



Family Engagement Newsletter

What Parents Need to Know if Their Child Has Been Diagnosed with ADHD

By Wendy Overturf

Your child's physician or other health professional has just diagnosed your child with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and tells you your child needs to receive special education services from the school. It is not quite as simple as informing the school of the physician's opinion.

A medical diagnosis of ADHD does not automatically qualify a child for special education services. To qualify for special education services, a child who has been diagnosed with a medical disability must also be found eligible as a "child with a disability," as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Whether a child has a qualifying educational disability under IDEA is a decision determined by a team of professionals at the child's school, including the child's parents, and only after the school has comprehensively evaluated the child to determine whether the child's disabilities give rise to educational needs.

ADHD is not specifically listed as one of the [identified categories of disability](#) under the IDEA. However, a 1991 memorandum from the U. S. Department of Education describes when a student might qualify for special education services under IDEA. According to the memo, children with ADHD may be eligible for services under the following categories, depending on their unique characteristics and identified educational needs.

Other Health Impairment (OHI)

Children with ADHD may meet [eligibility criteria](#) for the "other health impairment" category when their "heightened alertness to environmental stimuli... results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment," impairing school performance. In March 1999, ADHD was specifically added to the list of conditions that could possibly be considered under the OHI criteria. However, it was again clarified that "ALL CHILDREN WITH ADD/ADHD CLEARLY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE to receive special education and related services -- just as all children who have one or more of the other conditions listed under the "other health impairment" category are not necessarily eligible (e.g., children with a heart condition, asthma, diabetes, and rheumatic fever)."

Specific Learning Disability (SLD)

Children with ADHD may be eligible for special education in this category if they meet criteria for specific learning disabilities. Check this [website](#) for information on SLD eligibility decisions.

Emotional Behavioral Disability (EBD)

Children with ADHD sometimes meet [eligibility criteria](#) for emotional and behavioral disabilities.

Even if your child with ADHD does not qualify for special education and an IEP under IDEA, the school should also consider whether they qualify for accommodations under another law, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act ("Section 504"). As with IDEA, a medical diagnosis does not automatically qualify a child for accommodations under Section 504. However, the definition of a qualifying disability under Section 504 is broader than IDEA's definition. There are no specific educational disability classifications under Section 504. Rather, to qualify for accommodations under Section 504, a student must have "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities." As with IDEA, whether your child meets the qualifying definition under Section 504 is a decision for the school and parents to reach together and must be based on a comprehensive evaluation. To learn more about Section 504 and 504 plans check the [Know Your Rights: Students with ADHD](#) document from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. Also, parents can obtain the archived webinar from WI FACETS entitled [Section 504-What Parents Need to Know](#).

The first step that parents may consider taking if they feel that the ADHD is negatively impacting their child's educational performance is to make a written referral for evaluation for special education. For a sample referral form go to this [webpage](#) and click on Form R-1. Typically, this is submitted to the Director of Special Education/Pupil Services or building principal in the child's school district. For more information on the referral process register for this archived [thirty minute webinar](#). Parents may also want to check the publication, [Special Education in Plain Language](#) to get additional information about the special education process. WI FACETS has "help desk" staff who can give further information and provide support. The number is 414-374-4645 or 877-377-0511.

Statewide Events

[28th Annual State-wide Institute on Best Practices in Inclusive Education](#)

The Annual State-Wide Institute on Best Practices in Inclusive Education is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Inclusion Institute, Inc. In 2021, this conference will be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consider using this Institute as the venue for your administrative team, school staff, or individual planning retreat. Institute Staff and DPI consultants are available to assist you and your colleagues in planning and problem-solving.

Date: July 26-28, 2021

[Endless Possibilities 2021: Successful Transitions](#)

This virtual conference, coordinated by WI FACETS, and other family support/disability organizations allows parents and professionals affordable access to gain knowledge to enhance their ability to better support students with disabilities.

Keynote: Creating a Roadmap for Inclusive IEPs and Transition

Keynote speaker: [Dan Habib](#), is an award-winning filmmaker at the University of New Hampshire's Institute on Disability. Additional information on page 4.

Date: August 6, 2021

[Virtual Transition Parents in Partnership \(TPIP\)](#)

These trainings will take place virtually via Zoom beginning this fall.

TPIP will prepare families for the transition process for their youth (ages 14 -21) with disabilities in the areas of employment, education, living and health.

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

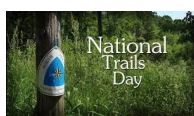
YiPPE is an opportunity for youth with disabilities and their parents to learn about the transition process in a unique way while building real life skills in the areas of employment, education, living and health. This training series provides information on what parents need to know for transitioning their child from school to postsecondary options and an opportunity to connect with other families. Fall events in Green Bay and Milwaukee.

Click on this [link](#) to view training options, dates, and registration information for both of these no cost events.



At Home Learning Strategies

[Children's Activity Calendar: June 2021](#)



It is time to get moving and take learning outdoors! Try new kinds of exercise on Global Running Day, National Trails Day, and International Yoga Day, or learn more about the natural world during National Zoo and Aquarium Month, World Oceans Day, and International Asteroid Day. Plus, find lots of ideas for engaging summer activities, craft projects, book suggestions, and more.

[Early Literacy Activity Calendar: June 2021](#)

The activities on the June early literacy calendar will help parents have fun with their young learners while staying on track for Pre-K and kindergarten. From practicing kindness on National Say Something Nice Day to exploring their world on National Camera Day, kids will learn something new through every song, craft, and science experiment.

[Scholastic Summer Reading Program](#)

From April 26 to September 3, kids can participate in this fun, free and safe program where they will be encouraged to read and [celebrate their achievements](#).



[Juneteenth Information and Activities \(older children\)](#)

Juneteenth is short for June Nineteenth, which marks the enforcement of the [Emancipation Proclamation](#) in Texas in 1865. Today, it commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. Checkout the historical information related to this day as well as worksheets that would be most applicable to older children.

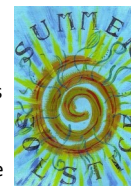


Father's Day-June 20, 2021

Looking for a gift your child can make on Father's Day? [Checkout 25 Handmade Father's Day Gifts from Kids.](#)

Summer Solstice Activities

The longest day of the year is nearly upon us! It is known as the summer solstice and it marks the first official day of the summer season in our part of the world. This year, the summer solstice is on Sunday, June 20 and it is a great time to celebrate summer with your child. Older children, as well as parents, can learn more about summer solstice by visiting this [website](#). In addition to the scientific information the site also has some fun activities.



[Sunny Monoprints](#): Welcome summer with these fun prints of the sun. Using a few household items and paint, your children can officially welcome in summer with their own artistic creations.

[Four Seasons Handprint Tree Art](#): Young artists will love this activity. Working with different color palates on each square, your child will capture the colors and mood of summer, fall, winter, and spring. This could make a great Father's Day gift.

[Make a Flower Crown](#): Your children will love picking their own flowers to use on a crown that celebrates the arrival of summer. These simple instructions walk you through the whole process using artificial flowers, but you could also use real wildflowers from your area.



[Cosmic Suncatchers](#): This fun craft uses glue and food coloring to make an out-of-this-world creation—a colorful suncatcher that children will love to display around the house.

[Summer Coloring Page](#): Help get your kids excited about summer with this activity.

[Make Your Own Kite](#): Parents and children alike will love building their own kite. These simple instructions will get you flying in no time.

[Homemade Ice Cream](#): An easy recipe to whip up your own delicious treat in a resealable plastic bag.

[100 Summer Fun Ideas for Kids and Parents](#)

Check out this [list](#) of 100 things you and your kids can do to have fun and make some great memories this Summer. Activity categories are Nature, Rainy Day Fun, Local Day Trips, Brain Games, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor Activities, Nighttime Fun, Social Time and Cooking Ideas!

Online Resources: ADD / ADHD

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Local CHADD Affiliates-Wisconsin](#)

This link provides contact information about local CHADD affiliates in Wisconsin. One can also use this link to find local affiliates in other states.

[ADHD and School](#)

This is a toolkit developed by CHADD for parents which has strategies to help with school success. The toolkit includes resources tailored to ADHD struggles, such as how to create routines, how to set up a homework station, and how to structure home-school communication.

[Understood](#)

The goal of this website is to empower parents to understand their children's learning and attention issues and relate to their experiences. With this knowledge, parents can make more effective choices for and with their children.

[ADDitude Magazine](#)

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

[WebMD](#)

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

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

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

[Free Webinar Replay: How ADHD Affects Executive Function in Adults and Kids](#)

In this hour-long webinar-on-demand by Russell Barkley, Ph.D., participants will learn how to identify executive function deficit disorder, the seven major types of executive function, treatment strategies for managing executive function deficits, and more.

[American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry \(AACAP\)](#)

AACAP's "Facts for Families" provides concise up-to-date information on issues related to ADHD that may affect children, teenagers, and their families.



