



Spring 2020

Hello everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well during the unusual season we find ourselves in. Our springs are typically a very busy time, full of family events and get-togethers as we welcome the warmer weather. This year, we find ourselves working together to be #SaferAtHome, and all of us at Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support are also working to create continued opportunities for connection, education and support. I wanted to take a moment to update you on some of those things we are working on to support you.

First of all, I want to remind you that our Support Specialists throughout the state continue to be available to support you, even as they temporarily do so from home offices. You can reach them at the emails and phone numbers below:

Eau Claire - Anne Rozeboom - anne@wisapsp.org - 608-519-8065
Green Bay - Heather Hansen - heather@wisapsp.org - 920-272-8240
La Crosse - Susan McParker - susan@wisapsp.org - 608-519-8023
Madison - Jessica Wright - jessica@wisapsp.org - 608-692-2910
Milwaukee - Pattie Godsell - pattie@wisapsp.org - 414-369-7489
Wausau - Chelsey Zommers - chelsey@wisapsp.org - 608-519-8068

You may also continue to reach us via phone or text with our 24/7 warm-line at 1-833-WIS-APSP. We are here to support you and your family through this season. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Second, we are having so much fun holding weekly contests with opportunities to win local gift cards to support your area take out restaurants or grocery stores. If you're not already following us on Facebook, you'll want to start, as that's where these opportunities are happening. You can like or follow us at [Facebook.com/wisapsp](https://www.facebook.com/wisapsp). In addition to the contests, you'll find links to some really helpful resources as well as ways to engage and get to know others around the state. We have SO enjoyed interacting with you and seeing your photos, art and more! If you haven't joined us yet, I invite you to follow and jump in on the conversations.

Another initiative we now have available are weekly Live Online Supportive Check-Ins. These will provide opportunity for much needed check-in and connection. As Bruce Perry recently said, "Let's remember, stay physically distant but emotionally close." If you are in need of some closeness and interaction with other adults/caregivers, this will be perfect for you. We have groups targeted to different audiences: for caregivers of young children (with no judgment for mic-muting or child interruptions), for those with middle to older grade children, for adult adoptees, and for human service professionals. Most groups are meeting weekly as we navigate this stretch of time together at home. You can find the group listings on the next page of this newsletter. I encourage you to consider joining in on one, these are a really nice way to continue some personal connection during this time. All meetings are held via Zoom, so you will need a webcam/mic or can use the Zoom app on your phone.

One last note...you will see that we have many in-person events planned beginning in June, should it be safe to do so as those dates approach. However, as things continue to change, please know that we are holding our plans loosely and will remain as flexible as need be to postpone or cancel if necessary. Please watch individual event listings on Facebook and Eventbrite, as any changes will be noted there. Thank you for your understanding on this.

With plenty of uncertainty around us, I encourage you to find or create new spaces for predictability and routine, intentionally stay grounded and connected (nature is great for this), and even watch for ways to grow in new directions. We are grateful to be connected to each one of you, and we will continue to be here to provide support, education and information that we hope will empower you and your families.

With kindness,
Christy Reppe
Adoption & Permanency Support Coordinator
Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support



ONLINE SUPPORT GROUPS

These online groups will utilize Zoom to connect over video chat. You will need to have access to a smart phone with the free Zoom app, or a computer with a camera and microphone. Registrants will be emailed a link to use for joining the video chat.

ONLINE: Support group for adoptive & guardianship caregivers with children in upper elementary/middle school

March 31-June 2, Every Tuesday, 10:00AM-11:00AM Weekly

Join other adoptive & guardianship caregivers with children in middle/upper grades for a live, weekly video check-in to socially connect and give/receive support during this difficult season. This support group will be facilitated by Susan McParker, Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist from our La Crosse office. The group size will be limited, so please pre-register via Eventbrite.

If you have any questions, please contact susan@wisapsp.org.

ONLINE Supportive Check-in: For Social Workers/Human Services Professionals

March 31-April 28, Every Tuesday, 12:00PM-1:00PM Weekly

Join other Wisconsin social workers and human services professionals for a live, weekly video check-in to socially connect and give/receive support during this difficult season. This group will be facilitated by Heather Hansen, Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist from our Green Bay office. The group size will be limited, so please pre-register via Eventbrite.

