



The Parent Leadership Project's Parent Perspective

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(877) 35-EI-PLP ♦ www.eiplp.org ♦ eiplp@yahoo.com

Parent Leadership is for Everyone: Engaging Diverse Families as Leaders

May—June 2011

Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium Conference Update

The Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium (MEIC) Conference was held on May 4 and 5 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough, MA.

This conference is always an excellent resource for parents of children who are in or have been in, Early Intervention. The Conference was kicked off this year with Commissioner Auerbach welcoming the attendees and sharing his commitment to EI. Rosalie Edes, Deputy Assistant Secretary Disability Policy and Programs for EOHHS, and co-founder of the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project, followed the Commissioner. Ms. Edes gave an historically account of the Project's activities and achievements over the past 20 years. In addition, she recognized our very own Darla Gundler's commitment to the EIPLP over the past 15 years focusing on increasing parent involvement, and parent-related initiatives and trainings.

This year's keynote speaker was Carol Kranowitz, MA. Ms. Kranowitz is the author of many Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) books for parents, caregivers, and professionals...even for children. Her keynote entitled *Catching Kids Before They Fall: How Sensory Processing Disorder Affects Young Children's Learning and Behavior* was a dynamic and interactive experience in which she invigorated the audience both physically (stretches) and intellectually (humorous approach).

There was a breadth of workshops available at MEIC this year, ranging from Techniques and Resources to Include in Your Sensory Took Kit to Yoga & Meditation: Helping Children with Disabilities and Their Families. The EI Parent Leadership Project

presented Family Involvement in the 21st Century: Utilizing Technology.

MEIC Parent Dinner

This year's Parent Dinner was both a birthday party for the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project and an opportunity to bring together families, Department of Public Health and Federation for Children with Special Needs staff, as well as others who contributed to the wonderful history of the Project. Suzanne Gottlieb, Director of Family Initiatives, welcomed families and staff, past and present, thanking them all for their commitment to family involvement. Her remarks included recognizing some of the many achievements of the PLP and the families and professionals who were part of them. She reminded the group that the **parent voice** makes a strong and positive impact on policies and programs for young children and that the EIPLP is here to help make this happen. In addition, she graciously welcomed and introduced Rosalie Edes, the co-founder of the EIPLP. Ms. Edes, spoke about contributions that the PLP has made to parents and the EI field.

Sparkling apple cider toasted the Project and parents were asked to help complete a landscape by adding their names to a mural which included stars representing every parent who has attended the MEIC Conference over the past 20 years. A beautiful video of "then and now" photos representing over 85 families was shown and had a dramatic impact on the festivities. All in all, the MEIC Parent Dinner was a wonderful expression of parent commitment, creativity and initiative.



What will you be up to this summer? Are you doing something unique and interesting? Maybe you have an idea for an article? Let us know—this is your newsletter!

...email us at eiplp@yahoo.com

...we'd love to hear from you and share your thoughts and experiences in this newsletter!

Parents' Perspectives about the MEIC Conference...

"The MEIC conference was a wonderful experience! My husband and I learned a lot and more importantly we realized that there are so many people in the world that are going through similar circumstances like ours. It was a place to come together and learn from one another."
~ Krissy Armstrong

"Attending the MEIC Conference was a wonderful experience. There was a convivial atmosphere at the EIPLP dinner. I am already looking forward to next year's conference" ~ Alanna MacDonald

"The 2011 MEIC conference was amazing as usual! I find it invaluable as a parent, student and educator." ~ Serena Geokan

"My senses were awakened by many gifted individuals within the EI community. My journey continues, yet with renewed energy to bridge the gaps between parents, therapies & clinicians." ~Melissa Kashgagian

"This was my first year as both an EI parent and EI employee and the opportunity to attend this conference just can not be measured by words. I loved every minute of it and I feel the information I gained will continue to help me strive both personally with my children and professionally with my career in this field. Thank you EIPLP and Schwartz Center for Children for this opportunity. I can not wait for next year's conference!" ~ Rainelle M. Gomes

"I am grateful to The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project for giving me the opportunity to experience such an great conference! The Parent leadership team, Darla, Kris, Jada and Faith made me feel so welcomed! The conference, exhibitors, seminars, speakers, parents and the celebratory dinner were amazing! It is nice to know that as a parent of a child in Early Intervention I am a valuable asset to the Early Intervention Team helping to foster growth and development to the children who receive services and continue to build a strong connection between the parent and EI." ~ Nichole Cordon

