



Spring Newsletter 2026 – Planting Possibilities

PIECING IT TOGETHER

The Official Newsletter of WVPTI, Inc.

Supporting Families of Children of All Abilities



Planting Possibilities



Spring Greetings from the Executive Director!

Dear Families and Students,

As the days grow longer and we prepare to “Spring Up” with the time change coming soon, I’m reminded that spring is always a season of renewal, growth, and fresh beginnings. While we may lose an hour of sleep, we gain more daylight, and with it, more opportunities to learn, connect, and move forward together. At WVPTI, we see the same spirit of growth in the families we serve every day. Just as spring unfolds, progress doesn’t happen all at once; it unfolds step by step, with patience, care, and encouragement.

As we step into this new season, I want to thank you for walking this journey with us at West Virginia Parent Training and Information. Your engagement, your questions, and your commitment to your children and youth are what make this work so impactful. Here’s to longer days, brighter evenings, and continued growth together this spring.

Brenda Lamkin

Spring is a season of fresh starts and family fun!



March 8, 2026

Spring Forward

When we spring forward for Daylight Saving Time, help your child adjust by moving bedtime up a few minutes each night and keeping routines consistent.



March 17, 2026

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is a great time for simple, sensory-friendly activities like a green scavenger hunt around the house or making shamrock crafts.

**Spring Break – Usually late March or early April –
Check with your schools**

During Spring Break, explore local parks, plan a family movie night, or create a visual schedule to help your child know what to expect each day.





April 5, 2026 - Happy Easter

Easter brings opportunities for inclusive egg hunts using brightly colored, textured, or candy filled eggs, and baking together can build life skills in a fun way.

April 22, 2026, is Earth Day

On Earth Day, take a nature walk, plant flowers in a small pot, or practice recycling together to teach responsibility and care for our world.

Spring offers many chances to create meaningful memories while supporting your child's unique needs through structure, creativity, and connection.



Updates on West Virginia Parent Training and Information

During February 2026, our office was pleased to initiate or renew contact with all 55 County Special Education Directors and Interim Directors across the state. During this outreach, we introduced our organization, offered opportunities for collaboration, and shared the WVPTI rack card as a resource for families. We look forward to partnering with

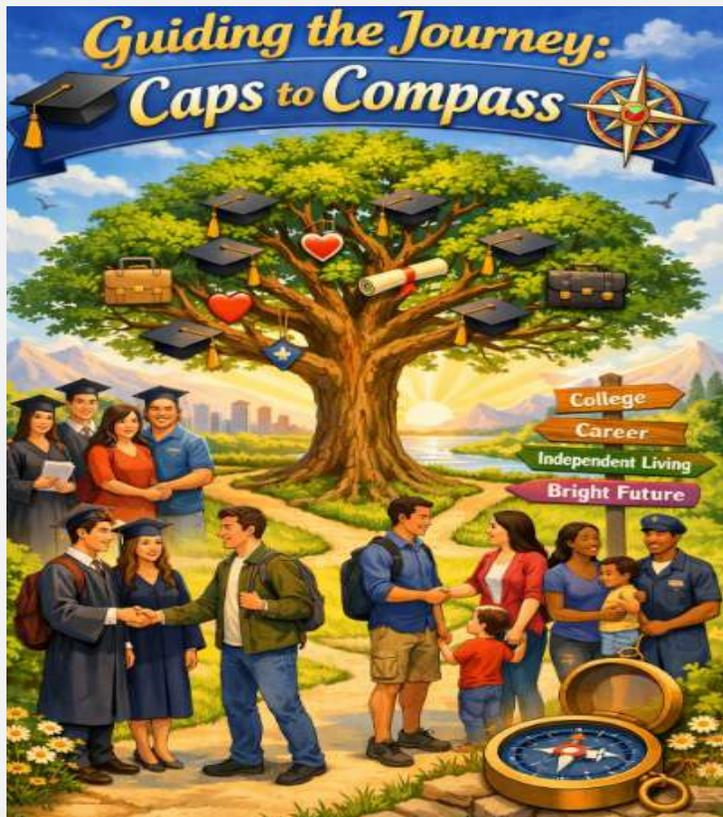
each local educational agency to support families of children and youth with unique needs and abilities. WVPTI – serving families statewide.



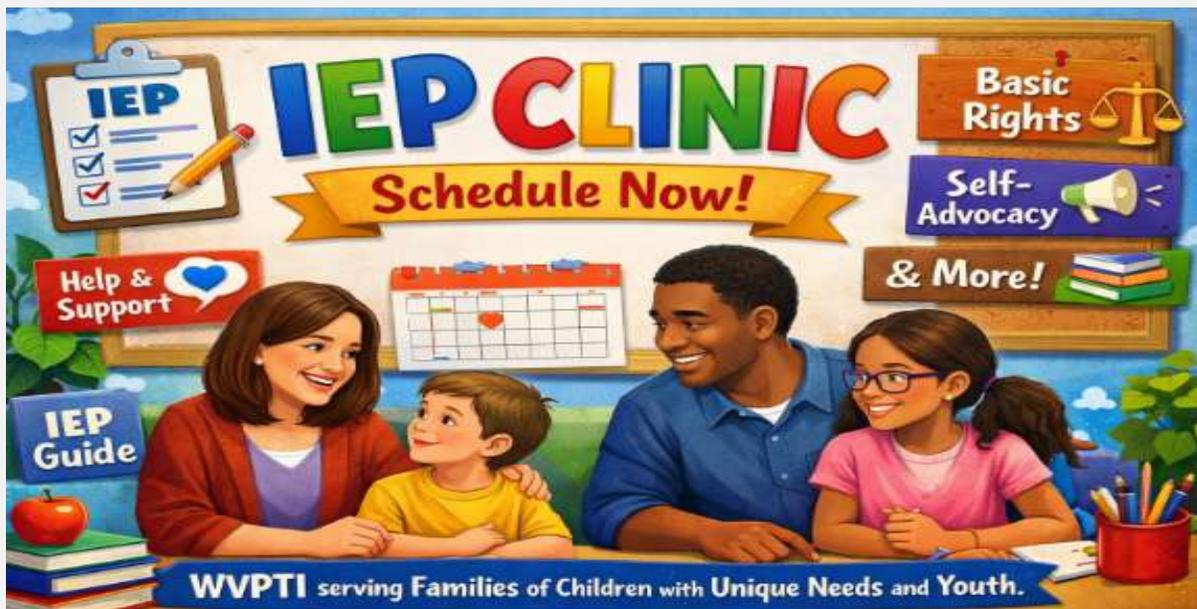
**Guiding the Journey:
Caps to Compass**

