

# Roles of Early Childhood Care, Education, and Health Programs in Supporting Children with Disabilities in Child Care Settings

(Updated July 14, 2017)

<b>Pre-service Training Programs</b>	<b>Continuing Education for Staff</b>	<b>ADA &amp; Building Accessibility</b>	<b>Programs and Direct Services for Children and Families</b>
<p><b>Technical College System</b> Offer courses and associate degrees in child development. These may provide introduction to serving children with disabilities.</p> <p>Also offer course work, clinical experience, and associate degree programs for nursing, nutrition, and allied health including occupational therapy assistant (OTA), physical therapy assistant (PTA), and respiratory therapy (RT).</p> <p>Course may be on campuses, through the internet, or in community setting.</p> <p><b>University System</b> Offer courses, bachelor, master, and doctorate degree programs in early childhood, early childhood through middle childhood, and early childhood special education. These may provide course work and experience in inclusive settings. Course may be on campuses, through the Internet, or in community setting.</p>	<p><b>Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Network</b> Supports child care programs by providing training, consultation, professional development and technical assistance. Make referrals to other resources and professional development opportunities.</p> <p><b>Birth to 3 Program:</b> Offers ongoing training opportunities for personnel in early intervention, parents, and their community teams to provide services to infants and toddlers with delays/disabilities in natural environments.</p> <p><b>CESAs and School Districts</b> Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESA) and school districts may provide inservice training related to early childhood special education, disability specific topics, least restrictive environment, child find, and other related areas. These may be determined by local school districts or based on discretionary funding priorities from DPI for areas such as autism and assistive technology.</p>	<p><b>Child Care Programs</b> Buildings must meet building codes and meet the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).</p> <p><b>Child Care Information Center (CCIC)</b> Provides written resources on ADA and building accessibility.</p> <p><b>Independent Living Centers</b> May make recommendations on building accessibility.</p> <p><b>Local Building Inspectors</b> Provide information related to building accessibility.</p> <p><b>Great Lakes Disability, Business and Technical Advisory Center</b> Provides information and resources on ADA.</p> <p><b>The Child Care Law Center</b> A national non-profit legal services organization dedicated to improving and expanding child care services. Provides legal support, training, and</p>	<p><b>WI First Step Resource and Referral Hotline</b> (1-800-642-STEP) Provides resource and referral information to callers related to services and supports for young children with disabilities and their families.</p> <p><b>Child Care Programs</b> Work with parents to make reasonable accommodations for children wanting to enroll in program. Refer children with suspected needs to appropriate agencies. Make curriculum modifications as appropriate to reasonably include children with disabilities in daily routines. Collaborate with agencies to provide the most appropriate program to support the disability services needed by the children.</p> <p><b>Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies</b> Make specialized referrals for families searching for care for children with special needs and provides them with additional technical assistance, as needed. Assist parents when they are unable to find a program willing to make accommodations. Assists child care programs in linking to community resources such as Birth to 3 Programs, school special education, and other disability resources. Provides community with data to inform decisions related to supports and resources.</p> <p><b>Birth to 3 Programs</b> Provide evaluation of infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays. Child care providers can refer to Birth to 3 programs when they have concerns about an infant or toddler's development to request a screening or make a referral for an evaluation. When a child is eligible and the parent agrees, Birth to 3 Program staff (e.g., service coordinator, special instruction, OT, PT, SLP) can share findings and recommendations with child care providers about accommodating needs.</p> <p>Infants and toddlers enrolled in Birth to 3 Programs receive consultation and/or services in child care settings based on their IFSPs. These services could include family education, special instruction, OT, PT, or SLP. This would include follow-through with the child care workers on how to meet the child and parent's need in that setting.</p> <p><b>School District Early Childhood Special Education</b> Schools provide evaluations for children with disabilities who may need special education. When a child is eligible for special education, the evaluations are used to develop individual education plans (IEPs). Either the IEP team (parent, teacher, OT, PT, speech/language, psychologist, etc.) or the written IEP may provide information on how to accommodate the child's needs.</p>