"The conference provided me the opportunity to meet professionals working and supporting special needs. It was

great to see the dedication and commitment that everyone attending the conference had to a child's development. I received valuable information that I could share with other parents." ~ Theresa Graziosi

"The conference was such a great opportunity for me to take advantage of all the wonderful resources that are out there for kids with special needs. I was also so happy to take time for myself to re-energize and take a great seminar on meditation! This is my second year coming, and each year I walk away with a greater perspective on the EI world! Thank you for giving me this opportunity to be a part of the MEIC conference, it gave me a chance to bring life tools home to be a better mom!!" ~ Jen Amador

This year's Early Intervention conference provided a wealth of information for me as an EI parent. I met some amazing parents who are raising such special children with dedication, immense love and persistence; attended sessions that gave me new insights; and brought back a lot of information for the other parents at my EI center. The planners of the conference have struck a wonderful balance between important education for professionals and parents. ~ Sarah Burianek

As a parent and a Social Worker I found the 2011 MEIC Conference inspirational and educational. I found the workshops I attended informative and useful, but more importantly I was inspired by the other parents and the lengths they will go to for their very special children and others in need of Early Intervention Services. I hope and plan to be around to celebrate additional milestones for PLP and MEIC. Great work to the organizers and planners!
~ Elizabeth Melo

"As parents, attending the MEIC Conference gives us a much needed revitalization. We leave after the second day with a renewed energy and a list of new ideas to incorporate into our family life." ~ Donna Pentoney

"I had a very positive experience at the Conference and found it to be an excellent opportunity to share experiences with both parents and providers, and I learned very concrete information which I am using in my daily life with my daughter. I hope that I will be able to attend again next year!" ~ Shannon Moesaa

NCSEAM Family Survey Update

June 2011

Dear Families:

This is our last **Parent Perspective** newsletter Family Survey update until the fall. We wanted to thank you again for all the help you have given the Department of Public Health as we work to ensure that Early Intervention is a valuable, high-quality service that helps children learn and develop and helps families support their children. The NCSEAM Family Survey is one of two ways the DPH measures outcomes for children and families. In 2010 **3819** Surveys were returned. That represents a return rate of almost 35%. This percentage is about double that in any other state. We know that this great return rate truly demonstrates the commitment that you and all your EI workers feel for Early Intervention.

The next distribution of the Family Survey will be in October 2011. DPH is hoping for an even better response and we will need your help to achieve it. This will be your chance to tell us how Early Intervention in Massachusetts is doing for your child and family. Look for your Survey. If you have questions about the Family Survey call or email the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project at 1-877-353-4757 or eiplp@yahoo.com.

Family Survey Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have never received a Survey and would love to give feedback. What should I do?

Families whose children have been enrolled in EI for at least six months receive a Survey in October or March. Families complete the Survey only once a year. If you think you should be filling out a Survey in October 2011 and don't get one, talk to your Service Coordinator.

2. What if I have concerns about my program or services? I don't want to make anyone mad or lose any services my child is getting.

This is a three part answer: First of all if you have concerns about any aspect of EI, talk to your Service Coordinator or Program Director. They will work with you to resolve any problems. Second, your child and family's services are spelled out in your IFSP. Nothing can change without your agreement. Thirdly, your responses on the Family Survey are anonymous. You do not have to give your name or any identifying information. Programs receive only aggregate information about what families say on the Survey.

Actualización sobre la encuesta familiar de NCSEAM

Junio de 2011

Estimadas familias:

Esta es nuestra última actualización sobre la encuesta familiar de nuestro boletín **Parent Perspective** (La perspectiva de los padres) hasta el otoño. Deseamos darles nuevamente las gracias por todo el apoyo prestado al esfuerzo del Departamento de Salud Pública por asegurar que la Intervención Temprana sea un servicio valioso y de alta calidad, que promueve el aprendizaje y el desarrollo de los niños y ayuda a las familias a apoyar a sus hijos. La encuesta familiar de NCSEAM es una de las dos formas en que el Departamento de Salud Pública mide y evalúa los resultados logrados por los niños y sus familias. En 2010, recibimos **3.819** encuestas. Esto representa una tasa de retorno de casi el 35%. Este porcentaje es casi el doble que en cualquier otro estado. Sabemos que esta gran tasa de retorno demuestra el fuerte compromiso de ustedes y de todos los proveedores de servicios con el programa de Intervención Temprana.

