



# 'Bits & Pieces'



## Upcoming Events

WV PTI Trainings:

**T.I.E.S. Meeting**  
Training, Information,  
Education and Support  
Meeting (T.I.E.S.)

- \* **September 12** at the Burnsville United Methodist Church 204 Fulton Street 10 am to 3 pm
- \* **September 21** at Steer Steakhouse from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in Weston
- \* **September 28** at Upshur County Extension Office 91 West Main Street Buckhannon from 10 am to 2 pm.

## 2016 People First of West Virginia Self-Advocacy Conference

Sept. 7-9, 2016 at Jackson's Mills in Jane Lew, WV. Call: 304.422.3151

## 2016 Autism Society of WV State Conference

September 24, 2016  
Bridgeport Conference Center in Bridgeport, WV

## What's Your 'Back to School' Story?



You and your family might be preparing for the back to school season. For most child(ren), it usually means seeing old friends and making new connections. Where some children might be slightly nervous, other children are terrified to be back in the school environment. What is your family's 'back to school' story going to be? Is your child one of 150,000 to 200,000 students bullied in our schools every day as the school season opens this year?

Many schools today have added hotlines and "Student Resource

Officers" who help identify and prevent bullying. Still bullying happens, and the facts show that students with disabilities are at a high risk. The reality is any one who looks different, acts different, or believes something different from the local "norm" is going to be a target. Children/youth with disabilities sometimes do look different from the student population.

Growing up is never a straight path from point A to point B. Growing up with a disability brings a different set of challenges. Your child might have

social stigma, misunderstandings, or lack of awareness affects the situation. What does it mean?

It means families need start talking to address potential problems and arm your child with information to be wise. It means paying attention to changes in behavior especially aggression and meltdowns. Trust your instincts. We are hoping your family's story will be one of smooth sailing into the new school year! Source: Chester Goad



Brenda Lamkin,  
Executive Director of WVPTI

Welcome to our fall newsletter from WVPTI!

As you and your family are preparing for the autumn season and may be gearing up for school, your resource place, WV PTI, is here to help you with questions and finding answers to your problems. We are sharing some resources in our fall issue.

Please check out of Facebook page for other resources: <https://www.facebook.com/Wvpti/>

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**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

Image source: Google

Parenting a special needs child isn't for the faint of heart; it requires a heart that's capable of containing all the love and happiness that comes with this special role.

Single Mothers Who Have Children With Autism

Cited Source: Pinterest



## Back to School Question: Does your child need Assistive Technology this year?

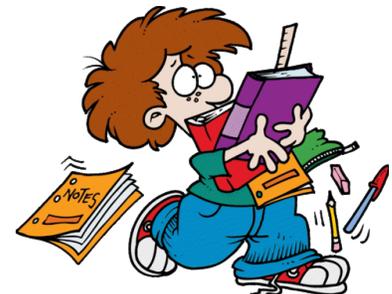
As children enter another year of school, one question that parents could ask is, "What technology is available to help my child succeed in school?" Assistive technology may play an important role in improving your child's academic life (especially children with an autism spectrum disorder). There is an old myth that *students with disabilities cannot use the same technology that typical students use*. Technology can be the great equalizer in a classroom with diverse learners.

Children with learning disabilities often have better technology skills than average and are drawn to computers and other gadgets. Below is a list for you to consider:

- 1) A tablet with educational apps could be positive reinforcement for a child with special needs who is learning new skills.
- 2) Noise cancelling headphones and earmuffs can help reduce the background noise while making it easier for the child to focus on what someone is saying.

- 3) Sensory toys can offer visual, tactile or audible output that captures the child's attention.
- 4) Augmentative and alternative communication devices help with limited or no speech and listening.
- 5) Freeform database software used in conjunction with word processing or other software, this tool allows the user to create and store electronic notes by "jotting down" relevant information of any length. Check out: <http://enablingdevices.com/catalog>

## What questions do I ask to find out about my child's educational needs?



Cited Source: Google

As a parent of a special needs child, you need to know about what's happening in your child's classroom. When Open House or Parent/Teacher Conferences happens this year, be armed with non-superficial questions to clarify beyond the surface level the needs of your child and they being met. These suggested questions do not need to be asked at once but pick one or two to start your conversations. Some of the questions need to be asked of the regular and special education teacher so you may have a clear understanding. Some suggested questions are:

