Happy summer to everyone!

My family has been having great fun spending extra time together while the kids are off for summer. As we drove through town the other day, our son was observing various signs. We came by one short little street and he read the sign out loud stating “NO OUTLET”. Then he said, “It’s a good thing I don’t have anything I need to plug in.” We all laughed, including him, as he really did understand the meaning of the street sign. It made me stop and think though, I haven’t ever looked at that No Outlet sign and thought of plug-ins. I realized how my brain does an instant categorization, but my son’s brain pulled up the image he thinks of more often.

Another day, my son came to me and asked, “Mom, what time does your watch say it is?” I said, “5:30.” He said, “Really, you can hear that?” Again, he was totally enjoying the joke, but I did not see it coming at all. I love moments like these! It helps me remember that my son processes in a different way. While he has learned most of the “double meanings” in the English language, his way of “image” processing may go on a different journey than mine.

Learning how to communicate with my son has helped me personally and professionally. I try to be specific and concrete with others, as you never know what another person's communication style is. This can be especially helpful when I am communicating with a coworker in another country. In so many cases, improved communication can be a game winner for everyone involved.

Many of the tools we use with our family members on the spectrum can be applied throughout our life. Clear communication, organizational tools, scheduling skills; consider these life enhancements, not just for those on the spectrum. These tools can be used in many contexts to decrease stress and increase “fun times.”

HAPPY SUMMER!!
Michele Matz
ASW President
## LOCAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Hosted by</th>
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<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| July 19 8:30-10:30 am | **Spectrum Saturday, Building for Kids, 100 W College Ave, Appleton**  
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Fox Valley  
Free admission for children on the autism spectrum and their families. Enjoy a lower sensory experience and meet other families and resource professionals from the area.  
http://www.buildingforkids.org/events--programs/autism-spectrum-saturdays | Autism Society of the Fox Valley | Appleton | Spectrum Saturday, Building for Kids, 100 W College Ave, Appleton  
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Fox Valley  
Free admission for children on the autism spectrum and their families. Enjoy a lower sensory experience and meet other families and resource professionals from the area.  
http://www.buildingforkids.org/events--programs/autism-spectrum-saturdays |
| July 19 12:00-4:00 pm | **ASL Family Picnic, Henry Schuette Park, Manitowoc**  
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Lakeshore  
Lunch, games, and conversation await you at this fun filled picnic. All are welcome, don’t miss out! Contact autisma lakeshore@att.net for more information | Autism Society of the Lakeshore | Manitowoc | ASL Family Picnic, Henry Schuette Park, Manitowoc  
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Lakeshore  
Lunch, games, and conversation await you at this fun filled picnic. All are welcome, don’t miss out! Contact autismlakeshore@att.net for more information |
| July 19 10:15-11:30 | **Reel Movies for Real Needs Member Event Marcus Bay Park Cinema, 755 Willard Dr., Ashwaubenon,**  
Hosted by the Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin  
Featuring Planes: Fire and Rescue. Contact 920-264-8067 or email administrator@asnew.org | Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin | Ashwaubenon | Reel Movies for Real Needs Member Event Marcus Bay Park Cinema, 755 Willard Dr., Ashwaubenon,  
Hosted by the Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin  
Featuring Planes: Fire and Rescue. Contact 920-264-8067 or email administrator@asnew.org |
| August 7 8:30am-4:30 pm | **Summer Symposium on Literacy, Waukesha Area Technical College**  
Hosted by the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin  
For more information email info@assew.org or call (414) 988-1260 | Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin | Waukesha | Summer Symposium on Literacy, Waukesha Area Technical College  
Hosted by the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin  
For more information email info@assew.org or call (414) 988-1260 |
| August 9 10:00 - 11:00 | **Bob Burns Golf Clinic, Bob Burns Golf Center, Appleton**  
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Fox Valley  
This is an ASFV private event for children ages 5 and above. Siblings are invited to participate. Registration begins at 9:30 am and a lunch will follow the event. For more information or to register contact Archna Hendricks at 920-882-9939 or email archnah@aol.com | Autism Society of the Fox Valley | Appleton | Bob Burns Golf Clinic, Bob Burns Golf Center, Appleton  
Hosted by the Autism Society of the Fox Valley  
This is an ASFV private event for children ages 5 and above. Siblings are invited to participate. Registration begins at 9:30 am and a lunch will follow the event. For more information or to register contact Archna Hendricks at 920-882-9939 or email archnah@aol.com |
| August 15 6:30-8:30 pm | **Cool Waters Swim Member Event**  
Hosted by the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin  
Cool Waters pool and water park will be closed to the public during our event. $5/family, in exchange, each family will be given a $5 concession voucher to be used that evening. Life guards on duty will be given an autism orientation before the event. Contact info@assew.org or phone (414) 988-1260. | Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin | Ashwaubenon | Cool Waters Swim Member Event  
Hosted by the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin  
Cool Waters pool and water park will be closed to the public during our event. $5/family, in exchange, each family will be given a $5 concession voucher to be used that evening. Life guards on duty will be given an autism orientation before the event. Contact info@assew.org or phone (414) 988-1260. |
| August 19 6-7:30 pm | **Evening Support Group, Harmony Café, 1660 W Mason St, Green Bay**  
Hosted by the Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin  
Contact 920-264-8067 or email administrator@asnew.org | Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin | Green Bay | Evening Support Group, Harmony Café, 1660 W Mason St, Green Bay  
Hosted by the Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin  
Contact 920-264-8067 or email administrator@asnew.org |
Greetings,

I hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer.

As we take a break from the school year, I would like to reflect on the language we use and how our language and thinking about “behavior” directly relates to the supports we provide students with autism. In my role as autism consultant at DPI, I receive many questions about how to assist with the “behavior” of students. Often, the families, educators, and professionals who call or email me are clearly struggling and I can hear the urgency in the voices and emails. Often, these calls are looking for specific strategies or answers to reduce or stop a specific “behavior”.

What fascinates me about “behavior” conversations is how often the supports needed can be as simple as providing a “home base”, a clear visual schedule, or building relationships by incorporating a student’s interests throughout the day to being as complex as requiring not only an array of high quality proactive interventions but also individualizing those interventions to the unique needs of the student and providing them in the right combination. I have developed a resource titled “additional questions to ask when developing a functional behavior assessment” which assists teams in thinking through all of the different supports which may be required to meet the variety of needs for students (available through DPI autism email updates). I greatly enjoy helping teams think through matching interventions to needs, but what is most difficult for me is the knowledge that the “big solution” requires not just knowledge of a variety of evidence based interventions, but a systematic agreement in how we think about “behavior” across all caregivers.

In this calm of summer, let’s take a deep breath and think about our role in teaching students to become skillful and independent so all of our students are able to navigate a Neurotypical world. To do this, we need to start at the beginning and discuss how we think about “behavior”.

Here are some questions which might bring teams together in relation to “behavior” and how a student is being supported:

• Is behavior a skill or a choice?

• For a student with patterns of dangerous or stigmatizing “behavior”, are there steps to learning new skills or do we go from “bad” to “good”?

• Will we accept, reinforce, and support a more skillful response from a student even if the student is still not doing what is expected of other students?

• If a student “can” do an activity, does this mean the student is “able” to do the activity at any time it is requested? Why or why not?

• If a student can tell or identify the “right” thing to do in a situation, does this mean a student is able to “make good choices”? Why or why not?

• How do students learn new skills or behavior?

• What are our expectations and what are we doing to support the student in reaching those expectations?

• Is it ok for educators, families, and caregivers to use new language, provide choices, allow students to have different supports, schedules, and accommodations from other students?

• When we develop a behavior intervention plan are we focused on “teaching” new skills and accommodating the needs of the student or are we just “telling” the student what to do and reacting to the behavior?
In my experience, you can see a strong relationship between:

a) how teams of caregivers think and talk about “behavior”;
b) types of supports and accommodations which are provided to students, and
c) eventual student outcomes in relation to independence and skill in navigating a Neurotypical world.

To support this connection, our DPI two day autism trainings are changing the name of our most popular training “Challenging Behavior” to “Teaching and Supporting New Behaviors”. This change of title reinforces the content of this training which focuses on providing strategies that “support” and “teach” as opposed to “reacting”. Similarly, our “Basic” training will be renamed “Autism Essentials Across the School Day”. This training, which goes way beyond a “basic” discussion of the attributes of people with autism, focuses on evidence based strategies to support movement, visual, processing, and social communication needs of students with autism and focuses strongly on how we “think” about the behaviors we see in students with autism.

