

Workshop & Technical Assistance Catalog

RIPIN offers a wide variety of interactive workshops and training opportunities. Our experienced presenters offer information and support to all Rhode Island families as well as the professionals who work with them each day.



Winter 2010

OPEN Enrollment for Scheduling Winter Workshops (January - April 2010)
will run from 12/1/09 through 1/22/10)

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. NEW!** (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)
(available in Spanish in Spring 2010)

■ Building Parent / Professional Partnerships

The goal of this workshop is to provide participants with information on the principles of parent/professional partnerships via discussion and group activities. Participants will explore the factors leading to effective partnerships, identify barriers to positive partnerships and practice strategies for overcoming those barriers. *Minimum of 10 participants.* (2 hours)

■ Packing for the Future: Preparing for Life After High School

Packing for the Future, is presented as a drama, 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. (1-1/2 hours)

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Education Workshops:

■ 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)

■ Section 504 and ADAAA 2008



You may be surprised to know that changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act (ADAAA) 2008 have expanded eligibility protection under Section 504. Learn how the law has changed and how it applies to children with disabilities with this general overview of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. An exploration of how some students may now qualify for additional supports and accommodations in public schools will be discussed along with a comparison of how this law relates to other laws protecting children and youth with disabilities.

Early Intervention Workshops:

■ Basic Rights in Early Intervention (Birth to Age 3)

Participants will receive an overview of Early Intervention (EI) from Referral to Transition. This is a great orientation for families of children with special needs who are new to EI and professionals who want to learn more about how EI works. (2 hours)

■ 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) (available in Spanish in Spring 2010)

Health Workshops:

■ Preparing Young Adults for Healthcare Transition

All young adults have healthcare needs. This workshop is intended to serve as a framework for clinicians and professionals to help young people with special health care needs transition to the adult system. Participants are provided with information on what healthcare transition is, why it is important and strategies to support a successful 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 Reevaluation (CEDARR) will be explored. (2 hours)

Leadership Series Workshops:

■ Knowledge is Empowering: Advocacy Skills for Parents of Children with Disabilities

Parents of children with disabilities are faced with a tremendous responsibility to assure their children receive an appropriate education. Most parents begin this journey without any preparation, training, or previous knowledge about disabilities. The purpose of this 12 hour training program is to prepare parents to fulfill the critical role of making knowledgeable educational decisions about their child's special education program. This program focuses on the rights of parents, the special education process, advocacy skills, strategies for effective communication, and parent/professional collaboration. (12 hours, series is offered in 3 or 4 sessions. Must have a minimum of 15 participants)

■ Supporting Families: Become a Support Group Leader

An intensive one day training focusing on preparing participants to develop and facilitate parent support groups. Topics include how to start a support group, identify key players and their roles, program contents, group dynamics, boundary issues, parent leadership qualities, program evaluation, and much more.

(6 hours– Fee \$700 for all groups. This includes light breakfast, lunch and training manual)

■ SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) Strategies for Success - (available in Spring 2010)



Parent Involvement Workshops:

■ MegaSkills

This five (5) session workshop series is designed to help parents support their child's learning in school and beyond. MegaSkills are the basic skills, attitudes and behaviors that determine student achievement. They include: Confidence, Motivation, Responsibility, Effort, Caring, Teamwork, Initiative, Perseverance, Common Sense, Problem Solving, and Focus. Participants will learn fun, easy at home activities to encourage learning. (Each workshop is 1.5 hrs)

■ The Right Questions

The purpose of this workshop is to help parents to support, monitor and advocate for their children's education. The workshop offers an opportunity to learn the Question Formulation Technique. Participants will practice their question formulation skills and apply them to a specific topic. (1.5 hours)

■ Ready for Kindergarten

NEW!

Parents are essential to their children's success before and after school starts. This presentation teaches parents how they can help their child prepare for and do well in kindergarten. It addresses the worries, excitement, and changes that children -- and parents -- may experience, and helps put young students on the road to a successful academic future. Parents will also learn how to use daily activities to help build skills such as social, language, and thinking skills.

■ Homework & Study Skills

NEW!

Homework is an opportunity for children to learn and for families to be involved in their children's education. However, helping children with homework isn't always easy. This workshop will give parents tips on how they can help their child be successful in school and reduce the stress of homework. We will discuss how to set up a homework area, establish a study time, and help children develop effective study skills, including organization skills. Parents will also learn about different learning styles. This workshop is appropriate for parents of elementary age students.

■ College: The Right Choice for Your Future

NEW!

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.

Parent Involvement Technical Assistance:

■ Family Friendly Assessment

This process leads a school team in a walk through of the school to identify low cost ways to create a more welcoming and family friendly environment. We will review policies, home school communication, the physical environment, and conduct a parent survey. Schools will receive a comprehensive report with concrete suggestions.

■ Solid Foundation

Solid Foundation is an evidence based process that guides a school team through 10 efficient and effective steps to assess the school community's strengths and areas for improvement, develop an action plan, and implement the plan. It will help the school community strengthen family-school connections, engage parents in children's learning, and improve student academic and social learning. The process also helps Title I schools to efficiently meet their Parental Involvement requirements. A Parent Involvement Coordinator will assist the principal and the school team through the process.

■ The following are **free** Technical Assistance topics available to groups

- » Accountability, School Choice and Supplemental Education Services (SES)
- » Parent Involvement Policies » Introduction to Parent Involvement
- » Home School Compacts » Running an Effective Parent Group
- » What is a School Improvement Team (SIT) and How Can I Be a Part of It?

(Times are flexible to fit your agenda)

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Schedule a Workshop or Technical Assistance today!



Open Enrollment for our Winter Workshops will run from 12/1/09-1/22/10!

To schedule a workshop or technical assistance, please contact **Suzanne Tobin**, **401.270.0101 x123** or toll free in Rhode Island **800.464.3399**. Every effort will be made to accommodate your request. We will add you to our workshop mailing list, which provides you the opportunity to schedule workshops throughout the year.

Registration

Pre-registration is required two weeks in advance of each scheduled workshop.* All participants **must** pre-register by calling 401.270.0101 x123 or toll free in Rhode Island at 800.464.3399 x123. Registrations can also be mailed to Suzanne Tobin, RIPIN, 1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI, 02920 or emailed to tobin@ripin.org.

General Workshop Fees (Education, Early Intervention, Health, Leadership Series)

There is no fee for workshops offered to parent groups. RIPIN welcomes donations at whatever level is affordable to assist in covering to cost of materials and trainer stipends. As a non-profit organization committed to providing education, training and advocacy for all families with children, these contributions are greatly appreciated. All of the workshops listed are available to professional groups for staff development.

The fee for staff development is \$100 per hour.

Parent Involvement Workshop Fees

Title I or Low Performing Schools may qualify for a credit towards workshops and technical assistance. Activities will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. To schedule a workshop, please contact **Suzanne Tobin at 401.270.0101 x123 or toll free in Rhode Island at 800.464.3399, or by email at tobin@ripin.org.**

*Cancellation Policy: RIPIN reserves the right to cancel any workshop due to low registration (minimum 8-10 participants). All pre-registered participants will be notified in the unlikely event of a workshop cancellation.

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