

## Understanding Challenging Behavior in Young Children

This workshop will help participants change the way they view and react to their children's challenging behavior. Participants will learn what their children's behavior is communicating, how to use positive behavior supports to encourage the development of new communication skills, and practical tips for promoting children's success.

## "Toddling" Toward Intervention: Steps to Take When You're Concerned about Your Young Child

Learn what steps parents and professionals can take when a young child is having difficulty at home or in an early childhood program. This presentation will describe how early intervention services can support children who are developing differently than their peers. Caretakers will also gain an understanding of when and how to proceed with the formal referral process for special education.

## The Transition Process: From Birth to Three to Special Education

Families of children enrolled in Birth to Three will increase their understanding of the transition process from Birth to Three services and will gain knowledge of the key components of special education services under IDEA. Participants will learn about their role as an equal partner of the PPT and ways that they can effectively advocate for their children and communicate with schools.

## Supporting Young Children

This presentation will explore the legal, practical and positive implications of including young children who have disabilities with typical peers in early childhood settings. Parents and professionals will learn about the research that supports inclusive programs and how Connecticut is putting this research into practice. Practical strategies and reasonable accommodations will be discussed.

# Parent and Professional Training



**Connecticut Parent  
Advocacy Center Inc.**

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### Next STEPs

#### Support and Training for Educators and Parents

Next STEPs is a training series that prepares and enables parents of children with special needs and educators to advocate for appropriate educational services for their children.

This training provides information on the following topics:

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Preparing for the PPT    | Effective Communication |
| Understanding the IEP    | Dispute Resolution      |
| Transition to Adult Life | Special Education Laws  |

Next STEPs training sessions are held one evening a week for three weeks. Participants should plan to attend the entire series. Each series is typically held in a different location throughout the state based on the community's interest. Participants are encouraged to use what they learn to make a difference in their community.

For more information or to bring a Next STEPs series to your area, please call CPAC at 1-800-445-2722.



The Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center, Inc. (CPAC) is a statewide non-profit organization that offers information, training and support to families of children with any disability or chronic illness, birth through age 26.

The following training opportunities are offered by Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center. All of our trainings are free for families. For school districts and professional groups a rate of \$150 per hour is charged. Sessions are tailored to meet individual group needs including trainings available in Spanish. For more information or to schedule a training, please call us at 1-800-445-2722.

### **The Nuts and Bolts of Special Education**

Parents of children with disabilities will be introduced to information on evaluations, record keeping, Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Section 504 and dispute resolution.

### **Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004)**

This training is designed to familiarize participants with the changes in IDEA '04. The focus is on special education and how parents can ensure their child is receiving an effective and appropriate special education program.

### **No Child Left Behind and Students with Disabilities**

The key elements of NCLB will be outlined and discussed during this training. Participants will also learn how the changes this legislation makes effect children with disabilities.

### **Developing the Individualized Education Program**

Parents will learn how they can become effectively involved in the development of the IEP. Information on the key components of an IEP and the current Connecticut IEP forms will be shared. The workshop will also offer guidance about developing measurable goals and tips for monitoring a student's progress.

### **Preparing for the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) Meeting**

This training focuses on preparing for the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) Meeting. It will explore the roles and responsibilities of both parents and professionals and share strategies for creating team relationships and having successful meetings.

### **Developing Positive Relationships Between Parents and Schools**

The importance of positive home-school relationships and the effect of these relationships on students' success will be discussed. Participants will learn barriers to successful relationships and strategies that families and schools can use to create meaningful relationships.

### **How to Become Your Child's Best Advocate**

Learn how to effectively communicate with your child's school and advocate for your child's appropriate education. Participants will learn tips on preparing for meetings with teachers, clearly communicating questions and goals, and how to foster positive relationships with your child's teachers.

### **What to Do When You Disagree**

The focus of this training is on positive communication and the continuum of conflict resolution options. Participants will learn several strategies for promoting positive communication within a team and will identify ways to resolve special education disputes including mediation, due process and complaints.

### **Effective Communication**

This training will help parents and professionals identify their communication strengths and weaknesses, and will offer strategies to help if obstacles arise.

### **Help! My Child is Struggling in School**

This training will explore regular education strategies used to support children having academic or behavioral difficulty. Participants will gain an understanding of Response to Intervention (RTI), an approach to supporting all children in school. The session will conclude with a review of the special education referral process.

### **Understanding ADHD**

This training will help educate parents, teachers and others about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and its implications for school success. It provides participants with information about ADHD, including behavior support for parents and instructional strategies for teachers.

### **Strategies and Accommodations for Children with Learning and/or Attention Difficulties**

Participants will become familiar with strategies, ideas and tools that can help children with learning disabilities or attention deficit disorders succeed at home and in the regular education classroom. Participants will learn how to contribute to the development of the IEP and how modifications and accommodations can support a child in the general education curriculum.

### **Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders**

This training provides an overview of issues related to autism, including common characteristics, practices for identification, and components of an effective program. Participants will learn about different types of Autism Spectrum Disorders and the triad of deficits that are associated with them.

### **IEP Goals 101: A Guide for Student Learning**

Participants will learn how to identify and use key information to incorporate into the present level of academic achievement and functional performance. Participants will also learn how to create measurable goals and objectives.

### **How Do I Know If My Child is Making Progress?**

Monitoring student's progress is important in determining the effectiveness of programming. This workshop will teach participants how using a child's IEP and effectively communicating with teachers will help monitor a child's progress.

### **Positive Behavioral Interventions: What Parents Need to Know**

Families will be introduced to a new way of thinking about their child's behaviors and about the need to advocate for behavioral supports. The workshop provides an overview of functional behavioral assessments and positive behavior interventions.

### **Discipline: Rights and Options for Students with Special Needs**

This training reviews issues related to discipline that face special needs students in school. Participants will become aware of the required process for suspension of a child with an IEP, learn the value of positive behavioral support programs and become familiar with the components and purpose of a functional behavioral assessment.

### **Transition from School to Adult Life**

Parents and professionals will gain an understanding of transition planning and how they can become more active participants in the process. Participants will gain knowledge of the legal requirements of IDEA, the availability of adult service agencies, and options for what lies ahead after high school.

Research continues to show that parent involvement is a critical element to ensuring the successful education of all students. In fact, to receive Part B IDEA funds from the CT State Department of Education, school districts are required to document their plan to increase parent participation. The CPAC trainings offered in this brochure may help districts meet those requirements.