I am very excited to see how our language is changing about how we think about “behavior” in Wisconsin for students with IEPs. Our educators have access to great resources on trauma informed care, individualized learning, universal design for learning, positive psychology, and all of the great proactive supports and accommodations which can be found for free online by organizations such as Organization for Autism Research, Autism Internet Modules, Autism Speaks, Autism Society, and NPDC -ASD. In addition, there are excellent resource updates from ASW as well as the many regional autism chapters who do a fantastic job of bringing in speakers so families, educators, and professionals can learn side by side on how to utilize effective supports not to mention the free conferences and videotaped talks from the Wisconsin Community of Practice on ASD-DD.

At DPI, we are revising our guidance on Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) to include a more holistic and student centered perspective on “behavior” and this perspective is seen also in the free webinars which I co-present with experts in the field (including topics such as FBA, functional communication training, self regulation). We have a new two day autism training in 2014-15 titled “From Self Advocacy to Self Determination” created by Judy Endow (a person who identifies as Autistic) and Kate McGinnity (a person who identifies as Neurotypical). You can find information about all of these resources including some great resources from our Student Services Prevention and Wellness team on trauma informed care as well as sign up for DPI Autism email updates on the DPI autism web page: http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_autism

I look forward to the 2014-15 school year and while you meet with your teams and rethink or reconfirm you views on “behavior” I will continue to provide up to date information with the most effective and creative applications of evidence based interventions and accommodations which assist in teaching new behavior.

Thank you for sharing with me your ideas and resources. Keep them coming!
Daniel Parker, Autism and Family Engagement Consultant
daniel.parker@dpi.wi.gov
(608) 266-5194

Research Opportunity

You are invited to participate in a research study about parenting and the marital relationship in families of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Information from the Family Outcomes in ASD study will help us understand the ways in which having a child with ASD impacts parents as well as the ways in which parents influence their child.

We are looking for married couples of children with ASD (ages 5-12) to participate in our research study. Both you and your partner should be willing to participate in the research study.

The study involves a 2.5 hour visit to the Waisman Center or your home to complete measures about your parenting experiences, marriage, and child with ASD. You and your partner will each be paid $50 for this visit. You will also be asked to complete a 14-day daily diary in which you answer a short list of questions each day. You and your partner will each be paid $75 for the daily diary.

We hope that information from this study will help improve services and supports for families of children with ASD in the future. If you are interested in being in this study, please call or email the Hartley Lab. We value the time of families - without your generous support our research would not be possible!!
hartleylab@waisman.wisc.edu
(608) 262-8860

Connecting Wisconsin:
Autism Society of Wisconsin Newsletter
www.asw4autism.org

Pg 4
Summer 2014
Thanks for attending the 25th Annual Autism Conference!

We hosted over 600 families, self advocates, educators and professionals at the Kalahari this April. All three days were packed with informational sessions, networking and a lot of fun! These pictures from Carrie Anclaux Photography are from our Friday evening activities; Spectrum Social Hour, Family Reception & Pizza Party, Talent Show and Dance.
Upcoming Autism Society Conferences

Bridges to Adulthood for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presented by: Peter Gerhardt, Ed.D.

October 7, 2014
The Salvation Army Kroc Center, Green Bay, WI
Registration: July 11–September 26, 2014

This presentation will provide an overview of effective transition programming— at any age— with the ultimate goal being a life of dignity, competence, and quality. To this end, an overview and practical suggestions for transition planning (including the use of existing technology) will be presented along with issues related to community based instruction, social competence, sexuality and sexual safety, and quality of life concerns.

Projected Outcomes: Attendees will be able to (1) Identify the components of a comprehensive transition plan (2) Differentiate between social survival and social competence and the applications of both (3) Discuss the importance of direct, intensive instruction in adaptive behavior if community living is expected to be the outcome of an effective education (4) Define the multiple constituent groups whose needs are to be meet in the employment development process and (5) Identify the three primary components of sexuality education.

For detailed conference information and registration forms visit: www.asw4autism.org/conferences_workshops.html

SAVE THE DATE!

26th Annual Conference
April 30-May 2, 2015

Kalahari Resort & Convention Center
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Featured 2014 Essay Contest Winner

Author: Jalen Paul

On the first day of school I didn't know Ethan, he was new to our school. He moved to Wisconsin from Arizona. Kids at the beginning of the year get to know each other quickly. After only a day or two I knew Ethan was not exactly like all the other third graders, but not in a bad way. I noticed that he sometimes walks with his arms and hands up by his shoulders. My guess was right because that day our teacher explained that Ethan had some special needs and might need our help. I never really had a chance in first or second grade to help and be a good friend to a person like Ethan. Actually I sometimes had a little trouble in school and didn't always get along. But that has all changed.