La próxima encuesta familiar se distribuirá en octubre de 2011. El Departamento de Salud Pública espera una tasa de retorno aún mayor, y para lograrlo, necesitaremos la ayuda de todos ustedes. Esta será su oportunidad de decirnos cuán bien está respondiendo el programa de Intervención Temprana a las necesidades de sus niños y familias. Estén atentos a la llegada de la encuesta. Si tienen preguntas sobre la encuesta familiar, por favor llamen o escriban por correo electrónico al Proyecto Padres Líderes del programa de Intervención Temprana: 1-877-353-4757 o eiplp@yahoo.com

Preguntas comunes sobre la encuesta familiar

1. Nunca he recibido una encuesta y me encantaría dar mi opinión. ¿Qué debo hacer?

Las familias de niños que han estado inscritos durante al menos seis meses en el programa de Intervención Temprana recibirán una encuesta en octubre o marzo. Las familias completan la encuesta una vez al año. Si usted cree que le corresponde contestar una encuesta en octubre de 2011 pero no ha recibido una, hable con su coordinador de servicios.

2. ¿Qué ocurre si tengo preocupaciones acerca de mi programa o de los servicios? No quiero ofender a nadie ni perder ninguno de los servicios que mi niño está recibiendo.

Esta respuesta tiene tres partes: En primer lugar, si usted tiene cualquier tipo de inquietudes con respecto a la Intervención Temprana, por favor hable con su coordinador de servicios o con el director del programa. Ellos colaborarán con usted para resolver cualquier problema. En segundo lugar, los servicios de su niño y su familia se detallan en su Plan individualizado de servicios familiares (Individualized Family Service Plan). No se puede cambiar nada sin su consentimiento. En tercer lugar, sus respuestas a la encuesta familiar son anónimas. Usted no tiene que dar su nombre o ninguna información de identificación. Los programas reciben solamente la información colectiva dada por las familias en la encuesta.

Parent Leadership is for Everyone:

My Journey as a Mother of a Child with Special Needs

By Sara Diaz

My journey began with the birth of my son Nicolas. Nicolas, my special son, was born with Down syndrome. From the moment of his birth he became the center of my world. His needs became my center of attention and my quest was learning about him and his life as a child who would need more and different things from me and from the system.

Nicolas' diagnosis qualified him for Early Intervention services and his experience began at Thom Boston Metro Early Intervention. I was also experiencing and learning to be a special mom to a special child; learning what his diagnosis meant in the short and long term. I searched for resources to maximize and enhance services to enrich Nicolas' life, and prepare him for his first transition. I put together a great team and Nicholas transitioned to public school in Boston.

After his transition I took an opportunity of a job opening at the Early Intervention where Nicolas had been. I was now part of the Early Intervention system and I learned about the Parent Leadership Project and how it helps families get involved. During this time, parents gathered to share their experiences, to support each other and learn about their new challenges and the system too. It was here that I benefited from the wisdom, compassion and camaraderie of being supported by other parents with children with similar needs.

About the families I work with and growing as a parent, human being and professional.

My job at the Federation for Children with Special Needs gave me the opportunity to start a parent support group. This group was so successful that two years later, I was able to start other support groups. I started Special Needs Parent Support group, Health Care Parent Support Group, Autism Parent Support Group and a parent support group for Parents of Babies with Down syndrome. Throughout this process, I came to realize the importance of knowledge, information and action, and the benefits of sharing each other's wisdom, compassion and support. I was asked: "who helped you along the way?" My answer is, my son has been my great teacher. By learning about his needs and his potential, I have learned to open doors and be persistent. I was also asked, "What are qualities or attributes necessary for the journey?" My answer, "equip yourself with knowledge and be able and willing to transmit that knowledge, be the voice of those you lead, and last, but not least, be humble."

I feel I provide support and guidance to other families. I provide as much information as possible, give them courage, recognize their qualities and potential, and most importantly, I give HOPE to those who cross my path.

Family Opportunities:

Digital Stories & Focused Monitoring

Share your story with other families and new EI staff through Digital Stories!

Digital stories are condensed 3—5 minute videos made up of photos, music and your voice sharing an experience.

