

ECAC Workshops of Interest to Parents, Families and Teachers of Children with Special Needs



Below are brief descriptions of ECAC's most requested workshops. We can also "customize" a workshop to meet your group's individual needs. Every workshop includes valuable material for participants to take home and our speakers provide opportunities for questions and answers. When planning, keep in mind that most topics need at least 1 1/2 to 2 hours. However, we can provide an abbreviated version in a shorter amount of time if necessary. If you are interested in scheduling a workshop in your area, please call Mary LaCorte at 1-800-962-6817, ext. 10 or Margaret Campbell at ext. 17. Remember, there is *never* a charge for workshops for parents of children with disabilities!

Informed Effective Parents. This workshop provides parents and families with a broad base of information about special education laws (IDEA 2004, FERPA, etc) and includes the tools and strategies for writing effective IEPs, effective communication skills, letter writing, documentation, and the steps to follow if you disagree.

Writing Effective IEPs. This workshop will help you identify your child's strengths and needs and use evaluation information to prepare for writing an Individualized Education Program. Learn how to actively participate in writing the IEP and navigate the "maze" of forms and paperwork. Tune up your skills and identify strategies to ensure that your child's IEP is implemented and changed as she/he grows.

Becoming Your Child's Best & Most Effective Advocate. Strong advocacy skills are critical as you work to ensure your child benefits from his/her education. Learn the steps to help you effectively advocate for your child's needs. Remember, you are an *equal* partner in your child's education.

EVERYONE Belongs!: Inclusion. This workshop discusses the philosophy, legal issues, barriers and strategies related to the inclusion of students with disabilities in regular classroom settings. Participants will have a better understanding of how to partner with teachers to create inclusive school environments for students, including students with significant disabilities.

Positive Behavior Supports. Learn skills that will help parents and teachers to identify and understand challenging behaviors while creating an atmosphere for positive change and support. Discover how Functional Behavior Assessments and Positive Behavior Supports can work at school and at home.

I'm Growing Up! – Moving from Early Intervention to Preschool Services and/or Kindergarten

This workshop includes important information for parents of children 2.5 through 5. Prepare for the big move from Early Intervention services into school-age rights and services (beginning at age 3) and continue building a strong educational foundation for your child. Learn about the school-age special education process and your role and responsibilities in that process. Become better prepared to participate on the IEP Team and develop an appropriate program for your child. This workshop is easily modified and can be used as two separate workshops with children birth to 3 and ages 3-5.

Life is a Journey - Transition to Adulthood. This workshop will help parents and students to prepare for the future. Beginning at age 14, students and schools must begin the journey in planning for life after high school. Learn how to write an Individualized Transition Plan (ITP) and how to include your child in this important process. This workshop will include information and strategies for students preparing to work after high school and students going on to college or other educational settings.

Writing a Good 504 Plan. Students with disabilities who need supports and services to benefit from their education, but do not receive services under an IEP, may be eligible for a 504 Plan or Accommodation Plan. An effective 504 Plan includes modifications in the classroom, on tests and in other areas. Related services can also be obtained with a 504 Plan. Learn what Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act is, how it can benefit your child and how to request a 504 meeting with your child's school personnel.

Assistive Technology. Assistive Technology (AT) is not just about electronic equipment – but more about discovering the tools to support your child in their learning. This workshop explores AT devices and services, both high and low tech tools, evaluations and how to include AT in your child's IEP!

