



'Bits & Pieces'



Upcoming Events

Free Documentation Training

Anstead Public Library
April 18, 2019
12 noon to 2:00 pm
Kelly Miller
Call: 304-972-1873

Documentation Training

Kermit Public Library
April 25, 2019
12 noon to 2:00 pm
Kelly Miller
Call: 304-972-1873

Free IEP Training

Online Go To Webinar
April 17, 2019
11:00—12:00 pm
Julie Dial
Register at: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/29772973160084747>

Basic Rights

Doddridge County Circle of Friends
April 30, 2019
5:00—6:00 pm
Julie Dial, Presenter
Call: 304-972-8101

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Are WVPTI Trainings on your Spring Calendar?

As the flowers begin to bloom and spring is here, you and your child may be involved with a meeting to update his/her IEP? It might be at this time of year that you are part of the first step in the referral process for your child? You have questions and need answers to some of the essential steps in the process. West Virginia Parent Training and Information (WVPTI) has some new informational sessions to help you and invite you to any meetings close to your home which might interest you and your family.

One of the new informational sessions which has been quick to catch people's attention is our Documentation Session. This training answers basic questions about what documentation, paperwork or information do you need to keep and organize for your path to determine if your child has special needs and may require an Individual Educational Plan or special accommodations such as 504.

Welcome to our spring newsletter from WVPTI!

Our staff and I have been busy working with parents and making a positive difference in the lives of toddlers, children and young adults with disabilities and their families. We invite you to visit our headquarters in Buckhannon, WV or contact our regional trainers. We can provide you with timely information or resources. This newsletter will be one of the ways which we hope to serve you. Please check out of Facebook page for other resources: <https://www.facebook.com/Wvpti/>

A new training for this spring is our Parent's Advocacy with Policy 2419. It involves increasing your knowledge about what your child may need with his/her educational path. The information will help you to effectively advocate and support your child with any special

- ◆ Evaluations available
- ◆ Transition services
- ◆ Procedural Safeguards,
- ◆ What is 504, ADA, IDEA, ESSA, FERPA, and general education laws; and
- ◆ Area resources.



needs. There is an additional benefit of meeting and gaining support from other parents in your community. The Advocacy training is approximately about an hour with questions and answers session afterward. The training includes to know:

- ◆ the screening process,
- ◆ what is Student Assistance Team (SAT)

There are many more trainings and information that WVPTI may provide you. Call and talk with us about our sessions. WVPTI's number is 304-472-5697. We hope to hear from you soon.



Brenda Lamkin, Exec. Director

“ As a parent, you know your child better than anyone else. ”

Webinars Are Another Format For Parents

West Virginia Parent Training and Information offer parents another format to connect and spotlight topics that are important to parents, guardians, caregivers, or foster parents who have children with special needs. The webinars focus upon the support and information we can provide parents.

How may a parent or professional sign up for the webinars?



You may connect with us in the office at 1-304-472-5697 or look on our website at: <http://www.wvpti-inc.org/contact/>.

We offer a variety of topics such as the Overview of Spe-

cial Education Process, Pre-K Transition Individual Family Service Plan or ADHD.

You could email us by using wvpti@aol.com to sign up for the free webinar by connecting with our trainers.

Kelly Miller , Trainer for Region 2

Our Family Engagement Specialist, Kelly Miller, is certainly busy in the upcoming months. She would love for you to attend one of her sessions around the state. Join us to find answers for your questions!

If you are in Lincoln, Cabell, Putman, Kanawha, Mason, Jackson, Wood, Wayne, Mingo, Logan, Roane, Boone, Raleigh, Wyoming, and McDowell, please connect with Kelly Miller for information or support for advocacy.



Kelly Miller, Region 2

Top Apps for Special Needs Child



Source: atclassroom.blogspot.com.

There are a wide variety of technology apps to help your child with special needs. In this section, we are going to outline some apps which support the younger child. It is important to find items which are beneficial to your special needs child and assist you as parents and caregivers who interact with them. For Math Skills, you could check out *Teach Me* which reinforces writing/math/spelling skills through sight words. *Super Why* — If you are looking for achieving better comprehension by breaking down words and using activities that use rhyming and spelling as a way to improve reading and writing. If it is social cues, you could try *Learn with Rufus* helps with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder to start recognizing emotions and identifying facial expressions. It, also, allows you to customize the games to meet your child's skill level and learning style. Hopefully, you could use one of the apps with your child.

