Pugh

Martha Hestad from CESA 3 in Fennimore Wisconsin, tells the story of a young student who was having "atrocious behavior" on the bus. The bus driver attempted to mitigate the problem with no success. Numerous teachers got involved, the CESA got involved ...all to no avail. Finally, a support teacher sent a report home. Hestad reflects on the mother's reaction, "She said, 'Why didn't someone just tell me this was happening?' With the parent's involvement the problem was cured in a week. You have to give parents credit for parenting."

Hestad believes strongly in parent-professional communication at all levels – from an individual child's development to overall program improvement. As coordinator of the Parents And Communication Teams (PACT) Department of Public Instruction (DPI) discretionary grant, she tries to build parent involvement into all aspects of her work.

"I don't think we educators treat parents with enough respect. Parents always have some input. Teachers may see children academically, but parents see them globally," says Hestad.

### PACT Enhances Parent Role

The PACT project focuses on language development in young children and requires that teams, which go through

specialized training, include a parent representative. During the past four years, 35 PACT teams have been developed in Wisconsin including 11 CESAs and individual school districts. An estimated 175 parents have trained alongside professionals.

"We always want a parent involved from the get-go. It keeps the professionals honest. It makes us stop and think about a parent's perspective."

The PACT trainers use videotaping and feedback to enhance families' and professionals' understanding of a child's language level and abilities. A video evaluation tool measures parent interaction skills (taught throughout the PACT course) that promote language development.

Hestad and others recognize that true parent-educator partnerships open the lines of communication, provide everyone with easy access to information and resources, and ultimately lead to the greatest success for the child.

### A Different Parent Partnership

In Barron County, some 200 miles north of CESA 3's offices, parent partnerships of a different kind are taking place. In fact, on the evening of April 5, more than 300 parents came to the Rice Lake-Tainter Elementary School to play and learn alongside professionals.

"We're trying to enrich and enhance the environments of these young children," says Bev Haverly, CESA 11 member of the Barron County Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council. "We believe the parents are the primary teachers."

At the April event, parents and children learned about music and movement, were exposed to different music types and worked on projects at sensory stations. The popular workshop is actually one of several the Barron County group sponsors throughout the year.



Parents work on individual projects during Parents And Communication Teams (PACT) trainings conducted by CESA 3.

### Community Supports Parents

While the Council started with a DPI discretionary grant in 2000, it is now supported entirely with local dollars from community stakeholders who include county agencies and all area school districts.

"They (stakeholders) understand the importance of the research on reaching children when they're young and they believe in the importance of a collaborative effort," says Haverly. "In Barron County, we believe it is the community's responsibility to reach all children."

Haverly and others know their collaboration is unique. They have received a Wisconsin Rural Initiatives Award and have been fielding calls from other communities wondering how it's done.

"It really is a vision of the council. None of us could do it alone. But together we can accomplish these things."

*Continued on page 8...*



More than 300 parents attended a community-sponsored child development event in Barron County on April 5.



Bev Haverly of CESA 11, with new grandson Issac.

# PARENT REFLECTIONS

## They Can Always Say No...My Reflections as a Parent

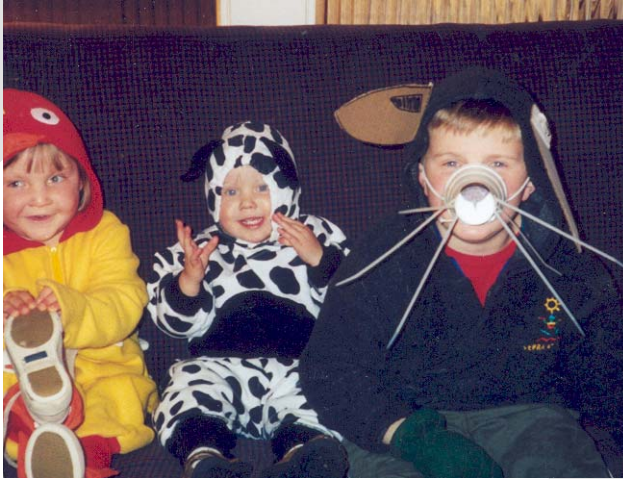
By Lynn Havemann

Recently I heard from a faculty member who was trying to recruit families with children with special needs to serve as mentor families for her University students. The faculty member said that the Birth to 3 agencies she had called seemed hesitant to approach families—they were protective of the families' time

and energy and didn't want to add another "thing" to their lives.