Ethan is always so kind to me. He never teases anyone and never gets mad. I started helping Ethan a lot since he sat near me. It feels so good to help him and be friends. I have a lot more friends since he sat near me. I have a lot more friends since I met Ethan and I am happy 2 times more than I was.

One of the things we do together is play outside on snow hills. He does not like when I slide down the hills. He thinks I might get hurt. He LOVES outdoor recess. We had to stay indoors a lot this winter because it was so cold. Ethan would get upset about that cause he always wants to go out. My other 2 friends and I hug him and say it is ok, we will play Legos. He LOVES Legos, too. Two of my other friends and I made up this club we call "Ethan Brothers". We have a special handshake that ends with a fist bump. We do it all the time like at the end of the day to say goodbye.

Ethan and I like to read together. Sometimes when we read I say "I'll read this paragraph and you read the next." He will read and after one sentence he says, "Ok, your turn!" We have an underground tunnel at our school. Ethan always covers his ears and says it is too loud. I tell him it is ok, and hold his hand. Then he uncovers his ears and is ok.

Ethan has this other thing that as soon as school gets out he wants to get home right away. One day after school he had to stay with his mom and dad for a conference. My teacher set it up that I could stay too and played Legos so he didn't get upset.

Ethan is really funny and likes to make up silly games. One time we were eating lunch and we did this silly game. We named random things and made them talk. I named my spoon Bob and Ethan said, "Hi Bob!" then Ethan named his fruit snacks Tim and I said, "Hi Tim!" Ethan is also a great teacher. He taught me to play his video game with all the special tools when we were on the bus to our field trip.

Autism has taught me to be a better friend and to be more kind. I am so happy to find another friend... Ethan is like a recess to me!

WI-FACETS Presents Telephone Workshop on Bullying

Thursday, August 28
12:00-1:00 pm
Presenter: WI FACETS Staff

Topics include related laws
-types of bullying
-how to talk to children about bullying
-intervention options including using the IEP
-record keeping
-role of school policy to respond to and prevent harassment.

For more information or to register contact Sandra McFarland at 877/374-0511. Pre-registration is required. All WI-FACETS workshops are free.
Invest in the future of the Autism Society of Wisconsin!

Explore all the ways to give:

- **Employee/Matching Gifts** – Many employers encourage employees to give by matching employee gifts dollar-for-dollar. Check with your human resource department to find out more.
- **Honorary** – Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion with a gift honoring a spouse, friend, family member or other loved one.
- **Memorial** – Memorial gifts made to the Autism Society of Wisconsin are to celebrate and honor the life of a loved one.
- **Planned Giving** – Receive tax and other financial benefits while giving to the Autism Society. Plan a gift for the future by working with a financial advisor to set up an IRA Charitable Rollover, trust or bequest, or beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy.
- **Unrestricted Giving** – Give a cash donation that allows us to fund programs which need it most. Donations can be mailed to the ASW office or can be made online through our Network for Good site, accessed from our homepage: www.asw4autism.org.

Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Dr.
Menasha, WI 54952

Please call our office for more information on any of these giving opportunities.

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**BPDD's Sparks Project**

The purpose of SPARKS Grants is to organize local grassroots groups that identify and make changes in their communities that result in a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities. Grassroots community organizing means groups working for positive community change for individuals with disabilities on issues that are important to them. The innovative methods SPARKS Grants ignite are intended to lead to systems change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

SPARKS Grants are funded by the BPDD and are provided to people with disabilities and families in Wisconsin. SPARKS Grants are funded by the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD), and are available to people with developmental disabilities and family members in Wisconsin. Priority activities for 2014 SPARKS Grants are:

- Organize a local People First chapter
- Form a local social justice or civic group that includes people with and without disabilities (this could be a school group)
- Local community advocacy (e.g., developing an inclusive park or accessible garden, expanding community employment opportunities for people with disabilities)

BPDD awards multiple SPARKS Grants annually. Projects begin no later than October 1 of the year that grants are awarded and the projects should be completed by September 30 of the following year. Grant applications are available in June and the deadline to apply is in August. Individual grants range from $500-$3,000. For more information visit: http://www.wi-bpdd.org/
Autism Society Affiliate Information