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<p>Also offer courses, degree programs, clinical experience, residency, and medical schools for medical, dental, nursing, nutrition and allied health including: occupational therapist (OT), and physical therapist (PT), respiratory therapist (RT), as well as speech and language therapist (SLP) programs.</p> <p><b>Private Colleges</b> Offer courses and degree programs in child development, early childhood special education, and early childhood education. Also offer course work and clinical experiences related to children with special needs for nursing, medicine, dental, nutrition and allied health (OT, PT, RT, SLP) programs.</p> <p><b>T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WISCONSIN</b> Funds pay for release time, travel time, for child care staff and providers to obtain the infant toddler credential and the administrator's credential. It is anticipated that the scholarship program will expand to include</p>	<p><b>Local Health Departments</b> May respond to requests for training from local community groups regarding special health care needs.</p> <p><b>Regional Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Centers</b> May provide or arrange training, consultation and technical assistance to parents, professionals, and other health care providers.</p> <p><b>UW Continuing Education</b> Offers a wide range of workshops and training on relevant and interesting topics.</p> <p><b>Statewide Conferences</b> Conferences such as WECA, SFTA, WCCAA, WFCCA, and Circles of Life provide forums for learning related to inclusive child care and services to children with disabilities/special health care needs and their family.</p> <p><b>WI Assistive Technology Program (WisTech)</b> Provides information on selecting, funding, installing and using assistive technology. WisTech is funded to provide four activities: device loan, device demonstration, device reutilization, and alternative financing.</p> <p><b>Local Programs</b></p>	<p>public education to the child care community on topics including ADA.</p> <p><b>Supporting Families Together Association and Wisconsin's 10 Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies</b> Serve as resource on child care program environments and best practices. YoungStar technical consultants provide consultation on information to providers on ADA building accessibility requirements and help providers make changes to the facility to ensure compliance.</p>	<p>Child care providers can refer to the school when they have concerns about a 3 to 5 year old child's development. They can work with the parent to request a screening or make a referral for an evaluation. A child enrolled in an early childhood special education program could receive special education and/or related services in a child care setting, based on their IEP. This could include consultation and/or the provision of direct services with primary child care providers on how to meet the child's need in that setting. These services could include special education or related services such as OT, PT, or SLP. School nurses may also function as members of IEP planning teams and consultants and provide resources related to children with special health care needs.</p> <p><b>Milwaukee Early Care Administration: Special Needs Supports Program (MECA SNSP)</b> Assists families of children with disabilities that qualify for child care and who live in the Milwaukee area find child care options.</p> <p><b>Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI).</b> WSPEI is an IDEA discretionary grant funded through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. WSPEI assists families and school districts to find resources that will help them build positive working relationships leading to shared decision making and positive outcomes for children's learning. This includes supporting meaningful parent participation on IEP teams and other decision-making groups, working with educators to improve family engagement practices and identifying and training district family engagement liaisons, and providing family friendly DPI and other special education resources to families and educators. WSPEI grant staff includes a family engagement coordinator who is a parent of a child with a disability in each of the 12 CESA regions of Wisconsin as well as four statewide coordinators including coordinators assigned with outreach to Latino and African American families. WSPEI provides services to families and educators free of charge.</p> <p><b>Early Head Start and Head Start Programs</b> Local programs reserve a minimum of 10% of total enrollment for children with disabilities. They partner closely with Birth to 3 Programs and schools to carryout IFSP/IEPs goals and activities within the daily program routines. Head Start programs have written agreements with local school districts and Birth to 3 programs describing their collaborative services to children with disabilities.</p> <p><b>WI Assistive Technology Program (WisTech)</b> Provides information on selecting, funding, installing and using assistive technology. WisTech is funded to provide four activities: device loan, device demonstration, device reutilization, and alternative financing.</p>