This faculty had a group of energetic students willing and able to get involved with families and children—learn about

their lives, provide some respite for the parents, love the kids—but no family to work with. She called me as the coordinator of the Parent Consultant Directory for the state of Wisconsin (a state-wide directory of families with children with special needs who are willing to share their stories with students and professionals) to see if I had any insights or suggestions.



Well, I've actually been on both sides of this dilemma. As an employee of the Waisman Center, I know the commitment Universities have to involving families—understanding

that families have wonderful insights into living with and loving a child with special needs. But as a mother of a six-year old daughter with special needs, including a complex medical history, I know how overwhelming it can seem to add anything "extra" to your life.

I was approached four years ago by my Birth to 3 service coordinator who said there was an opportunity to have a college student come into our home for two hours a week to help out, work with my daughter and my other children and provide respite. Our coordinator was very clear from the get-go that I could say "no"—that this opportunity should help my family and not "stress us out". I felt shored up with the "no option" and was delighted to be perceived as having it "together enough" to be asked (because certainly most days I felt like I was barely keeping it together).

*Continued on page 10...*

Lynn Havemann is a mother to Claire, 6; Bess, 2; and Owen, 9.

## Parents Membership Encouraged on Advisory Boards

Most federally funded programs serving children with disabilities require parents to serve on advisory committees. Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) establishes that states have a Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) with parents comprising 20 percent of membership. Wisconsin's Council currently has 5 parent members. Learn more at: [www.b3icc.state.wi.us](http://www.b3icc.state.wi.us) .

Similarly, the Wisconsin Council on Special Education, which advises the Department of Public Instruction, requires that a majority of its members be people with disabilities or parents of children with special needs. Currently, it has ten parent members. Learn more at: [www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsea/een/council.html](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsea/een/council.html) .

Many counties or local school districts also establish advisory groups of their own. Wisconsin law requires that every county Family Support Program appoint an advisory committee – with a majority of parent members - to help develop the program plan and monitor services.

Here are some tips on supporting parents in advisory roles:

- **Orientation:** No parent should be placed on a committee without receiving an orientation to the committee.
- **Expectations:** Develop a shared understanding of expectations regarding meeting attendance.
- **Leadership:** If possible, a parent should be the Committee Chair or Co-Chair.
- **Logistics:** Talk with parent members to find out the best length, time and location for meetings.
- **Reimbursement:** Consider reimbursement for time, childcare, and/or transportation for parents.

These tips were excerpted from: *Make a Difference for Children with Disabilities: Serve on Your County Family Support Advisory Committee*. This publication is now available from the Waisman Center Family Action Network website at: <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/FAN/PUBLICATIONS.HTML> .

## Reauthorization of IDEA Moves to Practice in July

Wisconsin leaders in early childhood continue to help define how the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) will impact Birth to 3 and early childhood special education. The Department of Public Instruction has formed a special education stakeholders group, with Birth to 3's Donna Miller as an early childhood representative, to look at how changes will impact Wisconsin law and regulations. This group plans to meet through February 2006. In the meantime, a draft of new IDEA regulations, which states must comply with starting this July, will be released in May.

### Some changes include:

- ensuring availability of services for children who are homeless or wards of the state;
- ensuring that early intervention services are built on scientifically based research;
- focusing public awareness programs on parents of premature infants;
- requiring referrals for children affected by illegal substance abuse;
- assigning a surrogate to a child no more than 30 days after determination of a need for a surrogate;
- training for personnel that MAY include focus on emotional and social development in young children;
- insurance of meaningful involvement in Birth to 3 of underserved groups of children and families.