Currently used in trainings –
Early Intervention Training Center (EITC) orientation for new EI staff and for the EIPLP

Your experiences with EI in the following areas are important to us:

- IFSP development
- Family-professional partnerships
- Having providers come into your home and community settings
- Positive transitions out of EI

If you have a great story or idea for a story you would like to share and would like to participate in this opportunity please contact:

Faith Bombardier at 1-877-353-4757



Focused Monitoring

The Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project is currently looking for family members of children who have graduated from EI or will be graduating from EI before July 1, 2011 to participate in the EI Focused Monitoring process. Focused Monitoring is one of the many efforts of the Department of Public Health's to ensure Early Intervention Program compliance with federal and state requirements. Reimbursement is available.

- Family members must attend an orientation training which will be held in the fall.
- A commitment of participating in up to 2 focused monitoring onsite visits during the fiscal year (July 2011 – June 2012) is required.
- An onsite visit consists of a pre-onsite conference call, desk audit meeting (discussion of the data from the EI program chosen), and 2 to 3 full days onsite at an EI program to gather information.

Most program assignments are within your family's region, but will not be the program that your child graduated from or any program with which they were involved. For more information on the focused monitoring process or how you can become involved please contact Faith Bombardier at the EI PLP toll free line 1-877-353-4757.



El liderazgo de padres es para todos:

Mi experiencia como madre de un niño con necesidades especiales

Por Sara Díaz

Mi recorrido comenzó con el nacimiento de mi hijo Nicolás.

Nicolás, mi hijo especial, nació con el síndrome de Down. Desde que se asomó a este mundo, se convirtió en el centro de mi vida. Sus necesidades se convirtieron en el foco de mi atención, y mi búsqueda consistió en aprender sobre él y su vida, entendiendo que iba a ser un niño que necesitaría más apoyos y de diferente tipo, tanto de mí y como del sistema.

Por su diagnóstico, Nicolás cumplía los requisitos para recibir los servicios de Intervención Temprana, y su experiencia comenzó en el programa Thom Boston Metro Early Intervention. Yo también estaba experimentando, aprendiendo a ser una madre especial para este niño especial y enterándome del significado de su diagnóstico a corto y largo plazo. Busqué recursos para maximizar y mejorar los servicios con el fin de enriquecer la vida de Nicolás y prepararlo para su primera transición. Pude formar un gran equipo y así Nicolás hizo la transición a una escuela pública de Boston.

Después de este cambio, aproveché la oportunidad de una oferta de trabajo en el programa de Intervención Temprana al que había ido Nicolás. Pasé a formar parte del sistema de Intervención Temprana y así fue que me enteré del Proyecto Padres Líderes (*Parent Leadership Project*) y de la forma en que promueve la participación de las familias. Durante esta etapa, los padres se reunían para compartir experiencias, apoyarse mutuamente, aprender sobre sus nuevos retos y entender cómo

funciona el sistema. Ahí fue que me beneficié de la sabiduría, compasión, camaradería y apoyo de otros padres de niños con necesidades similares.

Acerca de las familias con las que trabajo y crezco, como madre, ser humano y profesional.

Mi trabajo en la Federación para Niños con Necesidades Especiales me dio la oportunidad de iniciar un grupo de apoyo para padres. Este grupo tuvo tanto éxito que dos años más tarde tuve la oportunidad de formar más grupos de apoyo. Organicé un grupo para padres de niños con necesidades especiales, otro sobre cuidados de la salud, otro sobre autismo y otro para padres de bebés con el síndrome de Down. Durante este proceso, comprendí la importancia del conocimiento, la información y la acción, y los beneficios de compartir nuestra sabiduría, compasión y apoyo. Me preguntaron: "Y a ti, ¿quién te ayudó en este proceso?" Mi respuesta es que mi hijo ha sido mi gran maestro. Al entender sus necesidades y su potencial, aprendí a abrir puertas y a persistir. También me preguntaron: "¿Qué cualidades o atributos se necesitan para recorrer este camino?" Mi respuesta es: "Ármense de información. Prepárense y estén dispuestos a transmitir estos conocimientos, a ser la voz de quienes representan. Y por último, pero no menos importante, sean humildes."

Yo creo que brindo apoyo y orientación a las otras familias. Comparto la mayor cantidad de información posible, les doy ánimo, reconozco sus cualidades y potencial y, lo que es más importante, les doy ESPERANZA a aquéllos que encuentro en mi camino.