We are excited to share that Guiding the Journey: Caps to Compass is now in its 5th session for the 2025-2026 year! We have been truly encouraged by the increase in families attending and engaging in these sessions. While we would love every family or youth to attend each session, we understand that life is busy and that families join us when the time and topic are right for them. We are committed to meeting families where they are. Not every session may match a family's immediate needs, and some topics will naturally spark more interest than others, and that's perfectly okay. Our goal is to provide

meaningful learning opportunities based on the requests and feedback we receive from you whenever possible. Recently, we had the pleasure of hosting an author as a presenter, and it was a wonderful success! Each attendee was provided with a free book to read at their convenience and follow-up from the session. Opportunities like this remind us how powerful it is when families, professionals, and experts come together to share knowledge and encouragement.



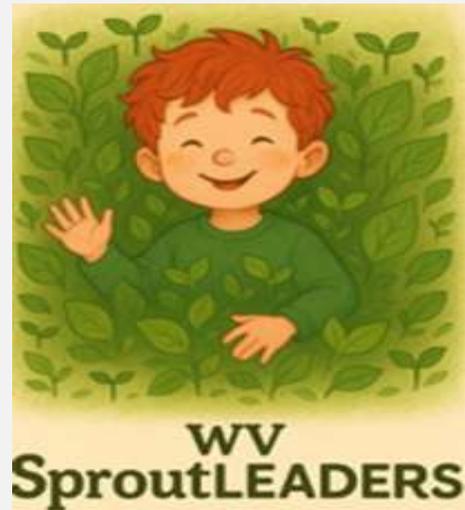
Parents – Call and schedule now. One-on-One Support.



Parents of Newly Diagnosed Children (Early Childhood)

Understanding Developmental Milestones - (When the Word Shifts: Finding Hope and Direction after Your Child's Diagnosis)

This empowering training is designed specifically for parents and caregivers of young children who have recently been diagnosed with special health care needs or disabilities. Developed to support families in the early days following a diagnosis, the session offers guidance, trusted resources, and encouragement to help caregivers confidently navigate the beginning stages of their child's journey.



We understand that this time can feel overwhelming, with new information, appointments, and emotions coming from every direction. At WVPTI, we recognize that families need time, space, and clear, easy-to-understand information to process what is happening and determine their next steps. This program is thoughtfully designed to meet families where they are, providing compassion, clarity, and practical support so they feel informed, empowered, and supported every step of the way. Dr. Bruce Boynton is our guest speaker for this session. Registration is required and will be found on our website or FB page. The date of the session will be April 21, 2026, at 2:00PM.

Dr. Bruce Boynton, MD, PhD



We are honored to welcome Dr. Bruce R. Boynton, MD, PhD, as our guest speaker. Dr. Boynton received his medical and research training at the University of Kentucky, Yale University, Stanford University, and the University of California, San Diego. He is highly respected in the fields of pediatrics and neonatology, where his work focused on caring for children and newborns with the most complex medical needs.

Throughout his career, Dr. Boynton has combined his medical expertise with a strong commitment to supporting families. He believes that when parents are equipped with knowledge and encouragement, children thrive. His passion for educating families and empowering parents has guided his work in both hospital and community settings.

Today, Dr. Boynton will share his expertise and insights to help us better understand children's health and development, providing practical guidance that parents can apply in their everyday lives.

Ticks: Small Bite, Big Impact



Ticks are already being spotted across our state, and it doesn't have to be summer to be on guard. Even with colder temperatures, ticks remain active and parents are reporting finding them on their pets after time outdoors. Because ticks can carry diseases such as Lyme disease and other infections, it's important for families to stay alert year-round.

After outdoor activities, check children, pets, and clothing carefully, and talk with your veterinarian about prevention options for pets. A few extra precautions now can help keep your family safe and healthy.

“Young people are the world’s most precious resource and its best hope for the future.” ~ John F. Kennedy

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE. YOUR SPACE FOR SUPPORT, EMPOWERMENT, AND COMMUNITY.

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WVPTI

Meeting Parents and Caregivers where they are!

Our new conference and meeting room for families.

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Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Please note that staff are frequently off-site for meetings or workshops. Please call before visiting to ensure there is someone available to meet with you.

If you are unable to call us during office hours, please leave a message. We will be happy to return your call the following day.