According to Miller, the biggest change to come out of IDEA reauthorization is that states will now be responsible for reporting on child outcomes. In the past, states typically could provide reasons the infants and toddlers left the program ("exit codes") for the number of children who no longer needed ("graduated from") special education. In part due to the No Child Left Behind Act, states (and counties) may now be required to dig deeper for this information.

"This focus on reporting outcomes has not shown up in IDEA before," says Miller. "They are really looking at the effects of participation in our programs."

Miller says the *Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) Center* recommendations are a good indicator of what the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will be looking at in terms of child and family outcomes. (Find more information at: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~eco/index.cfm>)

The *ECO Center*, which was funded by OSEP specifically to develop an approach for collecting data on child and family outcomes for early intervention and preschool programs, has made the following recommendations:

### Family Outcomes

1. Families understand their children's strengths, abilities and special needs.
2. Families know their rights and effectively communicate their children's needs.
3. Families help their children develop and learn.
4. Families feel they have adequate social support.
5. Families are able to access services and activities that are available to all families in their communities.

Based on input from the consensus-building process, it was concluded that all five family outcomes apply to early intervention and outcomes 1, 2 and possibly 3 apply to early childhood special education as it is currently being delivered.

### Child Outcomes

1. Children have positive social relationships.
2. Children acquire and use knowledge and skills.
3. Children take appropriate action to meet their needs.

Future work of the *ECO Center*, in collaboration with OSEP, will be to help states develop outcome measurement systems to meet these new requirements. Look for new information coming soon.

*If you have questions on IDEA Reauthorization, or would like to provide input to the stakeholders group, you may contact Donna Miller at [milledm@dhsf.state.wi.us](mailto:milledm@dhsf.state.wi.us) or 608.267.5150.*

## State Budget Decisions Being Made

Legislative and funding decisions affecting children with disabilities and their families are making their way through the state budget process this spring. Here is a brief summary of next steps in the budget process (courtesy of the Disability Advocacy Wisconsin Network (DAWN) [www.dawninfo.org](http://www.dawninfo.org)):

### Budget Bill Sent to Full Legislature (Approximately June 2005)

The Senate and the Assembly take turns considering the Joint Finance Committee budget. Each item can be maintained, deleted or amended.

### Conference Committee Resolution and Vote

Any differences between the Senate and the Assembly on changes to the budget must be settled by a conference committee. A majority of all the members of each house must pass the final version of the bill.

### Governor's Vetoes

Once both the Senate and the Assembly pass the budget bill, it is sent to the Governor for his signature. The Governor may sign the budget bill, veto it in its entirety or use partial vetoes. A two-thirds vote in each house is required to override the governor's veto.

This whole process needs to finish by June 30, 2005 or else time extensions would have to be approved.

### WCCD Issues Advocacy Cards

The Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities has developed a series of issues advocacy cards on the 2005-2007 state budget. These are available at the WCCD office or online at: [www.wccd.org](http://www.wccd.org).

*To receive regular updates on legislative issues and decisions affecting children with disabilities in Wisconsin, sign up for the DAWN Action Network e-mail alert system. Log on to: <http://www.dawninfo.org/ea>.*

## State Looking for Input on Program Review Process

State Birth to 3 and REsource staff are currently looking for feedback on the county program review process. By next year each Wisconsin county will have completed a Birth to 3 Program review under the process which was revised in 2002. The new process involves interviewing families and community partners as



Meredith Green,  
Birth to 3 REsource

well as programs completing focus questions. In contrast, the state's former process involved a 70-page checklist with a detailed look at compliance with state and federal law.

During April regional meetings, attendees shared their reflections on how the process was received in their county.

"Even though it was time-consuming to prepare for the

review, I heard many people say they felt they really benefited from focusing on their programs," says Meredith Green, Birth to 3 Southern Regional REsource Facilitator. "It was time they wouldn't have spent otherwise and they really learned some things."

Many programs expressed that the on-site interviews with families (actually done in homes) as well as a chance to hear directly from staff were a plus. The new process involves randomly selecting families and then reviewing corresponding records and in many cases, interviewing that child's direct service providers.

