

# 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 2011

OPEN Enrollment for Scheduling Winter Workshops  
January - April 2011

## ■ **Basic Homework Tips & Study Skills**

Homework is an opportunity for children to learn and for families to be involved in their children's education. However, helping children with basic 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. This workshop is appropriate for parents of students in grades 3 through 6. **Also available in Spanish.** (2 hours)

## ■ **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)

## ■ **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)

## ■ **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)

## ■ **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)

## ■ **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)

## ■ **Getting and Keeping the First Job**

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. (1.5 hours)

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■ **Individualized Education Program (IEP): A Blueprint for Student Success** (for students 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 that 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 Journey to Adulthood: What Parents Need to Know**

Parents of children with **developmental disabilities** sometimes find it very difficult to think ahead to their child's adulthood. This training will assist parents in preparing their children for puberty and understanding adolescence, which may result in them becoming fully accepted, participating adults in their community. Participants will be provided with **basic** informational tips and learn strategies they can use at home with their son or daughter. (2 hours)

■ **MegaSkills**

Attitudes, behaviors and basic skills determine student achievement. 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)

■ **Options for Medical Assistance**

This workshop will explore 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). (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 between the ages 14-21. The objective of this workshop is to understand the inclusion of the student in the transition planning process. This 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)

■ **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)

■ **Ready for Kindergarten**

Parents are essential to their child's school success. 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. (1.5 hours)

■ **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. (1.5 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)



### ■ *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)

### ■ *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 the 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)

### ■ *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)

## Professional Development Series:



### ■ *SEAC Strategies for Success: Building Special Education Advisory Committees*

RIPIN is offering an exciting training opportunity for Special Education Directors and the districts/schools they lead. Rhode Island has always valued home/school collaboration at the local level and shows its commitment to parent involvement by mandating Local Advisory Committees on Special Education (LAC) through state statute. Rhode Island's legal requirement gives all districts the responsibility and authority to ensure parents have the opportunity to be involved.

In order to support our efforts of providing technical assistance to districts in improving outcomes for children with disabilities, RIPIN has created a **12 hour training curriculum for parent leaders** which is being offered twice a year in our Cranston office. Topics in this curriculum include: *Background & Basics, Recruiting & Retaining Members, Developing a Mission Statement, Strategies for Disseminating Information, Collaborative Leadership and Partnership, By-Laws, Running a Meeting and Prioritizing Needs and Setting Goals.* The **target audience** for this comprehensive training includes current parent leaders within local advisory committees, identified future **parent leaders** within a school district and district teams (2-4 parent leaders) developing a local advisory committee.

**WHERE:** RI Parent Information Network, 1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI

**WHEN:** 3/23, 3/30, 4/6 and 4/13/11 (4 three hour sessions)

**TIME:** 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**DISTRICT COST:** \$1,200 for maximum of four parent leaders (includes all materials and four hours of follow-up technical assistance)

**For further information, please contact Deb Belanger, Training and Professional Development Manager at 270-0101, ext. 109 or belanger@ripin.org.**

### ■ *Fun Family Activities for Preschoolers*

This parent workshop series, developed by RI Department of Education and Ready to Learn Providence, is based on the RI Early Learning Standards, helps parents learn about how they can help their children learn skills that are important for school success. Families discover how they can support their children's learning through "purposeful play" by creating a treasure box filled with home activities. RIDE certified trainers will conduct the workshops and provide all materials for participants. **For more information about this series including workshop fees, please contact Deborah Meiklejohn at 401.270.0101 x108.**

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## Parent Involvement Technical Assistance:

### ■ *Family Friendly Assessment*

This process leads a school team in a walk through of their school to identify low cost ways to create a more welcoming and family friendly environment. The team will focus on policies and practices, home school communications, the physical environment, and conduct a parent survey. Schools will receive a report with information that will help the school plan for improvements.

### ■ *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 Parent 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

(Times are flexible to fit your agenda)

- » 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?

## Registration

Pre-registration is required two weeks in advance of each scheduled workshop.\* Online registration is preferred. Please go to [www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org) and click on **Workshop Schedule** to register. You can also register by calling **401.270.0101 x123**. Registrations can also be mailed to Suzanne Tobin, RIPIN, 1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI, 02920

## Workshop Fees

**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.**

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 by email at [tobin@ripin.org](mailto: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.