If you have any questions, please contact heather@wisapsp.org.

ONLINE Supportive Check-in: For adult adoptees

April 1 –April 22, Every Wednesday, 7:00PM-8:00PM Weekly

Join other adult adoptees for a live, weekly video check-in to socially connect and give/receive support during this difficult season. This group will be facilitated by Lorayne Harrison, adult adoptee and intern with Adoption & Permanency Support from our Madison office, and will meet Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM. The group size will be limited, so please pre-register via Eventbrite.

If you have any questions, please contact lorayne@wisapsp.org.

ONLINE Supportive Check-in: For caregivers of young children

April 2-April 30, Every Thursday, 10:00AM-11:00AM Weekly

Join other adoptive & guardianship caregivers with young children for a live, weekly video check-in to socially connect and give/receive support during this difficult season. This group will be facilitated by Chelsey Zommers, Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist from our Wausau office, and will meet Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM. The group size will be limited, so please pre-register via Eventbrite.

If you have any questions, please contact chelsey@wisapsp.org.

ONLINE Supportive Check-in: PM Coffee Talk for Adoptive/ Guardianship Parents

April 2-April 30, Every Thursday, 6:30PM-7:30PM Weekly

Join other adoptive & guardianship parents or caregivers for a live, weekly video check-in to socially connect and give/receive support during this difficult season. This group will be facilitated by Judi Hoang, Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist from our Madison office, and will meet Thursday evenings at 6:30PM. The group size will be limited, so please pre-register via Eventbrite.

If you have any questions, please contact judi@wisapsp.org.

ONLINE Educational Support Group for Adoptive & Guardianship Parents

April 30th –July 16, 7:30PM-9:00PM Monthly

We all can agree that parenting is not an easy job- especially parenting children who have experienced trauma. Sometimes adoptive or guardianship parents need to be able to talk with someone else who really "gets it". You are invited to join WI Adoption & Permanency Support from the comfort of your own home for a once a month, evening online support group. There will be short video segments on a selected topic each session and plenty of time for discussion and support.

La CROSSE & SURROUNDING area



TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://www.wisapsp.eventbrite.com) OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Susan McParker** in our La Crosse office at susan@wisapsp.org or 608-519-8023

April

All April Events Have Been Cancelled

All April events have been cancelled due to precautions for the Covid-19 pandemic. We are sorry for any inconveniences this may cause. Thank you for your understanding.

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June

Roller Skating at High Rollers:

June 6, 10:00AM-11:45PM

High Rollers, La Crosse

Adoptive, foster and kinship families come and skate at High Roller Skating Center of La Crosse in the morning of June 6th from 10:00-11:45AM. Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program has rented the rink and we'll have it to ourselves! Admission and the price of regular skates or rollerblades will be covered. Socks are required. The playground will also be open for youth up to 5th grade. Children 2-5yrs old require direct parent supervision.

Adult Adoptee Dinner: La Crosse

June 12, 6:00PM-7:30PM

Senor Villa, La Crosse

Are you an adult adoptee? Join WI APS staff and other adoptees for an evening of good food and great conversation at Senor Villa on June 12th. Please reserve your seat at the table before June 9th. Your meal is on us!

Horse Experience

June 17, 1:30PM-4:00PM

Bit-n-Bridle Equine Stables, Onalaska

Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program invites adopted, foster and kinship youth (ages 5 and up) to come out to Bit-n-Bridle Equine Stables for a chance to experience horses in a fun and safe way. Bit-n-Bridle staff will engage the youth in leading and brushing horses. Opportunities will include other basics of caring for horses, saddle time, and other learning experiences. A hay ride will be included as well as snacks. All riders and participants will need to fill out a liability release form before interacting with horses.

