

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

May 3-9, 2026

wired for belonging

Everyone can promote youth belonging!

Belonging is the feeling of being welcomed, accepted, respected, and valued within one's social environment, including family, friends, school, and community.

Belonging is important because:

- It is critical to both physical and mental health.
- It is foundational to child well-being.



Gov. Evers Declares 2026 the Year of the Neighbor!

Wisconsinites get through things together! Get to know your neighbors, look out for one another, and maintain Wisconsin's values of kindness, empathy, compassion, and respect.

3 Things NEIGHBORHOODS Can Do to Promote Youth Belonging

- 1** Support afterschool programs and make available to all income levels.
 - ▶ Parents overwhelmingly agree afterschool programming keeps kids safe, helps build positive relationships and meaningful connections, and improves well-being. ([source](#))
- 2** Cultivate welcoming Third Spaces.
 - ▶ Libraries offer safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments that help youth explore their interests, connect to trusted adults, and foster community connections. ([source](#))
- 3** Prioritize and promote youth volunteer opportunities.
 - ▶ People who participate in community service and helping others have better mental health.



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