Central WI (ASCW)
http://www.wausau.k12.wi.us/east/Student%20Files/Autism/Autism.htm
Email: autismsocietycw@gmail.com
ASCW meets the first Thursday of each month. Meetings coincide with the school calendar year. Meetings are held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 600 Stevens Drive, Wausau, at 6:30 pm. Meetings vary between family support, speakers, and business meetings. (715)359-0886 or (715) 845-5524

Fox Valley (ASFV)
Website: www.focol.org/asfv
Email: asfv4kids@gmail.com
ASFV offers monthly parent support group meetings, social groups for those on the spectrum aged 7 years through adulthood, educational workshops and other special events throughout the year. For more information about their programs please visit their website.

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### Autism Society Affiliate Information

| Affiliate       | Website                                | Email                                | Contact Information                                                                 |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|                                     |                                                                                     |
| **Chippewa Valley (ASCV)** | [http://www.cvasw.org/](http://www.cvasw.org/) | b.j.wagner@yahoo.com               | The Chippewa Valley affiliate sends out information packets and a quarterly newsletter. For more information, email b.j.wagner@yahoo.com |
| **Lakeshore (ASL)**      | [http://autismlakeshore.org/](http://autismlakeshore.org/) | autismlakeshore@att.net.          | Meetings are the third Thursday of each month (September thru May) at Lakeshore United Methodist Church, 411 Reed Ave., Manitowoc from, 6:30-8:30 pm. Childcare is available. Contact the office for more information. |
| **Northeast (ASNEW)**    | [www.asnew.org](http://www.asnew.org)   | administrator@asnew.org            | Northeast offers regular morning and evening parent support groups and a group for adults with Asperger’s Syndrome. For more information please visit their website. |
| **South Central WI**     | [http://autismsouthcentral.org/](http://autismsouthcentral.org/) | autismsouthcentral@gmail.com       | South Central offers regular support group meetings, Autism 101 classes and other special events throughout the year. For more information please visit their website. |
| **Southeastern Wisconsin (ASSEW)** | [www.assew.org](http://www.assew.org) | info@assew.org                     | Southeastern offers monthly morning parent support groups, an adults on the spectrum support group, a workshop series and many other special events. For more information, please visit their website. |

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*Connecting Wisconsin*: Autism Society of Wisconsin Newsletter

[www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org)
Date of Application_______________________

Name ________________________________________________________________________________

Street Address __________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ________________________________________ Phone (       ) _______________________

Email _________________________________________ □  ASW is going green! To receive a printed copy of the newsletter, please check here

The Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) shares membership with the local Autism Society affiliates listed below. By checking a local affiliate, you will join both the state and local affiliate and receive member benefits from both. To become a member of only the state chapter, leave this section blank. To become a member of the Autism Society of America, the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin and/or the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin and to find out more about their membership benefits, please contact them separately.

□  Autism Society of the Fox Valley (ASFV)  
Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Waupaca Counties

□  Autism Society of the Lakeshore (ASL)  
Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Calumet, Kewaunee and Door Counties

□  Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin (ASNEW)  
Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Florence, Menomonie and Marinette Counties.

□  Autism Society of the Central Wisconsin (ASCW)  
Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Taylor and Wood Counties.

□  Autism Society of Chippewa Valley (CVAS)  
Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties.

Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin, autismsouthcentral.org or autismsouthcentral@gmail.com


Membership Categories :   Individual ($12) _____  Family ($15) _____        New Member _____       Renewing Member_____

(Select one) (Select one)

_____ Bill my Master Card/VISA Card #____________________________________ Exp Date_________

Authorized Signature __________________________________________________

_____Check enclosed, check #________________

_____Enclosed is a $10 contribution towards the cost of the newsletter—thank you!

Additional contribution (tax deductible).

_____ $25     _____$50     _____$100     _____ $ (Other)

Please send your completed membership form and payment to:

Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI  54952
Fax (920) 558-4611

If you have questions, email ASW at asw@asw4autism.org or call 888-428-8476.
Help us fulfill our mission!

Support the Autism Society of Wisconsin by making a tax deductible gift! All donations are appreciated.

$25 $50 $75 $100 $200 $ Other

Donations may be sent to:
Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI 54952

We also accept donations online. Click the Donate Now button on our homepage: www.asw4autism.org

Thank you for your support!

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ASW Board Meeting to be held on July 19,
Stevens Point