



The Parent Leadership Project's *Parent Perspective*

(877) 35-EI-PLP ♦ www.eiplp.org ♦ eiplp@yahoo.com

Early Intervention Information and Resources

March 2007

Parent-to-Parent: Building Connections

DPH Invites Families to Explore Opportunities for Involvement

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), lead agency for Early Intervention, is committed to partnering with families to ensure that the Early Intervention system, as well as other DPH programs, continues to meet the needs of the children and families who receive services. As part of DPH's long-standing goal of increasing parent and family participation throughout the system, the Family Initiatives unit in the Division for Perinatal, Early Childhood and Special Health Needs is always seeking family input. The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project is a project of the Family Initiatives program and supports families of children enrolled in Early Intervention in developing lifelong advocacy and leadership skills.

Parents find many paths towards leadership. Many parents begin their leadership journey with small steps – attending workshops, connecting with other families facing similar concerns, or simply learning more about how the system works. The Department of Public Health, along with other state and community agencies, offers families a variety of opportunities for skill-building and becoming involved in all levels of the system. Throughout this issue of the newsletter, families can learn more about workshops, conferences, and other opportunities to develop their skills.

So what does it mean for families to “get involved” in the Early Intervention system? It can mean different things for each family, depending on their own unique situation. Filling out a survey or evaluation form for DPH is one simple way of ensuring that the system continues to be responsive to the needs of families. Parents who are interested in getting involved at the program level may decide to attend workshops hosted at their

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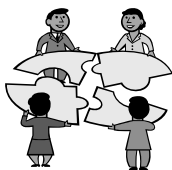
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Parent Involvement Opportunity

Parent Contacts: Making Connections



The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project (EIPLP) works in collaboration with families and Early Intervention staff to encourage family involvement and leadership at all levels of the early intervention system. Within this network of parent involvement is the Parent

Contact, an important link between programs, families, and the EIPLP.

Each of the 61 Early Intervention programs within Massachusetts is asked to enlist the assistance of one family member of a child who is currently enrolled in their program to be the Parent Contact. In fact, the role of the Parent Contact is so important that it is recognized as a program responsibility in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Operational Standards for

Early Intervention Services.

So, who is a Parent Contact and what do they do? A Parent Contact is a family member who is currently receiving Early Intervention services for their child and who volunteers to receive information from the Parent Leadership Project about upcoming skill-building workshops, new programs for children and ways to be involved in the Early Intervention system. Parent Contacts are asked to share that information with other families in their program through PAC (Parent Advisory Council) meetings, at playgroups or informally. They can share information with Early Intervention staff and with other community organizations such as playgroups, libraries or other places where children and families get together. In return, Parent Contacts

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Resources

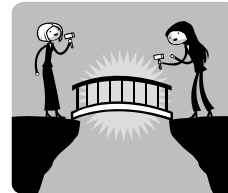
Coping with Hospitalization and Illness through Free Web Sites

Coping with the hospitalization of a young child can be a challenging experience for families. Being away from family, friends and other networks of support can be isolating, and dealing with the day-to-day stresses of being in the hospital with a small child can be frustrating and frightening. It may be difficult to find time to make phone calls to family and friends who are eager for updates on the child's condition. For those who are experiencing lengthy hospital stays for surgery, treatment or other concerns, having a way to connect with a network of supportive people can ease some of the anxiety of being away from home. It was that desire for support that led to the creation of CarePages and CaringBridge, two separate online resources that offer families a place to share information and allow family and friends to stay in touch during hospital stays.

Caring Bridge is a non-profit organization offering free, personalized websites to those wishing to stay in touch with family and friends during significant life events. Families can upload pictures and journal entries to their website, along with links to

medical information. Well-wishers can visit the site to read updates and leave messages in the Guestbook. More information about this resource is available at www.caringbridge.org.

CarePages is another web-based resource that allows families to share their experiences. CarePages are free, personal, private web pages that help friends and family communicate when someone is facing illness and hospitalization. Parents and family members can post and receive news updates about their child, and loved ones may leave messages on the site at any time. The secure CarePages also contain important contact information and hospital visiting hours. Their website, www.carepages.com gives information about setting up a secure page as well as tips and articles on coping with illness.



Support for Siblings of Children with Special Needs

The Sibling Support Project of the Arc of the United States is pleased to announce the creation of SibNet and SibKids Listservs. SibNet and SibKids are the internet's only listservs for and about brothers and sisters of people with special health, developmental and emotional needs.



