



'Bits & Pieces'



Upcoming Events

Free IEP Training
Sissonville Public Lib.
March 7, 2017
12:00– 2:00 pm
Kelly Miller

We Are PTI Upshur
County FRN
March 13, 2017
12:00 to 1:30 pm
Stephanie Ludle

Free IEP Training
Nitro Public Library
March 10, 2017
12:00—12:00 pm
Kelly Miller

Transition to Adulthood
Ohio Co. Board of Ed.
4-5:00 Dr. James Ball
5:15– 7 pm Round Table
Pat Elliott

Are IEP Reviews on your Spring Calendar?

During springtime, there are numerous IEP reviews to be completed for families with children who have special needs. We want to mention a few details to help you and how to resolve conflicts if they arise in your IEP meeting.

As you are learning, you are your child's best educational advocate until your child becomes old enough to speak up for himself. As the parent, you know your child's strengths and challenges. You are able to advocate for the resources which your child needs to succeed.

Inform yourself. Read up and find workshops such as we are offering to become aware of the different options which are available to your child. It opens different ways schools may help with your child's needs.

Keeping track. A good tip is to keep copies of all paperwork such as report cards, progress reports, evaluations, educational assessments, older IEPs, medical records, homework notes or samples, and any other document which you deem to be important.



Build Connections.
You need to find out and get to know your child's teachers, school psychologist, speech therapists, and anyone else who helps your child. These are people who are part of your child's team. Having the lines of communication open will

ensure there is a less likelihood of misunderstandings.

Know the law.
As your child's best advocate, you need to know your child's rights to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). You can also request that the school provide a parent advocate to help you during the important meetings.

Talk to your child.



You need to know what your child is experiencing in school in order to know what to change. Talk and ask detail questions to see if services are being fulfilled in the IEP.

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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/>

Brenda Lamkin, Exec. Director



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

I don't think the worst thing that could happen to me is raising a child with special needs. I think the worst thing is to raise a child who is cruel to those with special needs.

Cited from Quotes.gram

Springtime IEP Meetings (cont.)

Know the new language.

You need to know whether a specialist is “pulling out” (taking you child to a separate location) or “pushing in” (working with your child in the classroom). Your child may say that he did go with the specialist but the specialist might have been in the classroom with your child.

Regular attendance. It is important to be at your

IEP and parent– teacher conference meetings. You need to take the opportunity to get an update on your child’s progress.



Stay Calm . It may seem at times that no

one is listening but the IEP team is the process to help your child. Take deep breathes and make a list of what you want to talk about in the meeting. Remember, you are in control. The school staff is there to guide but your are in the driver’s seat. Be open and listen. However, don’t agree to something if it goes against what you think is best for your child. If you need help, call us (WV PTI.). 304.472.5697.

Kelly Miller , Trainer for Region 2

We would like to welcome Kelly Miller to WV PTI. Kelly Miller is from Lincoln County and is the mother of two great girls, Emily and Allison. Emily, her oldest child, is attending Grad School at Marshall University. Her youngest daughter, Allison, is a sophomore at Lincoln County High School and has Down Syndrome. Kelly has been advocating for people with disabilities for 18 years. She is excited to begin this new journey as a Regional Parent Trainer.



Kelly Miller, Region 2

Welcome to our team, Kelly!

New Trainer, Pat Elliott, Region 1

Pat Elliott, the Regional Trainer for Region 1, is a new to our group. Pat has twelve years of experience advocating for her son Kouper. She was a Parent Partner for WV Birth to Three Region 1 and a graduate of Partners in Policy making. She was governor appointed to two state councils to represent individuals with disabilities and volunteer director of Ohio County Special Olympics.

Pat has two amazing boys; Waylon, 15 and Kouper, 12. Waylon attends John Marshall High School and plays football for the JMHS Monarchs! Kouper enjoys playing on his iPad and cuddling with family members. Kouper also is nonverbal and has autism. Pat has a passion for advocating for those people with disabilities. She’s spent time visiting legislators regarding the cuts to the I/DD Waiver program, pushed to get Project Life Saver in Ohio County, and been the voice for many people with disabilities. Welcome, Pat!



Pat Elliott, Region 2

Springtime Activities for Children with Special Needs



Source and more Information may be found at: <http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2014/05/19/10-spring-activities-fochildren-with-special-needs/>

Spring is a great time to take the children outside! Stored energy can be finally be released in the fresh air. Here are some suggestions to try outdoors when the sun is shining:

- 1) Scavenger Hunt - Use the camera or smartphone to take pictures of nature. This way you can leave nature where it belongs and explore all there is to see! Create a list to include items such as pine cones, flowers or a special hunt for things that are colored green or any other color you wish.
- 2) Outdoor Miniature Goal Course– Gather all your outdoor playthings and put together your own adventure part in the backyard. Some toys you might use: pool toys, sand toys, jump ropes, hula hoops, ride toys, etc. Bury the plastic cups in the yard or just the cut off bottoms of 2-liter pop bottles to create an archway and stand them up on the grass for putting. Have great fun in the spring!

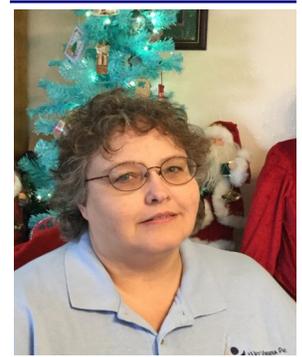
Activities with Stephanie Ludle, Region 3

Stephanie Ludle, trainer for Region 3, has been active with parents who have children with special needs. She attending the Upshur and Doddridge FRN organizations to inform them about our services and trainings available. Doddridge—March 9 Upshur– March 13

Another activity for Stephanie is that she has selected to represent our organization on the Inter-Agency Collaborative (ICC). Stephanie will be doing a presentation about WVPTI at the March 2017 meeting for the council.

If you are in the Buckhannon area, Stephanie will be leading a training about the IEP Process at our headquarters in town. We are located at 99 Edmiston Way in Suite 101. However, the training will be on the third floor in the Conference Room. You are invited to join us for free resources and materials. If you have any questions about the IEP Process, please bring them with you to our training.

Stephanie Ludle may be reached at stephanielwvpti@gmail.com if you have any concerns or wish to talk with one of our trainers.



New Regions Outlined for WV PTI

Pat Elliott

Region 1: Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Monongalia, Preston, Tyler, Pleasants, Marion, Taylor, Ritchie, Doddridge, Wirt and Harrison

Kelly Miller

Region 2: Cabell, Putnam, Kanawha, Mason, Jackson, McDowell, Wood, Ritchie, Pleasants, Tyler, Wyoming, Raleigh, Boone, Roane and Logan

Stephanie Ludle

Region 3: Nicholas, Webster, Gilmer, Braxton, Lewis, Upshur, Fayette, Randolph, Calhoun, Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Barbour, Clay, Mercer, Greenbrier, Monroe, and Summers

Tucker, Pendleton, Grant, Mineral, Hardy, Hampshire, Morgan, Berkley, Jefferson are Region 4. We are looking for a person for this region.



Cited Pinterest

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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.



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 TRAINING & INFORMATION

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



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