"We are looking for ways to make it relevant and enriching for the programs," says Green. "We want them to benefit from it. We don't want to come in and find everything they're doing wrong."

Birth to 3 providers have already shared several ideas on how to improve the process including completing document review during a separate time, adding a fiscal component, or involving peers (Birth to 3 program staff from other counties) on the review team.

State staff will continue to take feedback from programs. To share your views, contact Susan Abbey at [AbbeySK@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:AbbeySK@dhfs.state.wi.us) or 608.267.3270.

## Understanding HealthCheck Other Services

During a recent Birth to 3 Wisline Teleconference, participants expressed frustration with helping families access funding for services under the state's "HealthCheck Other Services" program. The following announcement, which addresses this issue, appeared in ABC For Health's regular list-serv correspondence.

### Best of Past Case Tips: HealthCheck Other Services

Medicaid recipients, under age 21, may have access to a wide array of products and services if they participate in the Medicaid HealthCheck Program.

HealthCheck, also known as EPSDT - Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program, provides a periodic comprehensive health assessment screening by the Medicaid recipient's primary care physician. This health assessment provides a small pink HealthCheck card that verifies that the child (under age 21) participated in the HealthCheck screening and may be eligible for required, additional services and products through HealthCheck Other Services.

Because the need was identified as part of the HealthCheck assessment, products not typically paid by Medicaid may be provided. Examples of some of the products include orthodontia, over the counter products such as vitamins and contact lens solutions, and orthotics.

The HealthCheck screening provider must document the need for these additional items. Documentation of the additional need is then taken to the Medicaid provider of that service and a prior authorization is requested by the provider, much like any other Medicaid service that requires prior authorization. A copy of the pink HealthCheck card should also be included. The HealthCheck prior authorization process will be much faster if the provider writes "HealthCheck Other Services" across the top of the prior authorization form, includes the documentation of the needed product (a copy of the prescription) and a copy of the HealthCheck card.

Barriers to accessing these services include the unfamiliarity with the HealthCheck Other Services Program by the Medicaid product providers and reluctance to do the prior authorization. More information may be provided by the Medicaid Recipient Hotline at 1-800-362-3002. If you are interested in detailed information, you can reference the Medicaid Handbook online at: [http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Medicaid2/handbooks/partd\\_d1/chapters](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Medicaid2/handbooks/partd_d1/chapters).

A new handbook on [healthcheck/epsdt](http://www.familysupport-hsri.org/resources/EPSDT.pdf) is available at: <http://www.familysupport-hsri.org/resources/EPSDT.pdf>.

*Advocacy and Benefits Counseling (ABC) for Health is a Wisconsin-based nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to ensuring health care access for children and families, particularly those with special needs or who are at risk. You may contact ABC for Health at [info@safetyweb.org](mailto:info@safetyweb.org) or 800.585.4222.*

# HIGHLIGHTS

## County Highlights & Ideas

New, innovative ideas that result in better service to families, cost savings and efficiency are continually developed by Wisconsin counties, communities and Birth to 3 programs. Often, these great ideas go unrecognized. You now have the opportunity to submit your own ideas or encourage your community partners to share in each issue of *Birth to 6 EVENTS*. Please consider submitting Highlights & Ideas to: [pugh@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:pugh@waisman.wisc.edu).

### Submitted by Sheila Knuth, Program Coordinator, CSHCN Northeast Regional Center

I very much enjoyed reading your (January) newsletter. I was particularly interested in the recommendations to DHFS on page 7. The last bullet point speaks to transition planning. It has always been my contention that all Birth to 3 children should be transitioned to their regional Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) regional center as well as Early Childhood Special Education. We have had families call us who never knew about us. After they were transitioned to Early Childhood, they had issues that the school didn't deal with but that we could assist with.

Because we are there for children and families through the age of 21, it seems to me that every family of a child in Birth to 3 should know there is a resource to help them throughout the next 18 years of their child's life! We feel that we could be better utilized by Birth to 3 so that families have another resource for support, information, advocacy and other needs. At the time of transition to Early Childhood, it would make sense to ask the family for permission to make a referral to their regional CSHCN center.