[Tips for Single Parents of Children with Special Needs](#)

Being a single parent is hard enough, but when your child has special needs, there's even more to handle. The challenges can be many, and if there is no support from the other parent, you're on your own to handle the care of your child with special needs, and sometimes your other children as well. It's a lot of work, and even though you want to do the best you can for your child, single parents face times that could cause them to burn out at a faster pace than households who share the day to day demands of special needs parenting. The challenges may be very hard, but there are ways that single parents can make a good life for themselves and for their children. This [page](#) from the Medical Home Portal provides some ideas

- * Make a daily plan and try to keep it the same
- * If your child's other parent can be involved, work together to best meet the needs of your child
- * Connect with other single parents who have kids with special needs
- * Family time – even if you are busy, it is of great value to spend time together as a family
- * Counseling can help with stress
- * If you have other children who are old enough to help, let them help, but not too much
- * Allow yourself to have help from family, friends, church and neighbors
- * Ask for help – If you need assistance with housing, food, healthcare or child-care
- * Take some time for yourself

[Family Voices of Wisconsin](#) helps families navigate health care and community supports and services by providing training, information and education.

WI FACETS



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

To register by phone: 877-374-0511
All webinars 12:00—1:00 PM
(unless otherwise noted)

[WI Children & Youth w/Special Health Care Needs: Supporting Families and Providers who Support Them](#)

Presenter: Becky Burns, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)

Date: June 2, 2021

[Writing the IEP – Part 3 \(Spanish\)](#)

Date: June 10, 2021

Training in Spanish - To register, contact Nelsinia Ramos, nramos@wifacets.org

[Compassion Resilience – Self Care Snapshot Series: Expectations & Affirmations](#)

Presenter: Emily Jonesberg, Rogers InHealth

Date: June 14, 2021, 12pm-12:30pm

[Writing the IEP – Part 4 \(Spanish\)](#)

Date: June 17, 2021

Training in Spanish - To register, contact Nelsinia Ramos, nramos@wifacets.org

Be sure to check out WI FACETS [archived webinars](#)



[WCASS Guide: How to Provide Students with IEPs Access to Their Grade Level Curriculum Through Text to Speech](#)

In April 2021, the Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services (WCASS) along with sixty stakeholders developed this guidance to ensure compliance with IDEA 2004 and promote student access to grade level curriculum.

The main reasons the guide was developed are listed below.

- Because of failing academic performance of students with IEPs. Many are often not enabled to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum.
- Because it is the law, IDEA 2004 requires school districts to enable students with IEPs to be involved in and make progress in the general education curriculum.
- Because of user statistics from national Accessible Media Producers (AMPs). User data suggest that very few students with IEPs are provided with Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) and use them only sporadically.
- Because of difficult experiences expressed by students accessing their regular education curriculum, and concerns expressed by their parents about evolving mental health issues.

This guide is long and very comprehensive. Of particular interest to parents might be the section “Important Information for Parents” which starts on page 208.

Research to Read

Helping Students with ADHD in the Age of Digital Distraction

Hart Barnett, J., *Physical Disabilities: Education and Related Services*, v36 n2 p1-7 2017

[Article Link](#)

A substantial number of students struggle with sustained attention in today's schools, including those with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Both traditional and technology-driven strategies and tools are available to address the attention needs of students with ADHD and other students who struggle with attention in the classroom. By incorporating targeted environmental, organizational, and instructional techniques and tech apps into their everyday instructional and classroom management practices, teachers can improve the sustained attention and academic performance of all students. In doing so, teachers can create an equitable and enhanced learning environment in this age of increasing digitalization.

[Endless Possibilities 2021: Successful Transitions](#) [Registration is Open!](#)

Registration Fee: \$20 Parent Scholarships available, contact: [Lori Karcher](#)

This virtual conference is for educators, parents, and others to gain information related to special education, family supports and mental health. This event is a collaboration of WI FACETS, WI Dept. of Public Instruction, UW-Whitewater and Southern Regional Ctr - CYSHCN.

Keynote & Presenter: Creating a Roadmap for Inclusive IEPs and Transition, [Dan Habib](#)

Sessions include: ACTION! Effective Practices in Transition * DVR: Possibilities During Times of Change and Transition * College & Career Ready IEPs and Transition Back to In-person Learning * Completing a Successful PTP * Including Health Care Transition into the PTP & IEP * Self-Care Sessions: How to Forgive in an Unforgiving World and *Fall* into Gratitude and Joy-It's that Easy!

[Register to Attend!](#)

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, contact: Wendy Overturf at woverturf@wifacets.org.*



Contributions to the Newsletter

Upcoming newsletter topics: July: **Speech & Language**
August: **Other Health Impairment**
September: **Assistive Technology**

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

***The WI FACETS Family Engagement E-Newsletter
can be found online at:***

<https://servingongroups.org/resources>



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