Both SibKids (for younger brother and sisters) and SibNet (for older siblings) allow brothers and sisters an opportunity to connect with their peers from around the world. Both listservs have members from

the United States, Canada, Australia, England, Japan and elsewhere. SibNet and SibKids are remarkably warm, thoughtful and informative communities where young brothers and sisters share information and discuss issues of common interest.

Anyone who has an email address can subscribe to SibKids and SibNet. For a no-cost subscription and to learn more about these listservs, please visit the Sibling Support Project's web page at www.siblingsupport.org.

State Performance Plan Information Available to the Public

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 requires that all states publicly report State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Report (APR) information to the public. In addition to posting the state's SPP/APR on the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) website, the DPH will publically report local program data on eight SPP indicators related to Early Intervention. Some of the indicators on the State Performance Plan include timely provision of services, IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) meetings held within 45 days of referral, child find and transition information. Local program reports will highlight program performance on each indicator and provide a comparison of

local performance to the state target.

Information about these reports is available on both the DPH Early Intervention website (<http://www.mass.gov/dph/fch/ei.htm>) and at the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project website (www.eiplp.org). Specific information may also be received by contacting the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project toll-free at 1-877-353-4757. Please feel free to contact the Parent Leadership Project if you have any questions regarding this process

Family TIES of Massachusetts: *Together in Enhancing Support*

By Mary Castro Summers

Family TIES of Massachusetts is a network for parents of children with special health needs, disabilities or chronic illness. As parents of children with special needs, we realize that the most powerful source of support is other parents. Sharing information provides family members with knowledge and skills that help to improve our children's opportunities.

Family TIES staff can assist parents in gaining skills, both through our own workshops and opportunities offered in the community. "Let's Get Organized" offers effective ways for parents to organize information and manage medical and educational paperwork, plus offers general ideas on "keeping it together" and tips for developing community connections for your child that can help during the transition process and beyond. "Emergency Preparedness" focuses on planning for many types of emergency situations and community resources to help families develop a comprehensive plan for themselves and their child with special health needs. In "Listening and Learning," participants share their personal experiences in raising their child with special needs and develop their listening skills as they prepare to participate in the powerful experience of giving support to others.

A cornerstone of the Family TIES program is the Parent-to-Parent support network. Through this network, families can be matched with other parents who share similar experiences. Parents may request a match based on their child's diagnosis or other factors that are important to them. A support parent is someone who is trained to listen, share concerns, and offer information and support, with respect for confidentiality and cultural and individual differences. Support parents are

trained through Family TIES "Listening and Learning" workshop and have expressed a willingness to share their experiences and offer support to other families.

Parents should also be reminded that there are many ways to become involved in the communities that support their children. Some of these opportunities for involvement include participation in parent advisory groups at your child's Early Intervention program and later at school, involvement in a local support group or community action council working toward a common goal, or contact with statewide and national organizations that share your interests. Each of these opportunities can bring new meaning to your personal experiences, skills, and knowledge. Conferences, too, can add both to your knowledge base and also skills for managing your every-day life with a child with special needs in addition to offering the chance to connect with other families facing similar challenges who have gotten involved in systems of care. Please consider Family TIES as another resource for you to contact when you are looking for ways to expand your horizons. Family TIES can be contacted at 1-800-905-8437. Information is also available on their website at www.massfamilyties.org.

FAMILY TIES of Massachusetts



Together In Enhancing Support

Opportunity Knocks

Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium Conference: A Statewide Opportunity for Learning and Networking

On Wednesday and Thursday, May 9th and 10th, the Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium will host their 28th annual conference. This conference is a statewide educational opportunity for Early Intervention providers, other early childhood staff, and families of children who receive early intervention services. This year's conference is entitled "Changing Families, Changing Times" and will be held at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough.



The conference is an excellent opportunity to meet other parents of children in Early Intervention, learn more about topics of interest to children and families, and discover opportunities to

become involved in the Early Intervention system. Sessions at this year's conference will include topics such as Sensory Integration, Helping Children Enjoy Food, and Basic Rights, among many others. The Parent Leadership Project will also be presenting a session on "Finding Your Way", helping families learn more about the conference and other opportunities for involvement. The Parent Leadership Project also hosts a Parent Networking Dinner on Wednesday night for parents to relax, enjoy a special meal, and network with each other. For more information about this conference, please call the Parent Leadership Project toll-free at 1-877-353-4757 or e-mail at eiplp@yahoo.com.