Horse Experience Morning

June 24, 9:30AM-12:00PM

Bit-n-Bridle Equine Stables, Onalaska

Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program invites adopted, foster and kinship youth (ages 5 and up) to come out to Bit-n-Bridle Equine Stables for a chance to experience horses in a fun and safe way. Bit-n-Bridle staff will engage the youth in leading and brushing horses. Opportunities will include other basics of caring for horses, saddle time, and other learning experiences. A hay ride will be included as well as snacks. All riders and participants will need to fill out a liability release form before interacting with horses.

Sensory Integration, Regulation & Reflexes: Onalaska

June 30, 6:00PM-7:30PM

Onalaska Library, Onalaska

The Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program is excited to have an experienced pediatric Occupational Therapist share how sensory input shapes behavior, reflex systems, and protection & survival adaptations. The focus of this session is on the ability to impact change with a simple set of tools and the ability to make someone's life easier. We'll learn about how reflexes work to automatically regulate each of our bodies under normal conditions in reaction to normal stress, or traumatic situations. This information can help you understand how reflexes play a big roll in maturation, development, and normal life function. Healthy reflex integration leads to normal functioning, and there are restorative techniques that can help with integration.

**JOIN an online GROUP &
FOLLOW US ON**

[FACEBOOK.COM/WISAPSP/](https://www.facebook.com/wisapsp/)



eau CLAIRE & SURROUNDING area

TO RSVP or with questions, visit wisapsp.eventbrite.com OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Anne Rozeboom** in our Eau Claire office at anne@wisapsp.org or 608-519-8065

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June

[Birth Parent Get-Together: Eau Claire](#)

June 9, 6:00PM-8:00PM

Cabin Coffee, Altoona

This group is open to ALL birth parents who have had a child placed for adoption, no matter what type of adoption or agency involved. Come ask your questions and meet others who share a similar story. Feel free to bring a support person if you would like. We will be meeting in Cabin Coffee's parking lot and then walking to River Prairie Park.

[Photo Day for Families on the Adoption & Permanency Spectrum \(Including Foster Care & Kinship Placement\): Fall Creek](#)

June 13, 10:00AM– 7:00PM

Kayleen Soden Photography, Fall Creek

We know it can be difficult to get family portraits done. Time and finances both get in the way of making those lasting memories with a professional behind the camera.

Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support has teamed up with Kayleen Soden of Kayleen Soden Photography (previously Dotty's SIMPLY YOU Photography) again to create an event intended to help you jump those hurdles.

Registration for the event will be on Eventbrite, payment will be through Pay Pal and a photo agreement will be done electronically prior to the event.

[Pool Party for Adoptive, Guardianship/Kinship Families, Adult Adoptees & Birth Families](#)

June 14, 6:00PM-8:00PM

Fairfax Pool, Eau Claire

Start your summer with a night of free admission to the Fairfax Outdoor Pool. This is a favorite annual get-together for those touched by adoption, with the pool reserved just for our group! The concession stand will be open too. Adults must accompany children. Please register online through Eventbrite prior to June 10th.

[FOSTERing Connections Dinner: Hudson](#)

June 23 5:30PM-7:30PM

The Green Mill Restaurant, Hudson

CURRENT foster parents are invited to meet for an evening of dinner connection. Meals will be paid for and childcare stipends will also be available to those needing to secure child care in order to attend. Please register on Eventbrite prior to May 17th.

[Adoptive Parent and Guardianship Educational Support Group](#)

Monthly

Catholic Charities, Eau Claire

June 24-October 28, 6:00PM-7:30PM

Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support invites you to join us for a new, free, educational support group at our Eau Claire office. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Get connected! Call or text us 24/7 at

1-833-WIS-APSP

Please RSVP for all events as notification of any changes or cancellations will, in most cases, be sent to registered attendees only.



Green Bay & SURROUNDING area

TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://www.wisapsp.eventbrite.com) OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Heather Hansen** in our Green Bay office at heather@wisapsp.org or 920-272-8240.

