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CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT
Prevention Board

Newsletter

ISSUE JUNE 2026

WI Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board Updates

Providing you with the latest news and updates from the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board



Summer is underway. This can be a busy time for parents as their children transition from school to summer. And we understand that screen time can still be a struggle. This newsletter has a couple of articles and resources to help.

Research: The Children and Screens Guide for Childhood Development and Media Use in Middle Childhood (Ages 6-11)

The research organization Children and Screens: Institute of Digital Media and Child Development focuses on conducting and bringing together expert researchers to study how digital media and screen use affect the development of children and youth. They have recently published a Guide for Child Development and Media Use in Middle Childhood (<https://www.childrenandscreens.org/learn-explore/research/the-children-and-screens-guide-for-child-development-and-media-use-middle-childhood-ages-6-11/>). The goal of the publication is to help parents and caregivers of children ages 6-11 determine how to intentionally and most beneficially incorporate media use into their child's life.

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The first section of the document provides an overview of the “dos and don’ts” for caregivers’ guidelines of media use for this age range. The following sections include information about the effects of media on cognitive development and learning, social-emotional development, physical health, supports and limits for media use, criteria for assessment of when to get a smart phone, and tips for ongoing conversation with children about media use and content. The Prevention Board has shared this guide with grantees and posted the link on our Five for Families website to provide easy access to parents.

There are some additional resources at the bottom of the Healthy Media Habits page:

<https://fiveforfamilies.org/healthymediahabits/>



Celebrate Children Foundation

April's Family Strengthening Month drove meaningful engagement across Wisconsin. Through refreshed messaging, updated toolkits, and daily stories and visuals, partners and grantees carried family-strengthening ideas into newsletters, feeds, and community spaces statewide. The reach extended well beyond existing audiences. The Prevention Board website welcomed 1,388 visitors and 2,950 page views in April, and 89.3% were first-time visitors exploring resources like Family Resource Centers. Facebook posts drew 10,408 views (+144% over the prior period), reaching well beyond current followers. Our Five for Families website saw parents seeking practical support on pages like Find a FRC and Feelings Matter, while Spanish-language content such as "Aprenda las 5 Fortalezas" continued to resonate with bilingual communities. Across every channel, families and partners engaged with resources, posted, and strengthened connections throughout April. We are truly grateful to everyone who helped carry the Family Strengthening Month message across Wisconsin.

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Thank you!

The Celebrate Children Foundation received two generous, unexpected donations and would like to thank the Blackbaud Giving Fund, Dianne Murray, and the William and Gretchen Rieser Advised Fund.

From the Field: Screens, Struggles and Solutions: Insights from Our Triple P Workshops

Managing screen time can feel like a daily battleground. We recently connected with our Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) practitioners to discuss what is actually happening on the ground during our specialized toddler and school-aged screen time workshops.

First, thank you to our dedicated parent educators for sharing their insights! Here is a look at what parents are struggling with, what they are asking, and the real-world strategies helping families find balance.

The Big Screen Elephant: Guilt & Exceptions

Our practitioners confirmed that screen time is a top stressor for parents. During group discussions, parental guilt often surfaces. Many feel like they are failing because they cannot strictly follow the limits recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We teach families about the addictive design of modern devices, apps, and games. It is not a parenting failure; these tools are built to capture attention.

Parents also bring tough, nuanced questions about making exceptions to the rules, including:

- Neurodiversity: How to navigate screens when raising a child with a disability.
- Safety Concerns: Managing indoor time when neighborhood safety limits outdoor play.

Taming the Transition Tantrums

The biggest flashpoint for families? The arguments, resistance, and endless nagging required to get kids to turn devices off.

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- **Outsource the Bad Guy:** Use a physical timer with a loud buzzer so the clock ends the session, not you.
- **Flip the Order:** Lean into "contribution first" rules. For example: 30 minutes of outdoor play + 30 minutes of reading + chores completed = 30 minutes of earned screen time.
- **Catch Them Being Good:** Use behavior-specific praise when they transition smoothly. Try: "Thanks so much for sticking to our agreement. I know how hard it can be to pull yourself away."
- **Create Screen-Free time:** Establish sacred family times with zero digital interruptions, such as family meals or board game nights.

Walking the Talk

The conversations between parents in these sessions are deeply encouraging. Interestingly, parents do not just ask about their kids—they frequently ask about their own digital habits. They want to know how to be more present. Our practitioners emphasize that modeling healthy tech boundaries ourselves is the most powerful tool we have.

When it comes to automated boundaries, the most helpful tools for parents right now seem to be built-in device settings and parental control apps that have automatic shut-offs.

Upcoming Professional Development Training:

- Touchpoints, June 15, 18, 22, 25
- H.O.P.E. (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences), July 23
- FAN – Attunement & Engagement, August 11 & 12 (Level 1)
- Cultural Connections for Change, September 10
- Five for Families Parent Curriculum Orientation, September 15 & 16, 2026
- FRC Foundations Series, four session training: September 17, 24; October 1, 8

Click [here](#) to learn more about each offering and register.

The annual Prevention Board Grantee meeting is September 29. Registration information will be sent in July.

Resources:

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[1. Financial Hardship & Children's Mental Health](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Financial stress doesn't just impact families — it affects children's mental health. Kids in financially strained households are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, and bullying.

In Wisconsin, nearly 40% of children live in low-income families, and many still struggle to meet basic needs even if they are above the poverty line. Financial hardship and mental health are closely connected with each having the ability to worsen the other.

The good news: support programs like tax credits, food assistance, and access to healthcare can improve both financial stability and children's well-being.

When families have the resources they need, children are more likely to feel safe, supported, and thrive.

See Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health fact sheet [here](#).

2. **New Resource! Play While You Wait Toolkit for Public Spaces**

Supporting kids and families in public spaces is what the **Play While You Wait Toolkit** is all about. It provides easy-to-use materials for clinics, offices, and other waiting areas to help parents and caregivers engage with their children during wait times — offering simple, meaningful alternatives to technology and media.

The toolkit can also be shared directly with parents for use at home, on the go, or anywhere families spend time waiting. It encourages playful interactions that build early learning skills, strengthen parent-child relationships, and turn everyday moments into opportunities for growth.

This toolkit was created by members of Wisconsin's Strengthening Families Committee. Access the toolkit [here](#) and share broadly with community partners to benefit from these resources!

3. **Updated Parent Handouts**

The Prevention Board recently updated two handouts for parents and caregivers.

Understanding Discipline focuses on what is and isn't discipline. Discipline is teaching and guiding a child to make good choices, follow rules, and learn self-control. It is about helping children understand and want to do what is right, rather than only giving consequences for doing something wrong. The double-sided handout is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The Hmong translation is under review.

Quality Time provides parents and caregivers with explanations of quality time and ideas on how to give your child quality time. All children from newborns to teenagers need and want quality time. Quality time can be as short as 1-2 focused minutes. This double-sided handout is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Hmong](#).

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Department of Public Instruction is looking for your input

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[Portrait of a Graduate | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

Students today are preparing for a rapidly changing world, and we want to hear from educators, families, students, employers, and community members about the skills and experiences that matter most for their future success. Please take five minutes to complete [the Wisconsin Portrait of a Graduate survey](#) and share your feedback (when prompted, use survey code 415-909-558). Your input will help inform a statewide effort to define the knowledge, skills, and mindsets students need to thrive in school, careers, and life.

Getting the Most Out of Media for Young Children



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