The Early Intervention Training Center and
The Thom Western Regional Consultation Program
Implications of Visual Impairment on Development and Social Play with Young Children

Ann Barber, MEd

Assistant Education Director Educational Partnership
Perkins School for the Blind

Open to Parents, Educators & EI Specialists

When: Monday September 19, 2011
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Chicopee Library; 449 Front Street,

Please contact Karen Cassidy with questions
at 413-783-5500 ext 16; \$15.00 FEE (register by mail)
EITC CECs: 6.2 & 6.9

EEC Credits: Guiding and Interacting with Children and
Youth: Diverse Learners

FREE for EI Staff, WRCP and Perkins Families
(call to register)

The Early Intervention Training Center and
The Thom Western Regional Consultation Program
Caring for Yourself and Your Diverse Learner

Caring for yourself (physically, socially, emotionally and
spiritually) can be a challenge in this fast paced world.
Come explore ways to think of caring for yourself AND
making the needed accommodations to support children
with special needs.

Karen F. Cassidy, RN, LCSW; Coordinator, Thom WRCP
Lynn Dehneh, BA Rehab, Thom WRCP Parent

When: Monday August 22, 2011; 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Where: Chicopee Library; 449 Front Street

Please contact Karen Cassidy with questions
at 413-783-5500 ext 16

\$20.00 FEE (register by mail)

2 hours EEC Credits: Health Safety and Nutrition:
Diverse Learners

FREE for EI Staff and WRCP Families (call to register)

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

Early Intervention Training Center (EITC)

Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorders Learning Module Available

The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) recently posted a new on-line module on the early identification of ASD.

The module comes with videos

(including home movies of babies who later develop ASD), case studies and other resources. It is available online at <http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu/content/early-identification-asd-module>. (Source: National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders - June 9, 2011)

Building a Community—This workshop, offered by the Early Intervention Training Center, provides an overview of the Massachusetts Early Intervention system. The orientation series is presented by a team of three facilitators, including EITC staff or consultant, a parent, and DPH staff. Parents are welcome to attend. For more information, visit www.eitrainingcenter.org.

Federation for Children with Special Needs Trainings

www.fcsn.org
800-331-0688

Turning Three—This workshop, presented by the Federation for Children with Special Needs, highlights the difference between Early Intervention and publicly funded pre-school for children with disabilities. Discussion includes eligibility, the Team process for decision making and parents' role in the transition process. This workshop is held at various locations throughout the State. Contact the Federation for Children with Special Needs for more information.

Basic Rights—This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under state and federal special education laws. For more information about dates and locations, contact the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

Parent Perspective Newsletter Survey

Do you find this newsletter informative?
Would you like to see format changes? Please **complete our survey** by visiting www.eiplp.org/perspective.html

Family TIES of Massachusetts Update

Family TIES of Massachusetts is pleased to announce that Maggie Wurm is joining our program as our new Western Regional Coordinator. Parents and professionals are invited to call and say hello, and let Maggie know how she can be of support to you. You can reach her at 413-586-7525 or email to: mwurm@fcsn.org or maggie.wurm@state.ma.us.

Summer time is a great time for rest, relaxation, and... ORGANIZATION! There's no time like the present, while your children are young, to get into the habit of periodically making sense of documents you are collecting, on behalf of your child (and family). Avoid clutter, for this can lead to a feeling of loss of control as you watch piles grow and lose sight of your kitchen countertops!

Consider compiling reports that document your child's progress in Early Intervention and from the medical community. Develop a simple filing system that allows you to have access to important information when you need it. For parents of children with special health care needs, you may want to use a loose-leaf binder to keep handy such reports as your child's most recent physical, summaries focused on medical and developmental concerns, and information about your child's special needs – all for quick reference. This will make it easier for you to fully participate in teams that support your child's medical and educational needs.



If you would like help in getting organized, call Family TIES to learn about our LET'S GET ORGANIZED workshop. We would welcome an opportunity to assist you, as you develop some important advocacy skills in anticipation of transition to the public schools. For trainings or to learn more about community-based resources to meet your child's needs, please call our toll-free line, 800-905-TIES (8437) or visit our website to find direct contact information for your Regional Coordinator: www.massfamilyties.org.

Family TIES of Massachusetts is a parent-led network for families of children with special needs. We recognize that parents are an importance source of knowledge and strength to other parents. Our staff provides information and referral services, facilitates emotional support through our Parent-to-Parent Program, and offers free trainings. To reach us for any reason, please call our toll-free line or visit our website for staff contacts: 800-905-TIES (8437) or www.massfamilyties.org.

Spotlight on EIP

Top 10 ways to make an EI visit even more successful...

