

HANDS-ON ENLIGHTENMENT

2025- Preschool-Elementary Families & Professionals Conference

For Families and Professionals of Children with Visual Impairments

Located at WCBVI (Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired),
1700 W. State Street, Janesville WI 53546 (1-608-758-6100)

Conference Agenda

Session Numbers and Time	Topic, Description, and Location
Family Connection March 14, 2025 6:30 – 8:00 pm	Family Connection Parents can meet other registered parents in the front lobby of the Tru by Hilton, 2702 Pontiac Pl, Janesville, WI 53545• (608) 302-3838. The subjects discussed will be those of interest to the group. The connections that develop between families are the most meaningful results of our conferences! This session is the start of that connection. Tricia Weis will be present.
Registration Saturday March 15, 2025 7:30 – 8:00 am	Located at WCBVI Front Lobby 1700 W State St., Janesville WI 53546 The lobby is located in the main doors in front of the circle drive. Park your car in the ESC parking lot to the right of the circle drive.
Welcome 8:00 – 8:50 AM	Welcome Note & Services WCBVI Auditorium (Located behind front Lobby)
Breakout Sessions #1 9:00 - 10:15 am	1. <u>O&M 101: Movement and Play</u> with Kay Rhode, Meghan Fredel & Lisa Hoard located in the Gym Learn about the benefits of movement and play, starting O&M at a young age, how Physical Education (PE) and O&M services support the children, the O&M assessment process, and what you can do at home!

	<p>Kay Rhode and Meghan Fredel are Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists (COMS). Lisa Hoard was the Physical Education assistant at WSBVI for 10 years. They are ready to answer your questions and provide you with resources.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will learn the roles of the Department of Public Instruction and Department of Health Services related to O&M services. • Participants will learn how the Expanded Core Curriculum applies to young children. • Participants will explore activities that they can take home to try with their children. <p>2. <u>ECC (Expanded Core Curriculum) Activities for Home Independence</u> with Jessie Grober, Located in the Short Course Kitchen</p> <p>ECC activities for home independence - Come learn a brief overview of what the ECC is and then learn and practice some ECC activities you can do at home to help your students gain independence.</p> <p>3. <u>Sensory Success: Practical Tips for Preschool and Elementary Students</u> with Jason Wolbers, Located in the physical therapy room</p> <p>Sensory Integration for Children with Blindness and Visual Impairment - WHY Sensory Integration is important, WHEN to use it, and HOW to do it all from home</p>
<p>Breakout Sessions #2 10:30 – 11:45 am</p>	<p>1. <u>Try Technology!</u> With Amy Snow, Located in the Technology Room</p>

	<p>Five technology stations with different assistive technology devices will be set up with a unique goal or “challenge” at each one. After a short demonstration of each station (15 minutes at most) attendees will be encouraged to move among the stations, trying each one to complete the “challenge”.</p> <p>2. <u>Little Peanuts Sensory Activity Enlightenment</u> with Dawn Soto & Tricia Weis Located in the Little PEANUTS Center</p> <p>Experience as if you were a Little PEANUT yourself! Participate in what it is like as an Early Childhood student with simulated activities just as your visually impaired child will. You will be hands-on and elbow deep in fun!</p> <p>3. <u>Low Vision Experience</u> with Alisha Ragainis, Located in classroom #</p> <p>Experience a real class like your child with low vision might experience. Learn the importance of accommodations and modifications your child will rely on for success.</p>
<p>Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch WCBVI Lunchroom Marco’s Pizza and Ceasar Salad</p>
<p>Breakout Sessions #3 1:00– 2:15 pm</p>	<p>1. <u>Cooking with Kids is Fun!</u> With Jessie Grober, Located in the Short Course Kitchen</p> <p>Cooking with kids is fun! Different stations will be set up around the short course kitchen area for parents to come learn about different tools that are available to help when cooking with your kids! You will be able to try out different tools and learn ways to adapt your kitchen at home for your child.</p>

	<p>2. <u>Memory Book Scavenger Hunt Experience & Take-Away</u> with Colleen Kickbush, Located in the Little PEANUTS Center</p> <p>Our Memory Book Scavenger Hunt offers a fun, interactive, multi-sensory way for children to experience the world around them. Families will explore the conference location and collect sensory items to build a collection of memories of the conference experience. Enjoy creating your customized memory book that will provide lasting connections between literacy and meaningful family experiences!</p> <p>3. <u>How does an Orientation & Mobility Instructor Support Young Children who are Dependent on Wheelchairs for Mobility?</u> located in the Gym</p> <p>Learn about the benefits of starting O&M at a young age, the O&M assessment process, and what you can do at home! This is a movement lab experience for families to better understand how to support their child's orientation and mobility needs, who use wheelchairs. Kay Rhode and Meghan Fredel are Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists (COMS) who are ready to answer your questions and provide you with resources.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants will understand the impact using a wheelchair has on sensory information. • Participants will come away with an understanding of various educational activities for individuals who use a wheelchair. • Participants will learn the levels of travel independence.
<p>Break 2:15 – 2:45pm</p>	<p>Snack Break WCBVI Lunchroom</p>

	A snack break
<p>Breakout Sessions #4 2:45 – 4:00 pm</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Braille Games</u> with Tricia Weis & Dawn Soto located in the Center of the Arts Come learn the basic braille alphabet by having fun playing games. 2. <u>Literacy Book Box Activity</u> with Colleen Kickbush Our Literacy Book Box activity enhances literacy skills and fosters a love for reading through sensory exploration. You and your child will create a themed box filled with tactile, audio, and scent-based items that relate to a specific book. As parents read, children can explore these multisensory items, making the story more interactive. This activity encourages imaginative storytelling, vocabulary building, listening comprehension, and more in an accessible and enjoyable way. 3. <u>Residential Experience</u> with Andy Soto, Dean of Students, located in Woodruff Residential Hall Take a walk-through Woodruff Residential Hall and experience what a student's residential life is like at WSBVI.
<p>AEM Center 4:00-4:30 pm</p>	<p><u>AEM (Accessible Education Material) Center</u> with Dawn Soto</p> <p>Please join Dawn Soto in the ESC AEM Center if you are interested in learning about the materials available for children/students.</p>
<p>Evaluation Time! 4:00-4:45 pm</p>	<p>Evaluation Please place evaluations in baskets located at the front desk area (in front of auditorium) before leaving the building. Thank you.</p>



Time To Evaluate!

Evaluations are extremely important!

Your evaluation will help us improve future conferences.

Thank you for attending!

Sincerely,

WCBVI (Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired) Outreach Team

The 2025 Preschool/Elementary Conference is sponsored by: