Medical Diagnosis & Educational Determinations

It is possible for a child to have an educational determination of autism but not a medical diagnosis.

A medical diagnosis of autism is made using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM – V) of the American Psychiatric Association. Physicians and other qualified healthcare providers use the DSM – V to diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorders according to specific symptoms in two areas, including social communication impairments and repetitive/restricted behaviors.

An educational determination of autism is made by a multidisciplinary evaluation team using the definition of autism in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The multidisciplinary evaluation team needs to establish if an educational disability exists.

For information about medical diagnoses and training opportunities:

Southeast Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)
1-800-234-5437
www.southeastregionalcenter.org

For information about educational determinations:
http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/autism.html

Continuing Education

University of WI – Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate Programs
Lacrosse www.uwlax.edu/conted/autism/index.html


Whitewater – www.uww.edu/gradstudies/catalog1012/certautism.php

Milwaukee

University of St. Thomas: Wisconsin Autism Spectrum Disorders
http://www.stthomas.edu/celc/academics/autismspectrumdisorders/

This resource is provided by the Southeast Regional Core Team and the Southeast Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) through the Wisconsin Connections Initiative on Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Developmental Disabilities. An electronic version of this resource can be found at www.southeastregionalcenter.org

Updated 12/2013
Key Resources For Educators
Supporting Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
Southeast Wisconsin

Information about Autism Spectrum Disorders & Training Opportunities:

**Autism Internet Modules:**
Written by experts from across the U.S., all online modules are free and are designed to promote understanding of, respect for, and equality of persons with ASD.
[www.autisminternetmodules.org/index.php](http://www.autisminternetmodules.org/index.php)

**Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW)**
The mission of the Autism Society of Wisconsin is to improve the lives of all affected by autism in Wisconsin.
[www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org)

**Autism Speaks: Talking to Parents about Autism Action Kit**
A documentary-style, hands-on resource with examples of how to broach the topic of a potential developmental delay with parents. It contains real-life situations, strategies and success stories.

**CESA 1: Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA)**
CESA provides an interactive network of high-quality services and partnership opportunities to promote cost effective and equalized educational results across diverse school districts, all for the lifelong benefit of children.
[www.cesa1.k12.wi.us/programs/autism_services.cfm](http://www.cesa1.k12.wi.us/programs/autism_services.cfm)

**Core of a Good Life: Guided Conversations with Parents Raising Young Children with Disabilities**
[www.waisman.wisc.edu/naturalsupports/ec.php](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/naturalsupports/ec.php)

**Department of Instruction (DPI)**
DPI provides numerous statewide training opportunities throughout the year to assist in ongoing staff development designed to improve educational outcomes for children with autism.

**Good Friend, Inc**
Good Friend’s mission is to create autism awareness, teach acceptance of differences, and foster empathy among typically developing peers.
[www.goodfriendinc.com](http://www.goodfriendinc.com)

**The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders**
NPDC is a multi-university center promoting the use of evidence-based practice for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders.
[http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu](http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu)

**WI FACETS: Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support, Inc**
WI FACETS is a non profit organization serving Wisconsin children and adults with disabilities, their families and those who support them.
[www.wifacets.org](http://www.wifacets.org)

**Wisconsin Family Ties**
WI Family Ties is a statewide not-for-profit organization run by families for families that include children and adolescents who have emotional, behavioral, mental health and substance abuse disorders.
[www.wifamilyties.org](http://www.wifamilyties.org)

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