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June

The Ruins Mini Golf Family Fun Event: Oconto

June 16, 6:00PM-8:00PM

The Ruins Mini Golf, Oconto

Join WI APS for our family fun event at The Ruins Mini Golf! This event is open to all adoptive, foster, guardianship, and kinship families. WI APS will cover the cost of golfing as well as one ice cream treat per guest! Please direct any questions to Heather Hansen at 920-272-8240 or heather@wisapsp.org

Parent's Night Out: Green Bay

June 23, 6:00PM-7:30PM

Titeltown Brewing Company, Green Bay

Attention all adoptive parents, foster parents, guardianship and kinship parents: Join WI Adoption and Permanency Support for our Parent's Night Out! Connect with other parents over a delicious dinner! Attendees are responsible for the cost of their meal. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Heather Hansen at 920-272-8240 or heather@wisapsp.org.

MADISON & SURROUNDING area

TO RSVP or with questions, visit [wisapsp.eventbrite.com](https://www.wisapsp.eventbrite.com) OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Jessica Wright** in our Madison office at jessica@wisapsp.org or 608-692-2910



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June

Family Fun at the Mini Golf Course: Madison

June 17, 5:30PM-7:30PM

Vitense Golfland, Madison

Please join us for some family fun and pizza at the mini golf course! Open to adoptive, foster, kinship, and guardianship families. Families can start with a pizza dinner in the party room and then head out to the mini-golf course. Vitense Golfland has two outdoor mini golf courses and one indoor course to choose from.

Night at the Museum - Madison Children's Museum

June 26, 6:00PM-8:00PM

Madison Children's Museum, Madison

Please join us at the Madison Children's Museum for night of family fun and socializing with other adoptive families! We are renting out the entire first and second floors of the museum. Dinner provided too!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.WISAPSP.ORG](https://www.wisapsp.org)

Please RSVP for all events as notification of any changes or cancellations will, in most cases, be sent to registered attendees only.



MILWAUKEE & SURROUNDING area



TO RSVP or with questions, visit wisapsp.eventbrite.com OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialists **Pattie Godsell** and **Trisha Pavicich** in our Milwaukee office at pattie@wisapsp.org or 414-369-7489.

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June

Coffee Chat in June for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in the Milwaukee Area

June 4, 10:00AM-11:30AM

The Hub, West Bend

Grandparents raising their grandchildren are welcome to gather for a cup of coffee and a "get to know you" chat. Please come hear about the WI Adoption and Permanency Support Program here in Milwaukee and connect with other grandparents that are raising their grandchildren. We hope to see you there and we look forward to assisting you in connecting with others who share similar experiences!

FAR nORTHERN REGION

TO RSVP or with questions, visit wisapsp.eventbrite.com OR contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Shannon Severud** in our Eau Claire office at shannon@wisapsp.org or 608-519-8056.



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June

Adoptive/Foster/Relative Caregiver Family Aquarium Day & Picnic

June 6, 12:00PM-3:30PM

Great Lakes Aquarium, Duluth

Adoptive/Foster/Relative Caregiver families, come join us for a picnic & play time at the park and then an afternoon at the Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth.

We will meet at 12:00PM at Playfront Park in front of the aquarium for a picnic lunch & play time (bring your own lunch).

At 1:30PM we will be admitted into the Great Lakes Aquarium. You can then stay as long as you would like.

Please register on Eventbrite prior to June 2nd.

FOLLOW us on



FACEBOOK.COM/WISAPSP/

Please RSVP for all events as notification of any changes or cancellations will, in most cases, be sent to registered attendees only.



WAUSAU & SURROUNDING AREA

TO RSVP or with questions, visit wisapsp.eventbrite.com or contact Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist **Chelsey Zommers** in our Wausau office at chelsey@wisapsp.org or 608-519-8057

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June

Family Mini Golfing

June 13, 1:00PM-2:30PM

Settlers Mill, Minocqua

The Wisconsin Adoption and Permanency Support program is hosting a family fun day to go mini golfing! Come out and enjoy the warm weather and meet other families in your area! Open to all pre-adoptive, post adoptive, foster, kinship, and guardianship families! The cost of mini golf will be covered, but other expenses (arcade, ice cream) will be at your own expense. Please reserve your spot on Eventbrite by June 8th.

