

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.



Spring/Summer 2010

OPEN Enrollment for Scheduling Spring/Summer Workshops
May - August 2010

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)

■ **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 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)

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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)

■ A Parent's Guide to Section 504

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)

NEW!

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)

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)

NEW!

■ 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)

NEW!

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 Fall 2010)



Parent Involvement Workshops:

■ 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. (Each workshop is 1.5 hrs)

■ 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)

■ 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)

■ Homework & 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 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. (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)

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 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!



Our **Spring/Summer Workshops** will run from 4/1/10-8/31/10!

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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