Exploring Opportunities for Family Involvement (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Early Intervention center, such as a Turning Three workshop or other events. A parent may be interested in meeting with other families to form a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to offer suggestions and ideas to their EI program on ways to encourage family participation. Becoming a Parent Contact allows a family member to expand his or her knowledge of the EI system and the opportunities for families to get involved. The Hausslein Awards, created by the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project through generous funding from DPH, are yet another way that parents can join with their EI programs and community partners to make a difference for children.

For family involvement, one size doesn't fit all. Many parents find that they are eager to participate at the state level to impact decision-making. The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is one way that parents can have their voices heard as advisors to DPH. Family members can become regional representatives and be voting members of the ICC. Currently, the ICC is seeking a parent from the Metrowest region to join the council as a Regional Parent Representative. Parents are also invited to sit on any of the six standing ICC committees that meet once a month. The Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium Conference (see page 3) is another statewide opportunity. Other conferences are held at various times throughout the year and give family members the chance to meet others facing similar challenges as well as to learn new advocacy skills.

Sharing your story and talking about the ways in which Early Intervention can support children and families is another way for parents to become leaders. Each year, DPH is required to submit an application to the federal government

for Part C (Early Intervention) funding. As part of that process, a Public Hearing is held to solicit input from families and community members. On December 19, DPH held a Public Hearing on Early Intervention in Boston. Over 150 parents and family members attending this meeting, and several parents spoke of the impact that Early Intervention has had on their child and family. Additionally, DPH received over 100 letters from families that were submitted as written testimony.

Some family members are looking to make an even more concrete contribution to the system by working for EI programs, the Department of Public Health or the EIPLP. See page 8 for more information about a current opening in the project.

Parent involvement in Early Intervention has a positive impact on everyone involved. The Early Intervention system is able to understand family needs and incorporate them into the EI system of services. Family members who have become involved in the system through the Parent Leadership Project learn skills that help them in many ways, including being better able to negotiate in their place of employment, the educational system and the medical system. The leadership skills they gain allow them to become better advocates for their own and other children. Parent and family participation in programs can help to effect change and create systems of care that are more responsive to the needs of children and families.

For more information on ways to become involved, check the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project website at www.eiplp.org or call the toll free number at 1-877-353-4757.

Parent Contact (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

are asked to share family involvement activities and program news with the Parent Leadership Project.

The Parent Contact role is a volunteer opportunity that has benefits for families, programs and the Early Intervention system. Families are able to receive first-hand information about training opportunities, workshops and meetings that help them become better advocates for their children. The Early Intervention system, including programs, benefits by having an informed parent constituency who strive to build collaborative partnerships with providers who serve children and families. Family members who choose to volunteer as Parent Contacts often find that it can be an important first step in learning more about the Massachusetts' Early Intervention system and other opportunities for family involvement at local, state and

national levels.

Parent Contacts are invited to **"Be Our Guest"** at the Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium (MEIC) Conference. The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project, through generous support of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, provides conference registration, overnight hotel accommodations and a statewide parent networking dinner to Parent Contacts attending this conference.

There are several Early Intervention programs that do not currently have a Parent Contact. If you are interested in learning more about this leadership opportunity, please call the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project toll-free at 1-877-353-4757 or e-mail eiplp@yahoo.com.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Turning Three — March 21 at Thom Charles River Early Intervention Program, 411 Waverly Oaks Rd, Suite 305 from 7pm—9pm. This workshop, offered by the Federation for Children with Special Needs, provides information for families whose children will be transitioning out of Early Intervention. The focus of the discussion is on the differences between Early Intervention and publicly funded preschool programs for children with disabilities. The Turning Three workshop will also be offered at other locations in the spring. For more information, please visit the Federation for Children with Special Needs website at www.fcsn.org or call 1-800-331-0688.

“Let’s Get Organized” — April 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30pm, sponsored by the Webster PAC. This workshop, presented by Family TIES of Massachusetts, offers effective ways for parents to organize the medical, educational and other important paperwork for their child’s needs. To register for this program, please contact Barbara Donati at 508-792-7880 ext. 2337. This workshop will also be offered by Family TIES at other locations throughout the state. Please contact Family TIES at 1-800-905-8437 for other dates and locations.

