

## **FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM**

A program exclusively for Birth to Three families that provides support, information, resources and mentoring with other experienced parents, trainings and one to one guidance to help families plan their child's transition

## **WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM OFFER TO FAMILIES?**

The Family Connections Program offers families the opportunity to connect with other families who have experience with the B23 system. Current families can participate in any or ALL of these options:

- Request a short-term parent mentor who has “been there” and can help prepare for future planning
- Join a closed Facebook support group for B23 families
- Receive our bi-monthly newsletter
- Access to our First STEPs Parent Training
- Receive one to one phone consultation with one of our Parent Consultants

## **WHY FAMILY CONNECTIONS?**

Family Connections staff are all parents of children with special needs and have experience supporting other families. Our staff have come to learn that connecting with other families is a critical support in raising our own children. Staff and mentors can help families reduce the sense of isolation they may feel, as well as help families to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to be effective participants in their child's program decisions in order to increase the child's success.

## **HOW DO FAMILIES SIGN UP?**

Families interested in participating in the program can fill out the [online referral form](#), call us at 860-739-3089 or talk to their Birth to Three providers. Once the family submits their contact information a Family Connections Parent Consultants will call them and offer additional information on the program and find out how the family wants to participate.

[Visit the Family Connections Facebook Page](#)

**ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE FREE TO FAMILIES!**

## **PRESCHOOL PATHFINDER PROGRAM**

This program offers direct personal support to families of young children who are facing challenges beginning PreK Special Education or transitioning from Birth to Three into Special Education. Each family is assigned a Preschool Pathfinder, who is responsible for guiding the family through the process of special education. Preschool Pathfinders have expertise in Special Education procedures, communication strategies and conflict resolution skills.

## **WHAT DO PRESCHOOL PATHFINDERS OFFER FAMILIES?**

- They can review records with families in order to create an action plan
- They provide technical assistance regarding special education law
- They help families verbalize their child's unique needs and strengths to professionals who will work directly with their children
- They can provide support during the initial PPT and the second PPT (Planning and Placement Team Meeting)
- They can help families connect with other families and locate resources in the community

## **WHAT DO FAMILIES LEARN THROUGH PRESCHOOL PATHFINDER?**

- Families who have participated in our program become more confident and engage in ongoing communication practices with their schools
- Families can locate and understand important components of their child's evaluation
- Families increase their knowledge of special education process
- As a result of this unique support, families feel empowered and supported as their child transitions to public school and learned the key elements to work effectively with their school

## **WHO CAN RECEIVE ASSISTANCE?**

Families who have a child who will be referred to their public school and may be eligible for special education services. Families facing challenges navigating transition from early intervention into special education preschool. Our services are free of cost to families!

## **HOW CAN A FAMILY SIGN UP FOR PRESCHOOL PATHFINDERS?**

Families can complete the program application available here:

[Preschool Pathfinder Application](#)

We encourage interested parents to contact CPAC CT Parent Advocacy Center for more detailed information:

860.739.3089 - cpac@cpacinc.org - www.cpacinc.org