



Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

## CORE Conversations with Families in Birth to 3

Module 3: Strategies for talking with parents about  
*community, opportunity, relationships and enjoyment*  
to better understand their priorities.

A Presentation by Molly Murphy, Ph.D.  
August 3, 2016

# CORE Conversations



*Community Opportunity Relationships Enjoyment*

C O R E

# CORE

- **Community** where we live, work and play together
- **Opportunity** when we practice, participate, contribute
- **Relationships** who we love, who gives and receives support
- **Enjoyment** how we feel about one another, what sustains us

- CORE Conversations offer Birth to 3 providers a strategy to use in their conversations with parents raising young children with disabilities that emphasizes natural, ordinary, unpaid supports.

# CORE Conversations Online Training Module

- For Birth to 3 providers
- For parents who are interested in facilitating a CORE parent group
- Self directed learning
- Links to additional printed CORE resources

# CORE Conversations Module Format

The content for this online training is based on:

The CORE of a Good Life:

Guided Conversations with Parents on Raising  
Young Children with Disabilities

by

Molly Murphy and Mark Sweet (2009)



You can download a free .pdf copy  
of the CORE Guide with the link below

[http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/pdfs/  
products/early/CORE\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/pdfs/products/early/CORE_Guide.pdf)



# Support

CORE Conversations and this online module were developed with the financial support of these partners:

- Waisman Center Natural Supports Project
- WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
- WI Birth to 3 Program
- Disability Rights Wisconsin

# Organization of this Module

- This online training provides a description of the ideas and strategies first presented in the CORE Guide (2009).
- We invite learners to refer to the first CORE Guide for indepth descriptions of these ideas and strategies to integrate into their work with families.

# Learning objective

## Module 2

To gain strategies for talking with parents about *community, opportunity, relationships and enjoyment* to better understand their priorities.

Why talk about  
community, opportunity,  
relationships and enjoyment?

# Find the balance

Families and their community partners are discovering that it doesn't always require special services and paid supports for children with disabilities to participate and contribute at home, at childcare, in school and in community activities.



# When we talked with parents and providers...

They said that many of their conversations focused on finding professional services and resources.



Parents said they often felt that because of a lack of resources that they had to give up many things that were important to them.





The ordinary experiences they wanted for themselves and their families did not seem to be available or possible.



**A focus on child first, parent first, does not minimize the daily challenges and resources needs when a child has significant medical or development challenges.**



CORE Conversations *connect* parents who are raising children with disabilities to the *ordinary* activities, experiences and relationships that will lead to *ordinary lives*.





# What if we asked all families the same questions?

- Where do you spend time? Where do you want to spend more time, less time?
- What do you want you and your child to get better at doing?

- Who are the people you see or spend time with regularly? Are there other people you would like to be a part of your family's life?
- What do you enjoy doing with your child and family? What do you think you might enjoy doing more often?

# Let's talk.....

When we ask, parents will tell us .....

- About the places they want to go
- About the activities they want to be a part of
- About the relationships they have and those that they want to explore
- About how they want to enjoy and appreciate their child

What would they tell us?

About.....



# COMMUNITY

Let's talk about how families will live, work, play and connect with extended family members, neighbors, friends and other community members.

Where do you like to spend time?  
Where would you like to spend time more often



# OPPORTUNITY

Let's talk about how children and families will have chances to learn while pursuing interests and interacting and participating in everyday opportunities and activities.

What do you and your child like to do together?  
What would you like to do that you cannot do  
right now?



# RELATIONSHIPS

Let's talk about how children will make friends, be included and have relationships with supportive adults, while also making an important contribution to those relationships.



Who do you and your child spend time with?  
Is there anyone you would like to know you  
child a little better?



# ENJOYMENT

Let's talk about how children and families will live as they want to live, finding fun, pleasurable interactions and supportive relationships to balance the challenges life brings.



What is really fun to do with your child?  
What makes the two of you laugh?



# CORE:

a mass of iron serving to concentrate and intensify  
the magnetic field



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C O R E

# To continue learning about CORE Conversations.....

- **Module 4** Use parent priorities about community, opportunity, relationships and enjoyment to identify meaningful outcomes.
- **Module 5** Ideas on how to add *natural and ordinary supports* to the options you encourage families to consider.





# Wisconsin Department of Health Services

WI DHS Birth to 3 Program partnered with Molly Murphy, Ph.D., presenter and co-author of the CORE Guide (2009), to make the CORE Conversations training and materials available to Birth to 3 providers across the state.

Molly is a clinical assistant professor and Director of the Waisman Center Autism Treatment Programs in partnership with UW Health, at the University of Wisconsin- Madison.

Molly holds a doctorate in Behavioral Disabilities with an emphasis in early childhood special education from the University of Wisconsin Madison, is a licensed Behavior Analyst and a certified Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) therapist.

Molly has supported families raising children with disabilities across WI for many years; as an educator in Birth to 3, inclusive preschool teacher, lead supervisor for in home and clinic based autism treatment and as a parent education and parent leadership group facilitator.

If you would like information on CORE Conversations, or permission to use these materials outside of your Birth to 3 Program, you can contact Molly at 608-263-8033 or email [memurph3@waisman.wisc.edu](mailto:memurph3@waisman.wisc.edu)

# For additional information

If you have questions, would like to use CORE Conversations in a Birth to 3 training, or would like continued training for your agency in CORE contact:

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Any training with the CORE materials, outside of WI Birth to 3 agency use for their own teams is prohibited. Any other use of these materials requires permission from the author.

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