Basic Rights — March 29 at Old Somerset Town Hall, 1478 County Street, Somerset from 6:30 to 8:30pm. The Basic Rights workshop, offered by the Federation for Children with Special Needs, supports parents in learning about their rights under federal and state special education laws and encouraging them to participate in the planning, decision-making and monitoring of their child’s special education services. For more information on dates and locations or to register, please call the Federation at 1-800-331-0688 or visit www.fcsn.org.

Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium Conference “Changing Families, Changing Times” — May 9 and 10 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough. This conference brings together Early Intervention staff, early childhood providers and families of children who are receiving Early Intervention services to learn about child development and the Early Intervention system. For more information, please contact the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project at 1-877-353-4757.

Family Support Festival “A Road Map for Success” — May 2 at Best Western Sovereign Hotel & Conference Center in West Springfield from 1pm-7pm. Resources tables will be available to assist families in learning about the many state and community resources that support children and adults with disabilities and their families. Mini-sessions will occur throughout the event with topics including Autism, Emergency Preparedness and Public Benefits. For more information please contact Mary Ann Brenna at 413-284-5055.

TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN



TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES

24th Annual
New England Regional Seminar
For Children with Visual Impairments and their
Families
(Birth –7)

Parents * Professionals * Children

Saturday, April 28
8:30am—3:00pm

Perkins School for the Blind
175 North Beacon St.
Watertown MA

This is a New England wide opportunity for parents of children with visual impairments or deafblindness to attend informational workshops and to network with other families of children with similar visual conditions. Sessions will include information on such topics as communication, pre-Braille, feeding issues, literacy and a teen panel. Childcare and lunch are provided. Contact Tom Miller for additional information at PreschoolProgam@Perkins.org

Community Resources for People with Autism 17th Annual Conference — April 10 from 8:30am to 4pm at the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House in Holyoke. The conference will focus on Biomedical findings and promoting positive behavioral supports for children with autism spectrum disorder. There is a registration fee for this conference. More information is available by calling 413-529-2428.

Emergency Preparedness — April 10th from 7 to 9pm at Duxbury Public Library. Presented by Family TIES of Massachusetts, this workshop focuses on helping families plan for many types of emergency situations and learning about community resources to help develop a comprehensive emergency plan. For more information, contact Karen Douglass at 781-774-6602.

WORKING TOGETHER

METROWEST

The **Jewish Family and Children's Services Early Intervention Program (JF&CS)** in Norwood organized a raffle in the fall. Through the efforts of staff and families, prizes were collected through November. The prize winners' names were drawn at an ice cream social event in December. Many families received some wonderful gifts, and the program raised enough money to help purchase supplies.

On January 23, **JF&CS** hosted a second meeting of school personnel and area Early Intervention programs. Eleven towns registered for the event which provides schools and EI programs the opportunity to share information about programs and eligibility.

On Wednesday evening March 21st **Thom Charles River Early Intervention Program** will be hosting "Turning Three", a workshop presented by The Federation For Children With Special Needs. The workshop is scheduled from 7-9 pm and will be held at the Program site, 411 Waverly Oaks Road, Suite 305, Waltham, MA. The Program would like to extend an invitation to both families and staff in the Waltham area, including Belmont, Watertown, Newton and Weston. If you plan to attend, please call the program at (781) 894-6564 to register. A head count is necessary to insure that there are enough handouts for everyone. In case of cancellation due to inclement weather, the back up date is Wednesday, April 4th. Transition is a time of excitement and anxiety, and Thom Charles River EI is pleased to be able to offer this workshop.

Parents in **Thom Charles River Early Intervention** received a Haussein EI Parent Leadership Award for "Let's Make Music". These parents noticed the positive response their children had to music during their Mother ~ Baby Group at Thom Charles River Early Intervention. With the support of Stacey Keane, program development specialist at Charles River, the proposal was developed. This new program will explore concepts in music as a medium for enhancing development while providing a shared musical experience between parent and child. This educational and fun program will bring together 10 parents and 4 staff and many babies and toddlers!

SOUTHEAST

In January, the **Kennedy Donovan Center EIP in Attleboro (KDC Attleboro)**, in collaboration with Self Help Inc. Community Partnership, presented another "Buddy Night". Because of the success of the first Buddy Night held in November, staff and families were excited to have this presented again. Buddy Night is an hour-long playgroup where children ages 2.5 – 4.5 years are accompanied by their fathers, grandfathers, uncles or other significant male figure. The children enjoyed playing with puff paint, free play, snack and a story. Another Buddy Night is planned for March.