FOSTERing Connections: Parents Night Out in Greenwood

June 20th, 5:00PM– 7:00PM

Wedges Creek Hideaway, Greenwood

Foster parents, this night is all about you! Come join us for brick oven pizza and a night of fun! (Music may be there as well as their line-up isn't complete for the summer quite yet). We will meet at 5:00PM to try to get a table right away as there are no reservations. Dress for the weather as it is in a barn/tent facility! Please reserve your spot on Eventbrite by June 16th as there is limited availability. Pizza will be paid for, drinks at your own expense.

Mom's Day Out - Canvas and Board Painting: Wausau

June 27, 1:00PM-2:30PM

Clay Corner Studio LLC, Wausau

Come enjoy good company while doing a canvas painting or creating a pallet board sign! This day is intended for mom's to take a break and have some fun! Pick from an assortment of designs and make it your own. The event is free (your art included) and dessert will be provided as well! Feel free to arrive around 12:45PM to get settled and choose your design. Please RSVP on Eventbrite by June 23rd to claim your spot, as they are limited!

HAVE YOU MET CHELSEY?



Introducing our new Adoption & Permanency Support Specialist in Wausau, Chelsey Zommers!

"I have three children, ages 1,3,5, and two fur babies (White Lab and English Mastiff). Our household is crazy 24/7 and I absolutely love it, usually. So far, I love how supportive and helpful everyone in Wisconsin APS is to each other, and that the people I get to work with are all doing something meaningful and helping those who need it the most.

My favorite things to do when I'm not at work is spend time with my family, anything that involves working out/athletic activities and going to Target. I also love chocolate and my favorite color is purple."



Save the date for these upcoming fall conferences!

Friday,
September 25th
9AM—3PM

Bryan Post: Parenting from Fear to Love

Based on his best-selling adoption and foster care book, this presentation gives an overview of the Stress Model theory and explains how it can be applied to the most severe behaviors. After providing a thorough bodymind explanation for how stress and trauma impact behavior, Bryan Post will give techniques and how to deal with problem behaviors.

St. Norbert College, 100 Grant St, De Pere, WI 54115

Cameron Lee Small: "This is Why I Was Adopted: Navigating Loss on a Journey Toward Hope"

Join service providers around the nation as Cameron Lee Small, the founder of Therapy Redeemed in Minneapolis walks staff and parents through his personal search for his mother in Korea; a curriculum based on his recently published book *This is Why I Was Adopted*. Professionals will gain clinical competencies that can be applied immediately to their work in the local community. Parents will gain access into Cam's raw experience of grieving and restoration, with co-created applications specific to the group's unique and real-time needs; especially applicable as many marginalized communities navigate the aftermath of COVID-19.

Dove Healthcare-West, 1405 Truax Blvd, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Friday,
October 23rd

A Place in My Heart -

Robyn Gobbel: Grief & Loss in Foster & Adopted Children & Families

Foster Care & Adoption always begins with loss. Grief is inherent, although when and how children experience, express, and process their grief varies substantially. When parents, professionals, therapists and other helpers honor the grief inherent in foster care & adoption and understand the complexities of their losses, we open ourselves up to being more fully present for children to process their grief. This workshop will cover the losses inherent in foster care and adoption, grief related to adoption (including ambiguous loss), understanding why children grieve for abusive and neglectful families, supporting children through big, confusing, and overwhelming feelings, and how to notice if our own feelings may be being triggered and preventing us from being fully present for children. We will also cover how adults can best support children and families when children are inevitably transitioned...sometimes with little notice. This day-long workshop will include videos and small group discussions. Robyn is an engaging, connected, and humorous presenter, and attendees report feeling relieved that a heavy topic was covered in a way that left them feeling confident and not overwhelmed, yet aware of the complexities in grief and loss in foster care and adoption.

Wilderness Resort, 511 E Adams St, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Saturday,
November 7th
9AM—4PM

Nailed it! Try this at Home—Show us on Facebook!
Look for the pinned post “Try this at Home!” and add your photo of the process or finished product.