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<p>eligibility for other courses such as entry level licensing requirements, and/or entry level apprenticeship requirements. The intent is that these courses will begin to articulate at the technical colleges toward an associate's degree and further at universities towards a bachelors degree.</p> <p><b>WI LEND Program</b> An advanced training program funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau for graduate students, family members, self-advocates, and select community professionals. WI LEND offers training to approximately 30 Trainees and Fellows a year across 16 disciplines: Audiology, Family, Genetics/Genetic Counseling, Health Administration, Human Development and Family Studies, Medicine/Pediatrics, Nursing, Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Public Health, Self-Advocacy, Social Work, Special Education, and Speech/Language Pathology.</p>	<p>Local programs may develop their own training. They may seek approval for credits from the Wisconsin Technical College System Board and the Department of Health and Family Services Bureau of Licensing and Regulation, from the Registry, or individual universities.</p> <p><b>WI Early Childhood Association (WECA)</b> WECA offers training and professional development related to child development, inclusion, and caring for children with disabilities. WECA also administers the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood @ Wisconsin Scholarship Program which offers scholarship opportunities to teachers, family child care providers, center directors and administrators for credit-based education.</p> <p><b>Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health (WI-AIMH)</b> WI-AIMH is a state-wide non-profit agency dedicated to promoting well-being of all infants and young children. WI-AIMH provides continuing education and support on healthy social and emotional development of children birth through age five through the WI Pyramid Model training and coaching, community outreach, clinical support, and professional development trainings geared to the needs of</p>		<p><b>Local Disability Groups, Advocates and Associations</b> When available may be able to assist in the provision of resources, informational materials, family support groups, parent-to-parent matches, or specialized training.</p> <p><b>Regional Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Centers</b> Provide information, referral. Parent-to-parent support, family engagement, advocacy, and leadership; and arrange for service coordination services for families of children with special health care needs</p> <p><b>Local Health Departments</b> Provide information and referrals to parents in their jurisdiction who have children with special health care needs on care options and other resources. Public health nurses may participate in developing care plans and providing service coordination for individual children.</p> <p><b>Family Resource Centers</b> Provide access to materials on disabilities for families, children, and providers. Work with disability programs to provide disability supports and resources for families whose children have disabilities.</p> <p><b>Primary Health Care Providers and Pediatric Specialty Clinics</b> Provide verbal and written information to parents, agencies, and community groups on special services and resources for individual children with special health care needs.</p> <p><b>Child Care Information Center (CCIC)</b> Provides written resources on specific disabilities and strategies to support children with disabilities in child care.</p> <p><b>Public Library System</b> Offers statewide access to a wide variety of materials and resources through local libraries, the Federated Library System, and the special need collection. Ask for your library's special need coordinator.</p> <p><b>WI Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, Support (WI FACETS)</b> WI FACETS provides parent education, specialized workshops, parent support, parent leadership, and promotion of partnership activities between parents and professional.</p> <p><b>Wisconsin Division for Early Childhood (WDEC)</b> THE WDEC promotes policies and advances evidence-based practices that support</p>

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<p>This program is an important contribution to cross sector approaches to disabilities and curriculum includes early childhood system issues.</p>	<p>professionals who work with young children with disabilities.</p> <p><b>WI Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, Support (WI FACETS)</b> WI FACETS provides parent education, specialized workshops, parent support, parent leadership, and promotion of partnership activities between parents and professional.</p> <p><b>Milwaukee Early Care Administration: Special Needs Supports Program (MECA SNSP)</b> Provides monthly disability specific workshops in the Milwaukee area for child care providers. Provides workshop on and related to inclusion in child care and the inclusion credential.</p> <p><b>The Registry</b> Provides training and continuing education opportunities for child care providers and early childhood professional. Many topics offered are related to caring for children with special needs and disabilities and providing inclusive child care.</p>		<p>families and enhance the optimal development of young children who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities. The mission of WDEC is to support individuals who work with children with special needs, birth through eight, and their families.</p> <p><b>Quality Education Coalition</b> Coalition of parents, educators and advocates, that work together to improve the quality of special education in Wisconsin on a systematic basis. QEC works on a wide variety of issues which affect the quality of special education delivered to children with disabilities in Wisconsin.</p> <p><b>UW Madison Waisman Center</b> The Waisman Center is one of 15 Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers and one of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Specialty clinics are operated in collaboration with UW Hospital and Clinics and several UW–Madison Departments.</p> <p>The Waisman Resource Center was created to serve as a bridge to link faculty, staff and community partners with members of the public who are seeking information about developmental disabilities and the range of community services and supports available.</p> <p><b>Independent Living Centers</b> Provide four core services: peer support, information and referral, independent living skills training, and person and systems advocacy. ILCs provide services to all age groups that self-identify as having a disability.</p>