For more information on your regional Children with Special Health Care Needs Center, log on to: [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dph\\_bfch/cshcn/CntrsFrstStep.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/dph_bfch/cshcn/CntrsFrstStep.htm).

### Submitted by Karen Williams – Birth to 3 RESource – Northern Region

I recently met with Deb Blackstone, the Northern Coordinator for CSHCN and referrals from Birth to 3 to their agency was one of our topics of discussion. She felt that in some counties which were closely linked with CSHCN, like Sawyer where Birth to 3 facilitates a playgroup with the CSHCN representative, these referrals are a natural process. Since the Health Department is the lead Birth to 3 agency for Price and Iron Counties, again there is a natural connection. Deb has just sent a letter to Birth to 3 providers in the Northern region that provides them with information on how to make referrals as well as other resources and information CSHCN can provide.

## Susan Abbey Joins Birth to 3 Team

From Beth Wroblewski, Section Chief, Children and Family Services, Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services:

Susan Abbey has joined the Children's Services Section as the Birth to 3 Program Manager. She has assumed both Birth to 3 Coordinator and Supervisor duties. Susan will be responsible for coordinating with the Federal U.S. Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs, staffing the Governor appointed Birth to 3 Interagency Coordinating Council, and working closely with counties providing early intervention services throughout the State. Nearly 11,000 children with developmental delays and their families participate in these important early intervention services each year.

Susan has worked with a variety of programs involving health care and community inclusion. She has also been an active partner in securing services and supports for her 16-year-old daughter.

*Susan can be reached at 608.267.3270 and her current e-mail address is [abbeysk@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:abbeysk@dhfs.state.wi.us). Her mailing address is 1 W. Wilson Street, Room 418, PO Box 7851, Madison, WI 53707-7851.*

## Norma Vrieze Recognized

Norma Vrieze, Director of the St. Croix County Birth to 3 Program, recently received the Outstanding Service Award from the Wisconsin Division of Early Childhood (DEC). This award is presented to individuals who have contributed to the education of young children through their professional and personal activities. Vrieze was chosen because of her collaboration with community partners in developing and providing services to young children with special challenges. Her activities have included involvement in many community committees, state workgroups and educational programs. Vrieze says, "I was flattered and moved by this award from my colleagues. I have worked with many of them in the 17 years I have been Director of Birth to Three services in St. Croix County."



*Norma Vrieze, far right with Gaye Tylka from Cesa 4 and Marianne Daw, president of WDEC.*

# RESOURCES

## Support Siblings: Resources from The Arc of the United States

The Sibling Support Project, believing that disabilities, illness, and mental health issues affect the lives of all family members, seeks to increase the peer support and information opportunities for brothers and sisters of people with special needs and to increase parents' and providers' understanding of sibling issues.

Our mission is accomplished by training local service providers on how to create community-based peer support programs for young siblings; hosting workshops, listservs, and websites for young and adult siblings; and increasing parents' and providers' awareness of siblings' unique, life-long, and ever changing concerns through workshops, websites, and written materials.

For more information: <http://www.thearc.org/siblingsupport/welcome>

## New Early Developments Focuses on Pre-K

A new issue of the magazine Early Developments is devoted entirely to the findings of research on public pre-K classrooms, teachers and children. Articles in this issue include: Pre-K in the States, How Is the Pre-K Day Spent? Who Goes to Pre-K and How Are They Doing? Who Are the Pre-K Teachers? What Are Pre-K Classrooms Like? The magazine is here - [http://www.fpg.unc.edu/%7ENCEDL/PDFs/ED9\\_1.pdf](http://www.fpg.unc.edu/%7ENCEDL/PDFs/ED9_1.pdf)

## Information Available on Mental Health Services

One of every five children and adolescents has a mental disorder, and one in ten has a serious emotional disturbance that affects daily functioning. But four out of five children who need mental health services do not receive them. This new issue paper from the National Institute for Health Care Management Research and Educational Foundation (NIHCM Foundation) provides an overview and highlights of key considerations for health system efforts to promote and improve the mental health of children and youth. It is available at <http://www.nihcm.org/CMHReport-FINAL.pdf>

