



## The Parent Leadership Project's *Parent Perspective*

### Early Intervention Information and Resources

### *Welcome To Early Intervention*

#### Who Are We?

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project was started by parents and is staffed by parents whose children received Early Intervention services. Parent Leadership Project staff consists of a Project Director, a Communications Specialist, an EI Program Re-Certification Parent Coordinator, a Training Coordinator and a Collaboration and Outreach Coordinator.



Created and supported through funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the lead agency for the statewide Early Intervention system, the Project seeks to support families and works

- to develop an informed parent constituency
- to promote leadership and lifelong advocacy skills for parents and family members
- to facilitate family participation to ensure that Early Intervention Services are family-centered

#### What We Do



The Parent Leadership Project works in collaboration with the DPH, lead agency for EI services, Early Intervention programs, the Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council and parents. The Project supports families to participate at all levels of the EI system as partners and advisors. The Project provides varied resources to help parents of children receiving Early Intervention services to learn how to be effective advocates for their children and to develop leadership skills. Some of these resources include publications, workshops, as well as individualized assistance. To learn more:



**Call us toll-free at (877) 35-EI-PLP** to talk with an experienced parent about questions, concerns or opportunities for involvement.



**Visit our website - [www.eiplp.org](http://www.eiplp.org)** for the latest information about the Early Intervention System, Family Rights, Calendar of Events, and Links to Resources.



**Read *The Parent Perspective Newsletter*** - (the "blue" newsletter) This free publication, produced six times a year, is written by parents for parents and contains articles on topics on interest, information about workshops and training opportunities. To be added to our mailing list, call us toll-free at (877) 35-EI-PLP or email [eiplp@yahoo.com](mailto:eiplp@yahoo.com).

#### How Can We Help You?

The staff of the Parent Leadership Project are all parents whose children have received Early Intervention services and are available to share information about opportunities for family involvement.



## Parent Leadership Project Opportunities for Family Participation

There are a variety of paths families may choose to become involved in the Early Intervention system beyond the services their child receives. Here is a small sampling of opportunities:

- ◆ **Be a Parent Contact for Your Early Intervention Program** -- share Parent Leadership Project news and information with other parents from your program. We will sponsor you to attend the annual Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium Conference (MEIC).
- ◆ **Attend an “Essential Allies” Training** – learn how to be a “partner” with your Early Intervention program.
- ◆ **Apply for a Hausslein Parent Leadership Award** – Do you have a great idea for a project that will benefit families at your Early Intervention Program and in your community? Receive up to \$1,000 to implement your project.
- ◆ **Participate on the ICC** – The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is an advisory group to the Department of Public Health, lead agency for the Early Intervention system. Parents are important advisors as members of the six ICC committees and as regional representatives. Stipends are available for parent participants.

*“...Getting involved with the Early Intervention Leadership Project was one of the best things I’ve done for my child and family....The staff of this parent-run project provided excellent role models for building collaborative parent/professional partnerships. The advocacy and leadership skills I learned have helped me negotiate various medical arenas, health insurance, educational supports, and community services for my own child and help many others along the way.”*

For information on these or other opportunities contact the Parent Leadership Project:

- ◆ **Call: toll- free (877) 35-EI-PLP** ◆ **Email: [eiplp@yahoo.com](mailto:eiplp@yahoo.com)** ◆ **Visit: [www.eiplp.org](http://www.eiplp.org)**



### Other Helpful Resources for Families

These organizations can serve as a starting point in a search for information about Early Intervention, disability specific organizations, family supports, and early childhood resources.

**[www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov)**– the official website of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts lists government agencies alphabetically, including the Department of Public Health, Department of Education, Office of Child Care Services and others.

**Family TIES of Massachusetts**– **[www.massfamilyties.org](http://www.massfamilyties.org)** or call (800) 905-TIES. Family TIES (Together in Enhancing Support) of Massachusetts is a state-wide information and referral source for families of children with special needs or chronic illness. The Project publishes a resource directory, and runs a parent-to-parent matching program for families with similar special needs. Family TIES is also the central directory for Early Intervention Programs throughout Massachusetts and provides information on ongoing support groups.

**The Federation for Children with Special Needs**– **[www.fcsn.org](http://www.fcsn.org)** or call (800) 331-0688. The Federation is an organization that provides information, support and assistance, representing a variety of disabilities and special health needs. The Family Resource Database contains information about disability-specific organizations, agencies, and services in Massachusetts. The Federation offers free workshops on Special Education topics.

**The Early Intervention Training Center**–**[www.eitrainingcenter.org](http://www.eitrainingcenter.org)**. The EI Training Center presents educational workshops for Early Intervention staff and parents on the Early Intervention system, IFSP Development and more! Parents can attend workshops free of charge and stipends are available.