## Contact Information

To locate resources and referral information specific to young children with disabilities and their families or for the Children with Special Health Care Needs Regional Center serving your area, contact:

[WI First Step Resource and Referral](#) - Hotline 1-800-642-STEP.

To find the name of the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency near you, information on quality child care or child care projects promoting inclusive child care contact:

Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA)  
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 6  
Madison, WI 53711  
1-888-713-KIDS  
<https://supportingfamielstogether.org>

For information on the Birth to 3 Early Intervention Program contact:

WI Dept. of Health Services - Birth to 3 Program Office  
PO Box 7851, Madison, WI 53707-7851  
608-266-8276  
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/>

For information on child care and quality improvement initiatives contact:

Department of Children and Families  
Division of Early Care and Education  
201 E. Washington Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-267-3905  
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/>

To find more information on early childhood special education services contact:

WI Department of Public Instruction (DPI)  
PO Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841  
608-267-9172 or 1-800-441-4563  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood>

To find out more information on Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs contact:

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)  
Wisconsin Department of Health Services  
608-266-8178  
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/children/index.htm>

To find information about the Head Start Program serving your area contact:

WI Head Start Association 810 W Badger Road Madison, WI 53714 608-422-6879	WI Head Start Collaboration Project 125 South Webster Street, 4th Floor Madison, WI 57707-7841 608-261-2137
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[whsaassist@whsaonline.org](mailto:whsaassist@whsaonline.org)

To subscribe to the Child Care Information Center newsletter, borrow ADA or disability resources, or learn about the reference and loan service, contact:

Child Care Information Center  
2109 S. Stoughton Road, Madison, WI 53716  
800-362-7353, or 608-224-5388  
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ccic>

To get written information and/or legal opinions on ADA, contact:

Great Lakes Disability, Business and Technical Advisory Center 1640  
W. Roosevelt Road, Room 405, Chicago, IL 60608  
312-413-14707  
800-949-4232  
<http://adagreatlakes.com/ProgramsandServices/TechnicalAssistance>

The Child Care Law Center  
445 Church Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
415-558-8005  
[www.childcarelaw.org](http://www.childcarelaw.org)

To find out more information on family assistance programs and resources contact:

WI-FACETS  
600 W Virginia Street, Suite 501  
Milwaukee, WI, 53204  
414-374-4645 or 877-374-0511  
<http://www.wifacets.org/>

To find out more information on infant mental health contact:

Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health  
WI-AIMH  
133 South Butler Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
608-442-8036  
<http://wiaimh.org/>

To find out more information on disability research, programs and resources contact:

Waisman Center  
1500 Highland Ave  
Madison, WI 53705  
800-532-3321  
<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/about.htm>

To find out more information on early care and education and professional development contact:

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA)  
2908 Marketplace Drive, Suite 101  
Fitchburg, WI 53719  
Phone: 800-783-9322  
Office: 608-240-9880  
Fax: 877-248-7662  
General email:  
[weca@wisconsinearlychildhood.org](mailto:weca@wisconsinearlychildhood.org)

Milwaukee Office:  
316 N Milwaukee St. Suite 410  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-278-9322  
<http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/>

To find out more information on the Wisconsin division of the DEC contact:

Wisconsin Division of Early Childhood (WDEC)  
<http://www.dec-sped.org/wisconsin-dec>

To find out more on disability trainings, courses, and workshop available to child care professionals contact:

The Registry  
5900 Monona Drive #205  
Monona, WI 53716  
608-222-1123  
<http://www.the-registry.org/>

For more information about early childhood education go to:

Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaboration Partners website at  
[www.collaboratingpartners.com](http://www.collaboratingpartners.com)