## New Web Resources Available in Spanish

### Reports and Resources

The Education Trust has recently unveiled a website for the Latino community, in both Spanish and English, which features reports and resources for parents, community leaders, and advocates. To view the website, go to <http://spanish.edtrust.org>

### Hispanic Health Web Site

The National Alliance for Hispanic Health has developed a website containing fact sheets, in English and Spanish, covering health topics of special concern to Hispanic Americans. You can also find news, actions to take, scholarship information, and other resources on the site. <http://www.hispanichealth.org/healthfacts.lasso>

### Autism Fact Sheets

Fact Sheets addressing medical research on Autism are available from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in English and Spanish. The Spanish Fact Sheets can be found by scrolling down the page. <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/publications/pubkey.cfm?from=autism>

*SIDE BY SIDE Continued from page 3...*

### Parents Involved in Systems Change

In addition to sponsoring family-friendly training experiences and early literacy programs, the Barron County Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council, which intentionally includes parent members, has also been working on systems change.

The group has even started inviting mayors, judges and district attorneys to their events and meetings, hoping to broaden their audience. Members believe these new stakeholders will also see the value of supporting children early.

"We can make the difference in the life of every child," says Haverly. "It is really what we can do in those early years that can make a difference."

*You will find more information on CESA 11's projects on [www.collaboratingpartners.com](http://www.collaboratingpartners.com). Find more information on the PACT project at [http://www.cesa3.k12.wi.us/pdf/PACT\\_9.8.03.pdf](http://www.cesa3.k12.wi.us/pdf/PACT_9.8.03.pdf).*

## Encourage Parents to Become LEADERS!

Sign up for Wisconsin's Birth to 6 Parents As Leaders (PALs) program.

For more information call Beth Swedeen at 608.263.6745 or read a brochure:

<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/PALSBROCHURE.PDF>

## Higher Education Mini-Grants Awarded

By Julia Herwig



We are pleased to announce that five higher education partnerships have been funded to advance quality professional development experiences for early childhood

education and care professionals in Wisconsin. In an effort to demonstrate collaboration in early childhood professional development initiatives, the University of Wisconsin System (PK-16 Initiative Grants) and the University of Wisconsin Waisman Center (Department of Public Instruction - State Improvement Grant) joined to offer grant opportunities for 2005.

The successful applicants responded with initiatives that support the following state priorities related to early childhood education and care:

- Insure positive outcomes for all children through high quality early childhood education and care provided by well-trained professionals.
- Create articulated, connected, and competency-based systems of professional development guided by the implementation of PI 34, which support ongoing professional development and mentoring.
- Increase the number of people in the state with bachelor degrees in order to meet the growing demand for highly qualified teachers in 4K, Head Start and other quality early childhood education and care programs.
- Improve access to higher education to diversify the workforce and meet the needs of non-traditional learners.

### Grant Awardees include:

**Title:** *Horizontal and Vertical Connections to Strengthen the Preparation of Personnel to Teach Young Children in Western Wisconsin*  
**Fiscal Institution:** UW River Falls

**Partners:** Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College; UW Eau Claire  
**Project Summary:** As a result of collaborative efforts, and through program alignment and technology, participants from an extensive geographical area will have the option to attain higher qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education.

**Title:** *Accelerated Licensing Program for Early Childhood Professionals*

**Fiscal Institution:** UW Oshkosh  
**Partners:** Fox Valley Technical College  
**Project Summary:** The project will plan for the development of an Accelerated Licensing Program for early childhood professionals.

**Title:** *Promoting Seamless Transfer from the Technical College to the University*

**Fiscal Institution:** UW Milwaukee  
**Partners:** Gateway Technical College; Milwaukee Area Technical College; 4C's Community Coordinated Child Care  
**Project Summary:** This planning proposal is to prepare for a system of transfer for students who initially attend an Associate's degree program at a southeastern Wisconsin Technical College.

