



'Bits & Pieces'



Upcoming Events

Free Documentation Training

Clendenin Public Lib.

April 3, 2019

1:00– 3:00 pm

Kelly Miller

Call: 304-972-1873

Documentation Training Riverside Public Library

April 10, 2019

12:00 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://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/29772973160084747>

Basic Rights Calhoun Public Library

11:00—12:30 pm

Julie Dial, Presenter

Call: 304-972-8101

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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 the ones 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.

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/>

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 detailed questions to see if services are being fulfilled in the IEP.



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 PTL.). 304.472.5697.

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. Here are additional trainings beside the first page’s list:

Anstead Public Library April 18, 2019 12 noon—2:00 pm
Kermit Public Library April 25, 2019 12 noon—2:00 pm
Chapmanville Public Lib. April 30, 2019 12 noon– 2:00 pm



Join us to find answers for your questions!

Kelly Miller, Region 2

New Trainer, Patty Boyce, Region 1

Hello, my name is Patty Boyce. I am the new Family Engagement Specialist for WVPTI for Region 1 which includes Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Monongalia, Preston, Tyler, Pleasants, Marion, Taylor, Ritchie, Doddridge, Wirt, and Harrison.

I have been working with those with special needs for over 30 years. I am a single parent of three boys. My oldest son is 37, and he has cerebral palsy and my youngest son, who is 30, has learning challenges. I have always been active both personally and professionally helping those with special needs obtain the services, resources and supports that they need. I have recently earned my Master in Social Work from West Virginia University. I look forward to helping you and your families as you begin one of the most rewarding yet challenging journeys that you will ever face. You can do this, and I look forward to helping you in any way that I can.

We welcome Patty to our WVPTI team!



Patty Boyce, Region 1

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-fchildren-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!

Visit a Forum Coming Soon Around the State

The WV Department of Education will hold seven public forums as part of preparations for the upcoming special legislative session. The department says in a news release the first forum will be held March 18 at Cabell Midland High School. Gov. Jim Justice called the special session to address teacher pay raises and other education issues. He's asked legislators to meet with teachers, parents and other stakeholders before returning. The statement says the Department of Education also will offer separate online surveys for parents and community members, students and educators on its website later this week. The first forum will be 6 p.m. March 18 at Cabell Midland High, 2300 U.S. 60, Ona. The others will be at the following high schools:

March 19, Mount View, 950 Mount View Road, Welch;

March 20, Capital, 1500 Greenbrier St., Charleston;

March 21, Woodrow Wilson, 400 Stanaford Road, Beckley;

April 1, Robert C. Byrd, One Eagle Way, Clarksburg;

April 2, Wheeling Park, 1976 Park View Road, Wheeling;

April 3, Berkeley Springs, 149 Concord Ave., Berkeley Springs;

The superintendent said the forums will be done in roundtable discussions, rather than "open mic night." All will start at 6 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration is preferred but it is not required. You may preregister at <https://wvde.us/education-public-forum/>.



Dr. Steven Paine,
Superintendent of WV

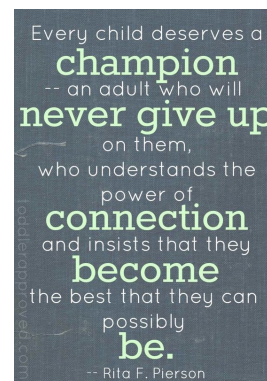
Julie Dial, Region 3, Family Engagement Specialist

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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Twitter

<https://twitter.com/wvpti>

Pinterest

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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, 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)



The funding for this publication has been provided by a grant from the US Dept. of Education, OSERS, and the US Dept. of Health & Human Resources, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.