

RI Parent Information Network Workshop & Technical Assistance Descriptions



RIPIN Workshop Descriptions January – August, 2012

EDUCATION WORKSHOPS:

Basic Rights in Special Education (Children and Youth Ages 3-21)

This workshop focuses on how to access special education and related services for children with disabilities. Participants will learn the laws that affect special education in Rhode Island and will receive an overview of parents' rights and responsibilities. Also available in Spanish. (2 hours)

Individualized Education Program (IEP): A Blueprint for Student Success (for Children and Youth Ages 3-21)

Each public school child who receives special education and related services must have an IEP designed to meet his/her unique needs. The foundation of this program is the IEP which is developed by a team of individuals which includes the parent(s). This workshop provides an overview of the major components of the IEP as well as a step by step walkthrough of RI's newly designed IEP form. Two different workshops are offered: Pre-school / Elementary or Secondary Transition. Secondary transition level workshop also covers the Secondary Transition IEP for students 14 years or older and includes post-school goals in areas of employment, education and training and where appropriate, independent living skills. (2 hours) Prerequisite: Basic Rights in Special Education

The Successful IEP Meeting

The objectives of this workshop are to provide ideas on how to prepare for your child's IEP meeting, define the family's role and discuss practical ways to advocate for your child. Questions will be answered on what to bring to the IEP meeting and how to organize and present information that represents your child's best interests. This workshop is also appropriate in preparation for Section 504 meetings. The content of this workshop focuses on meeting skills and does not provide a walkthrough of the IEP form. This curriculum was developed in collaboration with the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities. (2 hours)

Packing for the Future: Preparing for Life after High School

Packing for the Future, is presented as a skit, based on the life of a student with special needs ages 14-21. The objective of this workshop is to understand the inclusion of the student in the transition planning process. The presentation will depict the programs and services that may be available for the students who are preparing for life after high school. Participants will have the opportunity to raise questions at the end of the short drama. (1.5 hours)

College Success for Students with Disabilities

The focus of this workshop is to help parents and teachers prepare students with special learning needs who are considering higher education as an option in their transition plan. The roles of parents, teachers and students will be discussed in addition to the supports and goals needed to prepare a student for admission into college. This workshop is most appropriate for those who have students finishing middle school or presently at the high school level. (2 hours)

Getting and Keeping the First Job

This Families who understand the world of work and maintain high expectations of their youth, play a pivotal role in the employment success of youth with disabilities. Although the transition from school to adulthood can be an uncertain time for youth with disabilities and their families, one critical component is the building of work skills that lead to competitive employment. Participants will learn about strategies that help youth keep the jobs they get in addition to receiving additional resources. (2 hours)

Section 504 - A Parent's Guide

A basic overview of Section 504 will be discussed along with basic changes to the law. Participants will learn how this pertains to children with disabilities and includes an exploration of how some students may now qualify for additional supports and accommodations in public schools. (2 hours)

Skills to Effective Parent Advocacy

Every parent wants to see their child happy, healthy, and part of their community. The goal of this presentation is to empower parents so they can become effective advocates for their children and receive the services their child needs. The intended audience for this training is parents of children with disabilities. (2 hours)

EARLY INTERVENTION WORKSHOPS:

Transition from Early Intervention (Children Birth to Age 3)

Participants will learn about the support services necessary to design and implement a successful transition from Early Intervention. The transition plan and differences in systems will be explored. (2 hours)

HEALTH & POLICY WORKSHOPS:

Teens & Health Care Transition - A Team Sport!

Taking care of our health is an essential component of growing up and living a full life. This presentation will use a familiar metaphor "Life is a Game" to inform and engage participants in activities that will improve the health transition of our teens to adult care. Participants will learn the core areas of successful transition and gain information and tools to achieve success in a youth's health care transition. (2 hours)

Options for Medical Assistance

This workshop covers the who, what, where, when, and why of Rhode Island Medical Assistance, Katie Beckett, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Rite Care, and Comprehensive Evaluation Diagnosis Assessment Referral Re-evaluation (CEDARR) will be explored. (2 hours)

Public Policy 101

Recent budget cuts on federal, state and local level have severely impacted one out of every five families who are now scrambling for answers, assistance and resources. This training provides families with the tools necessary to navigate the political arena and advocate for their children. Participants will learn the fundamentals of government, how to compose letters to congressmen and provide testimony thus enhancing their advocacy skills. (2 hours)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Support Group Facilitator Training

This training provides individuals with the tools necessary to start a support group. Participants will learn the basics of how to organize and maintain a support group while enhancing leadership skills. Participants and trainers will maintain contact as needed for technical assistance as new groups form until they become self-sustainable. (5 ½ hours)

MegaSkills® Training Series

MegaSkills®

This five session workshop series is designed to help parents support their child's learning in school and beyond. Participants will learn fun, easy at home activities to encourage learning in the areas of Confidence, Motivation, Responsibility, Effort, Caring, Teamwork, Initiative, Perseverance, Common Sense, Problem Solving and Focus. Also available in Spanish. (Each workshop is 1.5 hours for a series total of 7.5 hours).

Teen MegaSkills®

This parent workshop series offers parents tips to help their teens develop and practice responsibility and to make responsible choices and decisions. It also explores the development of the teen brain. (Each workshop is 1.5 hours for a series total of 3 hours).

MegaSkills® Leader Training

Participants in this full day training will learn how to facilitate the five basic MegaSkills® sessions. Participants also must purchase leader kit which contains all handouts and activities for the series.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS:

The Right Question

Learning how to ask effective questions is an important skill needed to help parents support, monitor and advocate for their child's education. This workshop offers an opportunity to learn the Question Formulation Technique. Participants will practice their question formulation skills and apply them to a specific topic. (Also available in Spanish) (1.5 hours)

Ready for Kindergarten

This presentation teaches parents how they can help their child prepare for and do well in Kindergarten. Parents will learn how to use daily activities to help build social, language and thinking skills in order to put young students on the road to a successful academic future. (Also available in Spanish) (1.5 hours)

Basic Homework & Study Skills

This workshop will give parents tips on how they can help their child be successful in school and reduce the stress of homework. This workshop is appropriate for parents of students in grades 3 through 6. (1.5 hours)

College: The Right Choice for Your Future

Targeted for middle and high school students and their parents, and especially those who may have not yet considered college a possibility, this workshop discusses the benefits of attending college. It will include the search and application process, the different types of financial aid available, and the time-management and study skills needed to help them succeed in higher education. For those students who are college-bound, discussions will include how to avoid becoming overwhelmed by the process of planning, researching and selecting a college. This presentation is aligned to the American School Counselor Association's standards for career development. (1.5 hours)