**Title:** *NWTC/Edgewood Early Childhood Education*

**Fiscal Institution:** Northeast Wisconsin Technical College  
**Partners:** Edgewood College  
**Project Summary:** NWTC and Edgewood will partner to provide a seamless transition of Early Childhood Education Associate Degree graduates to a junior standing in the Early Childhood Education Bachelor's Degree program.

**Title:** *Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative Online Master's Program*

**Fiscal Institution:** UW Milwaukee  
**Partners:** Wisconsin Technical College System; Edgewood College; UW Eau Claire; UW Oshkosh; UW Stevens Point; UW Green Bay; UW River Falls; UW Whitewater  
**Project Summary:** This project will improve access and availability to advanced course work in early childhood special education and other fields.

Congratulations to the successful applicants and thank you to all the communities that entered collaborative conversations to propose projects. We are looking forward to showcasing the outcomes resulting from these partnerships in order to extend the learning and future funding opportunities to other higher education partnerships.

*Julia Herwig is the Birth to 3 RESource Co-Coordinator and Early Childhood Professional Development Coordinator at the Waisman Center. She can be reached at herwig@waisman.wisc.edu or 608.265.9423.*

## Announcing the License Renewal Support Centers

Sixteen License Renewal Support Centers have been designated around the state to help provide PI 34 license renewal services to educators who are not employed by Wisconsin public schools. The Centers will also provide assistance to licensed Wisconsin educators who wish to renew their license using a professional development plan in 2006, 2007 and 2008. For information on working with license renewal support centers, contact maryjane.best-louther@dpi.state.wi.us or call 608.266.3089.

## Read Journal Articles On-Line

Current featured articles on the Birth to 3 Training and Technical Assistance Website:

- Early Intervention in Autism
- Spectrum of Early Intervention Services for Children With Intrauterine Drug Exposure

Find these articles here:

<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/INTERACTIVELEARN.HTML>

# EVENTS & CALENDAR

## Summer Training Institute Offers Birth to 6 Assistive Technology Workshops



Each summer, the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative offers a comprehensive schedule of trainings in Amherst, Wisconsin. Listed here are offerings for the birth to 6 population.

### Wednesday June 22nd Programs

- **Buckets of Literacy™ for Children Birth to Five (\$150.00)**  
Buckets of Literacy™ is an innovative way that follows the Universal Design for Learning framework to provide literacy access to all learners.
- **Start With a Single Message (\$95.00)**  
Creatively use Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology (AT) tools to communicate ideas in this exciting session.

### Friday June 24th Program

- **Boardmaker and Beyond (\$115.00)**  
This session is for Boardmaker™ users who want to know how to create their own custom symbols and add them to the symbol library, download digital pictures for use in their communication boards, create up to 6 boards at a time and more including templates for books, worksheet and visual schedules.

Requirement: Experience with Boardmaker™.

### Tuesday June 28th Program

- **Planning a Parent Party: A New Look at Family Involvement (\$95.00)**  
In this workshop, participants will create child-parent activities that:
  - Support parents in responsive communication with their child
  - Demonstrate simple strategies to use in everyday routines
  - Enrich childrens' storybooks with extension activities and adaptive props
  - Provide structured and effective training, along with...
  - Food, fun and networking with other parents!!

### Wednesday June 30th Programs

- **Assessing Students' Need for Assistive Technology (\$130.00)**  
This beginning level workshop is designed to lead teams of school district or Birth to Three providers through the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative's assessment process for determining if a child needs assistive technology.
- **Build a Better Book: Book 2 (\$145.00)**  
This hands on session will allow the participant to learn how to use scanned text and PowerPoint to create an electronic talking book.

Complete Summer Training Institute program and registration forms are available at [www.wati.org](http://www.wati.org) General information call 800.991.5576 or 920.424.2247.