By Ellen Waddill, Parent Liaison for Professional Center for Child Development



- 1. You are the expert when it comes to your child** ~ Don't hesitate to give your ideas and opinions.
- 2. Keep distractions to a minimum** ~ Dedicate this time to your child and family. Before your visit, please silence your cell phone, and turn off the TV, radio and computer.
- 3. Be involved in the visit** ~ Stay involved in the visit as much as possible. Join in the fun & learning.
- 4. Look forward to the home visit** ~ Set the stage for the EI home visit, (you will know what is appropriate for your child) talk to them about someone coming to "play" with them.
- 5. Remember your EI home visitor is in many homes** ~ If there is a contagious illness in your home, call to reschedule. Don't be shy to ask if everyone has washed or disinfected their hands & toys.
- 6. Use the child's toys to elicit more language and play** ~ Think about using your toys in different ways. Make up stories, introduce movement or sing a song, all to creatively use your existing toys.
- 7. Ask questions & keep an EI notebook/file** ~ Keep a list of questions to ask your EI Specialist. It is also helpful to keep EI paperwork in a notebook that can be filed and referenced when needed.
- 8. Know a home visit does not always have to be in the home** ~ Any environment your family is in may be considered a home visit...try the park or your back yard if your child is working on motor activities.
- 9. Please understand your home visitor or evaluation team has scheduled this time for your child and family** ~ Please block off the time and mark EI as important in your calendar. If you need to cancel please call as soon as possible.
- 10. Follow-up with suggested strategies** ~ The EI home visitor may only be with your child for an hour or so, your family is in it for a lifetime. Ask for strategies that can be incorporated into every day activities. You have the ability to turn play time, dinner time, bed time, or any time into a learning experience.

And one to grow on!

11. Keep the fun in ~ EI is a play-based approach to child development.

A	R	C	C	Z	U	E	I	L	P	L	S	Q
F	S	S	P	S	R	C	D	T	Q	L	D	A
E	A	D	N	I	Q	O	D	E	P	B	Z	X
R	Y	G	M	N	M	Z	A	O	L	D	S	I
P	Q	A	E	F	A	V	F	M	P	C	P	F
A	P	W	I	E	E	E	W	H	P	L	A	S
S	O	D	C	X	R	O	Y	R	U	E	D	P
D	I	Z	P	W	P	P	N	C	L	B	R	P
G	L	D	A	H	I	T	I	W	C	A	F	E
M	E	I	R	K	M	N	O	Y	K	C	P	A

ACROYNMS DEMYSTIFIED...

Try to find these commonly used acronyms.

- DD** - Developmental Disability
- ECO** - Early Childhood Outcomes
- MEIC** - MA Early Intervention Consortium
- IEE** - Independent Education Evaluation
- LEA** - Local Education Agency (school system)
- LD** - Learning Disability
- LDA** - Learning Disability Association
- PTO** - Parent Teacher Organization
- RFP** - Request for Proposal
- SSP** - Speciality Service Provider

THE PARENT LEADERSHIP PROJECT

The Parent Leadership Project was created to support parents whose children receive Early Intervention services. The Project's main goal is to promote lifetime advocacy, leadership skills and the development of an informed parent constituency, which will encourage Early Intervention services to be increasingly family-centered. The Project is a parent driven endeavor, which continually seeks family involvement and input regarding the needs of families enrolled in Early Intervention and is implemented by parents whose own children have received EI services. The Project staff consists of a Statewide Director, a Communications Coordinator, an EI Program Focused Monitoring Parent Coordinator & Education Coordinator and Collaboration & Outreach Coordinator. Please feel free to contact any of them with your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns.

EI Parent Leadership Project Team

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On the web: www.eiplp.org
Find us on Facebook: *Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project*



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E-mail your name and e-mail address to:
eiplp@yahoo.com. Thanks!



23 Service Center
Northampton MA 01060

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To receive the *Parent Perspective Newsletter*, a free publication, published five times a year by the Parent Leadership Project, call us toll-free at (877) 353-4757 and ask to be added to the PLP mailing list or email eiplp@yahoo.com

NEXT DEADLINE: We welcome your input and suggestions for resources and articles. The next deadline is **September 5, 2011**. Please call our toll-free number (877) 353-4757 or email the newsletter editor at kris.levine@state.ma.us.

The *Parent Perspective* newsletter is produced five times a year by the Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project, through funding from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please contact eiplp@yahoo.com