The **KDC Attleboro PAC** (Parent Advisory Council) met on

January 29th to discuss upcoming events and socials. The PAC is a great opportunity for families to come together and share ideas. For more information about the PAC, please contact the program at 508-226-6035.

On February 26, Jan Randall, Parent Resource Specialist from Community Autism Resources, will hold "An Introduction to Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder" presentation at **KDC Attleboro**. Jan will cover information regarding myths surrounding Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and PDD-NOS. Future presentations include a workshop on "Toilet Learning" and a "Transition Night".

South Bay Early Intervention in Lowell (South Bay Lowell)

will be facilitating an 8-week "Baby and Me" play group for parents and children up to 17 months of age. Beginning on February 23, sessions will be held at South Bay's center on Fridays from 9am-10:30am. "Baby and Me" is a fun, interactive play group for parents and their children which offers education and resources regarding bonding and attachment, nutrition, sleeping, feeding, language development, infant massage, baby yoga, post-partum depression, adjusting to parenthood, and the social/emotional development of babies. For registration information, please contact Jennifer Eddy, development specialist, at 978-452-1736 ext. 65.

South Bay Lowell will also be offering another 12-week "Family Nurturing" series on Wednesday evenings from 5-6:30pm at the South Bay EI center beginning on February 21. The Family Nurturing program, for families who have experienced trauma or loss, helps parents learn self-nurturing as the first step in building relationships with their children. Topics include trust, developing positive self-esteem in parents and children, family values, positive communication, managing stress, and guiding children's behavior. Please contact Amanda Schofield, developmental specialist, at 978-452-1736 ext. 68 for more information or to register for this series.

The **Kennedy-Donovan Center EIP in New Bedford (KDC New Bedford)** would like to thank the congregation from St. John Neumann Church in Freetown and Holy Name Church in New Bedford for donating holiday gifts for many of our families. Because of their generosity, and an anonymous donation to the Kennedy-Donovan Center, many of the families in the EI program received gifts and gift cards.

KDC New Bedford also welcomes the addition of two Occupational Therapists to our staff. Sarah Collier, who is also CEIS, returns to the program from an extended maternity leave. Connie Smith previously worked in public schools as well as early intervention. Both bring years of experience in sensory integration and oral-motor disorders. KDC is pleased to add their expertise to the team!

FAMILY & EI PROGRAM COLLABORATION

NORTHEAST

Criterion-Stoneham Early Intervention Program

(Criterion-Stoneham EIP) recently hosted free discussions on Infant/Toddler Massage and Speech Development. The Center's Annual Valentine's Day Open House was a huge success with many families in attendance. Upcoming free events at Criterion-Stoneham EIP include a Turning Three Workshop being held in March, a discussion on "Potty Training" on March 21 at 1pm and "Discipline" on April 11 at 1pm. For more information about these events, please contact the program at 781-935-3855. Criterion-Stoneham EIP's Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is in need of new members. If interested, please call Joan at 781-935-3855 ext 60 for more information.

Thom Anne Sullivan Early Intervention Program recently hosted a "Turning Three" workshop presented by Beth Bostic of the Federation for Children with Special Needs. More than 20 parents and staff were able to attend this informative workshop, which provides information on transitioning from Early Intervention to public preschool programs.

Early Intervention programs have many different ways to meet the professional development needs of the staff who visit their children. The **Thom Anne Sullivan** program has been regularly holding small, special interest staff meetings. Topics for the special interest groups have included an autism group, curriculum & playgroup issues group, a group specifically for speech therapists, a meeting on kinesiotaping. The information gathered at these group sessions allows the staff to better serve the children and families in the program and to learn about new and exciting skill-building ideas. The program is also planning a six-week Sign Language Workshop to be held in the spring that will be open to parents, Early Intervention staff, and community members.

Thom Anne Sullivan would like to say thank you to Jodi Williamson for her two years serving as Parent Contact for our program. The Parent Contact role involves about an hour a month, receiving mail & information from the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project to share with other families in the program, and the benefit of attending the annual MEIC conference as a representative of our program is the best part of the volunteer position. Best wishes to Jodi and her family, and we hope to see them at our Family Day in the summer. (Alumni parents are always welcome to visit!)