*What academic standards do you use, (or are in my child's Individual Education Plan), and what do I need to know about them?*

*How do you focus on strengths and weaknesses of my child?*

*How are the assessments designed to promote learning than simple measurement of the learning goals?*

*What can I do to support literacy at home?*

*What am I not asking but need to know about my child's education?*

*Is there technology available to help my child's educational progress?*

*How will you respond if or when my child struggles in class?*

*When do I receive updates about my child's progress?*

*How do you measure academic progress?*

You should have productive conversations about your child with these questions!

## Need Help? Agencies Available in WV!



West Virginia Family to Family Health Information Center is part of a national information network for families of children and youth with special health care needs. The Center provides help for families who are looking for family-friendly health care information. The goal of the Center is to improve health care and health care supports throughout West Virginia for children with developmental delays, chronic illnesses and special needs by empowering families to advocate for their children or youth. Contact Information: <http://wvf2f.org/> or phone 1. 800.281.1436

The West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council is another agency who may be what you need. Its mission is to ensure people who have disabilities have access to community-based resources that promote personal choice and facilitate the achievement of living independently. This WV Council is committed to ensuring people with disabilities have the freedom of choice and a quality of life, fiscal responsibility, self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and inclusion in the local community. If you need to contact them:

Phone: 1.304.766.4624

Toll-free: 1.855.855.9743

Address: West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council  
5010-C Fairlawn Ave.  
Institute, WV 25112-0625

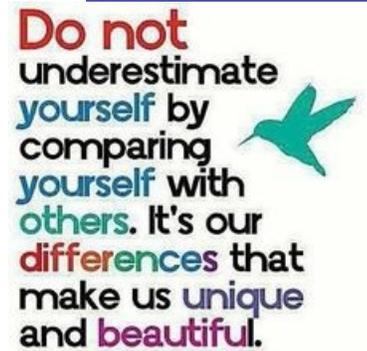


## Pat Haberbosch Webinar Series - October 5

WVPTI, Inc. honors the memory of our founding Executive Director, Pat Haberbosch. WVPTI, Inc. Board President Sharon Clagett and present Executive Director Brenda Lamkin are pleased to announce the creation of the Pat Haberbosch Webinar Series. This series of free webinars will focus on topics dealing with special education to support families of children and youth with disabilities. The first webinar is scheduled on October 5th. Please register for Pat Haberbosch Webinar Series (Basic Rights) on Oct 5, 2016 11:00 AM EDT at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2348042642559182593>. The webinar code is Access Code: 519-529-025.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2348042642559182593>

You will receive a welcome email after you have register. We hope you will attend this webinar!



Cited Pinterest

## Training, Information, Education, and Support Trainings in Burnsville, Weston, and Buckhannon

WV PTI is providing several Training, Information, Education, Support Meetings (T.I.E.S.) in the local communities. These trainings do not cost the participants and lunch will be provided.

The trainers, Tammy Hatfield and Stephanie Ludle will be discussing the State and Federal Laws for children who receive educational services such as a child who has an IEP or has

special needs. It will be very beneficial to anyone who would like the updated material. Please RSVP by calling 1-800-281-1436 or email:

[www.wvpti@aol.com](mailto:www.wvpti@aol.com). We hope to see at the training !



T.I.E.S. Training

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[www.wvpti.org](http://www.wvpti.org)  
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 304-472-5697

West Virginia Parent Training and Information, Inc. (WVPTI) is a non-profit agency that operates the statewide federally funded Parent Training and Information Center, [Family to Family \(F2F\) Health Information Center](#) 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.



WEST VIRGINIA PARENT  
 TRAINING & INFORMATION

## Facebook

<https://facebook.com/wvpti>

## Twitter

<https://twitter.com/wvpti>

## Pinterest

[https://  
www.pinterest.com/](https://www.pinterest.com/)

## 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, pictures or gestures.

For the full article; <http://>

[www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/  
transition-tool-kit/self-advocacy](http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/transition-tool-kit/self-advocacy)



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