

# Early Intervention Family Resources

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The Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), supports families in meeting the developmental needs of their children. To enhance families' skills, the Bureau has a range of resources for families in Early Intervention.

## **CONNECT Helpline**

**Early Intervention Services (EI)** are provided for eligible children with developmental delays and their families. To learn more about EI, contact the CONNECT Helpline at 800-692-7288, [connecthelp@tiu.11.org](mailto:connecthelp@tiu.11.org), <https://www.papromiseforchildren.org/>

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## **Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania**

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania (P2P of PA) links families of children and adults with disabilities or special needs on a one-to-one basis with a Peer Supporter for support and information. P2P of PA can match for physical disabilities, developmental disabilities, special health care needs, behavioral/mental health concerns, foster care or adoption, and educational issues. Services are free and confidential. Contact: P2P of PA, 1-888-727-2706, [www.parenttoparent.org](http://www.parenttoparent.org)

## **Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side™**

Hands & Voices Guide By Your Side (GBYS)™ of PA is a specialized parent support program that links families of infants and toddlers newly identified with deafness and hearing loss in Pennsylvania with trained and experienced Parent Guides. Parent Guides are other parents of children with deafness and hearing loss who provide unbiased information, emotional support, and a perspective of optimism and hope on a shared journey. Services are free and confidential. GBYS™ is funded through the PA Department of Health in partnership with the OCDEL. Contact: Anne Gaspich, 800-360-7282 (in PA only) or 717-580-0839, [agaspich@pattan.net](mailto:agaspich@pattan.net); <http://www.paearlyhearing.org/families/diagnosed/item/70>

## **Competence and Confidence Partners in Policymaking Early Intervention (C2P2EI)**

C2P2EI is an leadership training program for parents of children in Early Intervention. C2P2EI provides up-to-date information on best practices, resources, and policy issues. Contact: <http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/leadership/c2p2ei.shtml> or by phone at 215-204-1772.

## **Parents as Partners in Professional Development (P3D)**

P3D brings together families of children who have received Early Intervention services with opportunities to contribute to professional development. In certain instances, OCDEL is able to reimburse families for expenses and provide honorariums. Contact: Mary Mikus, 800-441-3215 x 7277, [mmikus@pattan.net](mailto:mmikus@pattan.net) [www.eita-pa.org/information-and-resources-for-families](http://www.eita-pa.org/information-and-resources-for-families)

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## Early Intervention Family Resources *(cont.)*

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### **Professional Development**

The Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Support provides professional development on a variety of topics. Family members are always welcome in these events. Professional development is provided statewide through Early Intervention Technical Assistance, part of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network. To learn more about training in your area, contact your local Early Intervention program or go to <http://www.eita-pa.org/> or [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net).

## Pennsylvania Parent Centers

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Federally-funded Parent Centers are available to provide information, resources, and training opportunities to educate families about all aspects of Early Intervention and special education (from birth to age 21).

### **Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center (PEAL)**

The PEAL Center helps parents with individual information, technical assistance and training, including leadership training for families for children with disabilities and special health care needs. PEAL also helps families with access to health care, health insurance, and services at home and in the community through the PEAL Family to Family Health Information Center.

Contact: [www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org); 1-866-950-1040

### **Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE)**

HUNE serves, but is not limited to, Spanish-speaking families across the state. Contact: [www.huneinc.org](http://www.huneinc.org), 215-425-6203

### **Mission Empower**

Mission empower serves Erie County families who have children with the full range of disabilities, from birth to age 26 through individual assistance, advocacy, training and facilitation of parent involvement in their child's school. Contact: (855) 825-0788, [advocate@missionempower.org](mailto:advocate@missionempower.org), [www.missionempower.org](http://www.missionempower.org)