FUN INDOOR ACTIVITIES

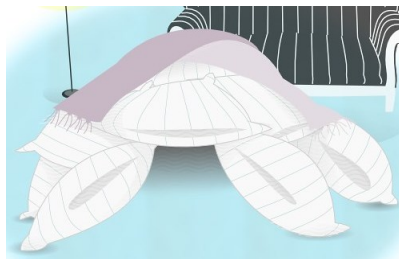
Build a Blanket Fort

Building a blanket fort is a great way to spend the day! Not only are they fun, blanket forts are also a great way to get the family working together, being creative, and spending quality time hanging out. At Wisconsin Adoption and Permanency Support we've found a great and easy way to make an awesome blanket fort!

The Tent

This way is simple, some might call it cheating.

- Clear out a large space in your house
- Set up a 2-4 person camping tent
- Drape Christmas lights over tent (optional)
- Cover with blankets
- Fill with pillows, and maybe a TV or laptop for movies
- Done!



Spring Chicks Egg Carton Craft

This art and craft project is fun, simple and festive for Easter! What you'll need:

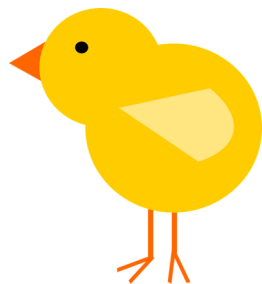
- Egg Carton
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paint and brush
- Construction paper

Directions:

- Cut out two egg holders from egg carton
- Glue the egg holders together
- Paint
- Give the chick some eyes, a beak, and maybe some feathers
- Done!

Follow the link below to see where we got this idea and for more great arts and crafts projects!

<https://typicallysimple.com/spring-chicks-egg-carton-craft>



TASTY TREATS TO make

Quick and Easy Lemon Cookies

Ingredients:

- Box of lemon cake mix
- 8oz cool whip topping
- 1 egg

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Mix cool whip and egg together
- Mix cake mix in with egg and cool whip
- Evenly spread tablespoon sized scoops of batter onto baking sheet
- Bake for 10 minutes
- Let cool
- Dust with powder sugar and enjoy!



Mice Creams

Ingredients:

- Mini graham cracker crusts
- Vanilla ice cream
- Your choice of small cookies (we suggest Oreos or Thin Mints)
- Chocolate chips or M&Ms
- Chocolate sprinkles
- Black liquorish

Directions:

- Place 1 scoop of ice cream into mini crust
- Tuck cookies as ears and liquorish as tail into ice cream
- Press chocolate chip eyes and nose into place
- Press sprinkle whiskers into place
- Enjoy!

Winter 2020 Highlights!

FAR NORTH REGION



Foster & Adoptive Family Fun BINGO event at the Rice Lake Public Library last Saturday. The kids LOVED the prizes!

eau CLAIRE REGION



Families had a great time at the High Rollers Skating Center of Eau Claire! Wisconsin Adoption and Permanency Support families were able to have the whole roller rink to themselves!

Free admission and food was available for all who attended!



GREEN BAY REGION



WI APS teens enjoyed a fun outing at Edge VR Arcade and Gamers Lounge in Green Bay. They spent time playing many different VR games, as well as Xbox games and old school video games. Some of the parents even joined in the fun!

MILWAUKEE REGION



The Sled Dog event was a huge success! Families got to meet and take pictures with the Door County Sled Team. Such photogenic doggos!



Winter 2020 Highlights!

MADISON REGION



Great turnout at our Night at the Museum event. Families had a great time at the Black Earth Children's Museum.

La CROSSE REGION

Families enjoyed playing inside at the La Crosse Wellness Center.



Giving Incredible Families Tools for Success



The GIFTS Program is our short-term, in-home support program for post-adoptive or guardianship families with a higher level of need to support permanency. It is a strengths-focused, trauma-informed program. If a family is determined to be eligible for the program, a GIFTS Case Manager will work closely with that family in their home over the next 6 months to assist in:

- Finding resources
- Navigating cross-system needs
- Identifying family strengths and goals
- Offering consistent support and advocacy

To find out more about the program or determine eligibility, give us a call at our toll-free number or fill out our [First Step Form](#).