Source: Hayward, Amanda. Family, October, Online.

What Every Parent of Special Needs Child Need



As a parent of a special needs, life can be very hectic, but one thing you need to know is you are not alone. The first need is to find those people who may help with your child by listening or supporting you with all the challenges. It could be a support group or fellow relatives who can be there and remind you are not alone.

The second need is to realize that you are not perfect and everyone makes mistakes once in a while. Don't beat yourself up and try to move forward. Many choices you are forced to make do not have a right answer, just do your best because it will matter how many sleepless nights, you still struggle with some situations.

The third need is to keep your sense of humor and don't lose yourself. There will be times when you need to celebrate the little accomplishments and laugh when things don't go the way you expect. Just trust your instincts and work with your support group of friends and relatives because your role of parent of a special needs child is the role of a lifetime.

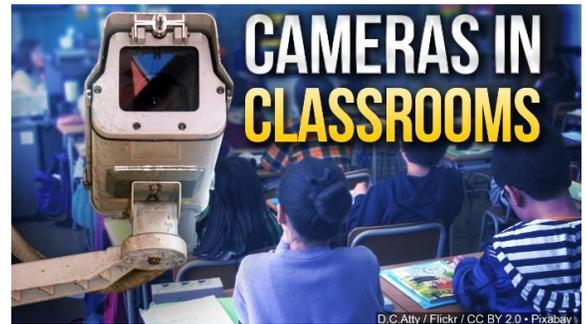
“As **special needs parent**, you don't have the power to make life “fair,” but you do have the power to make life joyful.” (Anonymous, and 20 Things Every Parent of Kids with Special Needs Should Hear, Abilities.com, 2019)

Bill Allows Cameras in Special Education Classes

Senate Bill 632 was recently passed to allow cameras in special education around the school in West Virginia which goes in effect this July. The bill outlines the cameras would have to request by a teacher, parent or school official for it to be installed. The purpose of the cameras would be to review or check for any reported or suspected incident in a special education classroom.

If the camera is being installed, all parents, students and teachers would have notice before the camera installation. Afterward, the camera would remain in place for the remainder of the school year. Any footage collected by the video cameras is to be released only in instances of investigation and administrative or legal proceedings and only to the parties involved in the incident under review. The recordings will not be used for teacher evaluations, and the cameras do not record continuously.

Some people have voiced concerns about student privacy, but the passage indicates WV lawmakers support measures to protect special needs' children.



How do you feel about the cameras? Sen. Craig Blair has stated that we need measures to protect special needs students who often can't speak up for themselves. Source: EdScoop, March 21, 2109.

Julie Dial, Region 3, Family Engagement Specialist

Julie Dial, our Engagement Specialist in Region 3, has online trainings which we hope you will attend. We are featuring these trainings with the Go To Webinar. Hopefully, you will register for the training on April 17th and others upcoming in the month of May. Look forward to the list of sessions in our next newsletter. The next online event is:

April 17 IEP Process Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/29772973160084747>



Julie Dial, Region 3



Cited Pinterest

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West Virginia Parent Training and Information (WVPTI) is a non-profit agency that operates the statewide federally and is the [Family Voices](#) State Affiliate Organization for West Virginia.

The programs and services of WVPTI, Inc. are based on the concept of parents helping parents. Our mission is to empower parents of children and youth with disabilities in their roles as parents, decision makers, and advocates for their children and to promote partnerships among parents and professionals.



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 TRAINING & INFORMATION

Facebook

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Self— Advocacy is our strength!

- Speaking up for yourself,
- Asking for what you need,
- Negotiating for yourself (working with others to reach an agreement that will meet your needs),
- Knowing your rights and responsibilities,
- Using the resources that are available to you,
- Being able to explain your disability either by the use of written words, pictures.
- Being able to explain your disability either by the use of written words, pic-

tures or gestures.

For the full article; <http://>

www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/transition-tool-kit/self-advocacy



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