

Bureau of Early Intervention Services

Family Resources

The Bureau of Early Intervention Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), is committed to supporting families to meet the developmental needs of their children. Early Intervention respects families' strengths, values, diversity, and competencies. To enhance families' skills, the Bureau provides a range of resources designed specifically for families in Early Intervention.

Early Intervention Services (EI) are provided through the Bureau of Early Intervention Services, for eligible children with developmental delays and their families. To learn more about EI, contact CONNECT information services at 800-692-7288 or E-Mail: connecthelp@tiu.11.org

Early Intervention Family Resources

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania (P2P of PA) links families of children and adults with disabilities or special needs on a one-to-one basis with a Peer Supporter for purposes of support and information. P2P of PA can match for physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, special health care needs, behavioral/mental health concerns, foster care or adoption, and educational issues. Services are free and confidential.

Contact: P2P of PA, 1-888-727-2706, www.parenttoparent.org.

Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side™

Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side (GBYS)™ of PA is a specialized parent support program that links families of infants and toddlers newly identified with deafness and hearing loss throughout Pennsylvania with trained and experienced Parent Guides. Parent Guides are other parents of children with deafness and hearing loss who provide unbiased information, emotional support, and a perspective of optimism and hope on a shared journey. Services are free and confidential. GBYS™ is funded through the PA Department of Health.

Contact: Anne Gaspich, 800-360-7282 x 3908 (in PA only), agaspich@pattan.net

Competence and Confidence Partners in Policymaking Early Intervention (C2P2EI)

C2P2EI is an innovative leadership training program for parents of children in Early Intervention. C2P2EI provides up-to-date information on best practices, resources, and policy issues.

Contact: Cathy Rocchia-Meier, 215-204-1772, cathyrm@temple.edu, <http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/leadership/c2p2ei.shtml>

Parents as Partners in Professional Development (P3D)

P3D links family members to Early Intervention professional development and pre-service opportunities. Families share their insight and expertise in such roles as co-presenters, university guest lecturers, and publication reviewers. In certain instances, OCDEL is able to reimburse families for expenses and provide honorariums.

Contact: Mary Mikus, 800-441-3215 x 7277, mmikus@pattan.net

Early Intervention Family Resources *(cont.)*

Professional Development

The Bureau of Early Intervention Services provides professional development on a variety of topics related to Early Intervention. Family members are encouraged to participate in these events. Professional development is provided statewide through Early Intervention Technical Assistance, part of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network. To learn more about training in your area, contact your local Early Intervention program or go to www.pattan.net.

Pennsylvania Parent Centers

Four federally-funded Parent Centers are available to provide information, resources, and training opportunities to educate families about all aspects of Early Intervention and Special Education (from birth to age 21).

Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center (PEAL)

The PEAL Center helps parents with early intervention and education issues in western and central Pennsylvania. PEAL also helps families statewide with access to health care, health insurance, and access to services at home and in the community through the PEAL Family to Family Health Information Center (F2F). The PEAL Center provides individual information, technical assistance and training, including leadership training for families for children with disabilities and special health care needs (CSHCN).

www.pealcenter.org, 1-866-950-1040

Parent Education Network (PEN)

PEN serves south central, northeast, and southeast Pennsylvania (including Philadelphia).

www.parentednet.org, 800-522-5827 or 800-441-5028 (Español)

Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE)

HUNE serves, but is not limited to, Spanish-speaking families across the state.

<http://huneinc.org>, 215-425-6203

The Mentor Parent Program

The Mentor Parent Program serves rural northwest Pennsylvania.

www.mentorparent.org, 888-447-1431 PA only or 814-226-4151

Mission Empower

Mission Empower serves Erie County families who have children with the full range of disabilities, from birth to age 26, by providing individual assistance, as well as advocacy, training, and facilitation of parent involvement in their child's school. Contact Mission Empower by phone (855) 825-0788, email advocate@missionempower.org, or at www.missionempower.org.