BOSTON

On February 2, **Bay Cove Early Intervention** participated in Boston's Private Industry Council Groundhog Job Shadow Day by hosting several high school students from the O'Bryant School of Math and Science who have expressed an interest in learning about careers in Early Intervention, the services we provide and the various types of professionals that work in

Early Intervention programs. The students were assigned to shadow staff members who led toddler groups that morning. This experience was facilitated by a Bay Cove EI parent who is a Senior Career Specialist at O'Bryant School.

Harbor Area Early Intervention program was recently awarded a Making Space for Children Grant from the Children's Investment Fund for equipment, rugs and toys for the early intervention and child care classrooms at their center. The program would like to thank the Making Space for Children Grant and the Children's Investment Fund for the opportunity to use funds for much needed upgrades to equipment for children and families in community groups and those who come to the center.

CENTRAL

Kennedy-Donovan South Central Early Intervention

(KDC South Central) will be participating in the following community events for families: March 24th from 9am-noon Webster/Oxford Family Fun Day at the Elks Hall in Webster, March 31st from 10am-2pm Healthy Kids Day at the Tri-Community YMCA in Southbridge, and April 28th from 10am-noon the "Make It Take It" Fair Southbridge CPC at West Street School. All events feature hands on activities for children, information and resources and a chance to mingle with other families of young children in the community.

KDC South Central will be met with the South Central Family Support Specialist of PAL (Parent/Professional Advocacy League) in January to learn more about PAL and other support resources to share with families.

WEST

The Thom Western Regional Consultation Program

(WRCP) is preparing for a busy spring season with plenty of workshops and activities for families. Upcoming training events for families in the WRCP include a "Let's Get Organized" workshop, an "In Time" three-part infant mental health training being held on March 22, March 29 and April 5 at the Chicopee Memorial Library, a Basic Rights workshop being offered in Sturbridge, and a three-part "Beginning Sign Language" program. In addition to these exciting events, the WRCP is also planning their annual Holyoke Children's Museum Family Day in May. The WRCP supports children in Early Intervention who have complex medical needs or complicated care. For more information about any of these programs, please contact Karen Cassidy at 413-783-3000.



THE PARENT LEADERSHIP PROJECT

The Parent Leadership Project was created to support parents whose children receive early intervention services. The Project's main goal is to promote lifetime advocacy, leadership skills and the development of an informed parent constituency, which will encourage early intervention services to be increasingly family centered. The Project is a parent driven endeavor, which continually seeks family involvement and input regarding the needs of families enrolled in Early Intervention and is implemented by parents whose own children have received EI services. The Project staff consists of a statewide director, a communications specialist, an EI program re-certification parent coordinator and six regional coordinators. Please feel free to contact any of them with your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns.

STATEWIDE DIRECTOR

Darla Gundler
Toll-free (877) 35-EI-PLP
(800) 445-1255, Ext. 1157
Darla.Gundler@state.ma.us

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Brenda Allair
(413) 586-7525 x1162
Brenda.allair@state.ma.us

EI FOCUSED MONITORING PARENT COORDINATOR

Faith Piaggi
(413) 663-3610
faithp1@verizon.net

COLLABORATION AND OUT- REACH COORDINATOR

Vacant

TRAINING COORDINATOR

Vacant

Contact Us:
Toll-free:
(877)-35-EI-PLP

Email: eiplp@yahoo.com

Visit us on the web:
www.eiplp.org

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project NEWS

Parent Participation Opportunity

Join the Parent Leadership Project

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project is Hiring!

Collaboration and Outreach Coordinator

- ◆ Collaborate with family organizations and regional parent networks
- ◆ Increase connections with parent contacts and parent liaisons within the EI Programs
- ◆ Increase outreach to groups of families within the early intervention system
- ◆ Increase awareness of Parent Leadership Project and parent opportunities
- ◆ 25 hours per week, office space in a regional health office

If you are the parent of a child who has been enrolled in the Massachusetts Early Intervention system, and are interested in learning more about this opportunity, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the Parent Leadership Project toll-free at 1-877-353-4757, by e-mail at eiplp@yahoo.com or watch for the posting on the www.eiplp.org website!

To receive the *Parent Perspective Newsletter*, a free publication, published six times a year by the Parent Leadership Project, call us toll-free at (877) 353-4757 and ask to be added to the PLP mailing list or email eiplp@yahoo.com

NEXT DEADLINE: We welcome your input and suggestions for resources and articles. The next deadline is **March 9**. Please call our toll-free number (877) 353-4757 or email the newsletter editor at Brenda.allair@state.ma.us.

The *Parent Perspective* newsletter is produced six times a year by the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project, through funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