## Important Dates

- Birth to 3 Wisline Trainings – 2nd Thursday of Month; Regional Sites
- Social Emotional Development Video Conference Training - June 2, June 27, July 25; Various Locations
- WATI Summer Training Institute – June 20 – June 30; Amherst
- Team Approaches to Nutrition and Feeding Interventions – Southern Region Only – August 9; Madison
- Wisconsin Early Childhood Education and Care Conference – October 6-8; Madison
- Pre-Conference Birth to 6 Session with Robin McWilliam – October 26; Wisconsin Dells
- School-Based Occupational and Physical Therapy Conference with Robin McWilliam – October 27 & 28; Wisconsin Dells

Find more information on these trainings at:  
[www.waisman.wisc.edu/cte/](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cte/)

PARENT REFLECTIONS Continued from page 4...

And so I agreed. I've been told by the three students who have entered our home since then that they highly prize the opportunity to work directly with families—that they gain empathy and insight that will definitely aid in their professional endeavors.

But what my family has received trumps this tenfold—a non-judgmental, eager, compassionate person willing to get involved in our, at times, chaotic lives. Our students have attended doctor appointments, gone to the park, played chase and tickle, snacked, changed diapers and allowed me a cup of coffee all by myself. They have been a blessing.

And so I encourage providers to just ask families. Let them know that they can refuse. They can postpone. They can think about it. But perhaps they want to get involved, share their stories and their lives and the love they have for their children.

In addition to her work as the coordinator for the state Parent Consultant Directory, Lynn Havemann serves on the Constituent Advisory Committee for the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, is a parent member of the statewide B-3 Workgroup and volunteers as a Maternal Child Health Lend Mentor Family. She can be reached at [havemann@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:havemann@waisman.wisc.edu) or 608.263.5947.

# JOB POSTINGS

## **Speech Pathologist**

Early Intervention Services, a program of Goodwill Industries, is seeking a Speech Pathologist to provide speech therapy services to children ages birth-to-three in Winnebago County. Will consider full or part-time candidates. Therapist will function as a member of the early intervention team. Submit resume and salary requirements to: Goodwill Industries NCW; People Department – A; 1800 Appleton Road; Menasha, WI 54952. Fax: 1-920-968-6362. Email: careers\_gw@gwicc.org. Equal Opportunity Employer/LEP

## **Children's Services Coordinator - Full-time**

Under general supervision, the Children's Services Coordinator oversees the delivery of services to children with disabilities and their families. As Service Coordinator, is responsible for the coordination of services in the early intervention (Birth to Three) program. In addition, the

position manages the Family Support Program, which provides funding for goods or services to assist children with disabilities to remain in (or return to) their homes and/or communities. For more information and complete job responsibilities please contact: Eric Furtkamp, Adams Co. Dept of Community Programs, 108 E. North St, PO box 619, Friendship, WI 53934, Phone 608-339-4261.

## **Qualified Special Instruction Teacher**

Marinette Birth to 3. Work in the scenic North; we're the Waterfall Capital of Wisconsin! Contracted position with extensive travel throughout the county. Flexible hours. Please call or email Susan Bork at 715-732-7767 or sbork@marinettecounty.com or contact Kelly Christensen 715-732-7714 kchristensen@marinettecounty.com or call toll free at 888-732-7549.

## **Occupational Therapist & Speech Pathologist**

The Portage Project Birth to 3 Program at CESA 5 has two positions open. These positions are part time- possibly full time. Competitive salary schedule and benefits offered. Mileage reimbursement and enrollment in the Wisconsin Teachers Retirement System are available. Applicant must possess or be eligible to hold a license from the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing for occupational therapy and/or speech language pathology. Must possess a valid Wisconsin drivers license. Please send letters of interest and resumes to:

Michelle Davies, Coordinator;  
Portage Project Birth to 3 Program;  
CESA 5; 626 E Slifer Street; PO Box 564; Portage, WI 53901; 608/742-8814 x 259;  
daviesm@cesa5.k12.wi.us

# *Birth* to **6** EVENTS

## **Wisconsin Personnel Development Project**

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For additional information, call 608-263-5022, 1-800-532-3321, or email sankey@waisman.wisc.edu  
Deadline for submissions to next EVENTS: August 22, 2005.

**Wisconsin Birth to 3 Training & Technical Assistance**

**[www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/)**