



The Family Education & Training Series (FET) 2011

The *Family Education & Training Series (FET) 2011* is for families of children with developmental disabilities. These programs are provided through the funding of the Home and Community Based Waiver schedule.

As defined by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Family Education & Training may be provided to families of individuals up to 18 years old and enrolled in the Home and Community Based Waiver Program. The purpose of FET is to enhance the decision- making capacity of the family unit; provide orientation regarding the nature and impact of developmental disabilities upon the individual and their family; and inform them about service alternatives. Additionally, FET will assist the family unit in understanding and coping with developmental disability.

For families who are enrolled in the Home and Community Based Waiver and who have FET listed as a service, FET is funded through OPWDD and will provide up to 2 sessions per year. Each family is expected to attend at least one session per year to remain enrolled in the Home and Community Based Waiver. *If this is the only Waiver service received, it is imperative that you attend at least one session per year in order to maintain Medicaid funding.*

If you have any additional questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact Angela Dubel, Program Director at 716.817.9280, or your Medicaid Service Coordinator.

Sincerely,
Angela Dubel
Program Director
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Overview of the Special Education Process

Presented by Harpreet Saran-Rokicki/Elizabeth Assad-Penner
Educational Advocates

During this informative session, you will learn about laws of special education, special education process, parent consent, timelines, due process, disciplinary procedures, and extended school year services. Special concerns may also be addressed.

Dates offered:

Monday, January 10	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Monday, March 14	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Monday, May 9	6:00 - 8:00 pm

FET Location: 3131 Sheridan Drive Amherst, NY 14226

The Transition Process: What is the Plan for my Child after High School?

Presented by Harpreet Saran-Rokicki/Elizabeth Assad-Penner
Educational Advocates

This training is essential for parents with children of disabilities ages 14-21. Learn about what should be included in your child's IEP regarding transition services.

Dates offered:

Monday, February 7	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Monday, April 11	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Monday, June 13	6:00 – 8:00 pm

FET Location: 3131 Sheridan Drive Amherst, NY 14226

Guardianship, Wills and Trusts

Presented by Tracy Harrienger Esq.
General Counsel

This presentation is an overview of legal guardianship and the process, including the responsibilities a legal guardian has. A portion of the training will focus on Supplemental Needs Trust and details provided on how your loved one may benefit from the service. Questions will be solicited and addressed.

Dates offered:

Tuesday, January 4	3:00 - 5:00 pm
Tuesday, March 1	3:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, May 3	3:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, July 5	3:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, September 6	3:00 – 5:00 pm
Tuesday, November 1	3:00 – 5:00 pm

FET Location: 1219 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY 14231

Financial/Benefits

Presented by Mr. Christopher Parisi

Overview of SSI and Social Security – disability benefits, their similarities and differences. We will focus on when to apply for benefits, summary of the application process, as well as how work affects these benefits. In addition and overview of Medicaid and Medicare programs will also be discussed. Questions will be solicited and addressed.

Dates offered:

Monday, March 28	6:00-8:00 pm
Saturday, June 25	10:00 - 12:00 noon
Monday, September 26	6:00 – 8:00 pm
Saturday, November 19	10:00 -- 12:00 noon

Other dates may be available by appointment only

FET Location: 3131 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, NY 14226

Environmental Modification and Adaptive Technology: The process through the HCBSW

Presented by Angela Dubel, Program Director

The Home and Community Based Waiver provides Environmental Modifications and Adaptive Technologies for individuals with developmental disabilities. This presentation will provide you with an overview of the process and provide a forum for questions to be addressed.

Dates offered:

Wednesday, February 9	5:00 - 7:00 pm
Wednesday, April 20	5:00 - 7:00 pm
Saturday, June 4	9:00 – 11:00 am

FET Location: 280 Spindrift Drive Amherst, NY 14221

Getting the Most from your Medicaid Service Coordinator

Presented by Lorraine Norman

The MSC plays a very important role in accessing services. This session will help you develop skills to form a working relationship with your MSC with the goal of making your monthly meeting productive and meaningful. You will learn more about services available, the process for obtaining services and getting the most from the services your child will be receiving. *Other dates may be available by appointment only*

Dates offered:

Monday, January 10	5:00 – 7:00 pm
Monday, March 14	5:00 – 7:00 pm
Monday, May 16	5:00 – 7:00 pm

FET Location: 3131 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, NY 14226

Operation EDITH

Presented by Ken Manista

EDITH stands for "Exit Drills in the Home." A majority of the nearly 4,000 fire related deaths that occur every year happen in the home during normal sleeping hours. A planned and practiced exit plan can reduce this number. Residential smoke detectors and the planning and practice of exit drills in the home have helped to reduce the number of lives lost to fire in recent years.

Dates offered:

Wednesday, January 26	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, February 23	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, March 30	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, April 27	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, May 25	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, June 29	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, July 27	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, August 31	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, September 28	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, October 26	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, November 30	6:00 - 8:00 pm
Wednesday, December 21	6:00 - 8:00 pm

FET Location: 1219 North Forest Road, Amherst, NY 14231

***The following sessions are available by
appointment only. Please email or call:
Rose Argenio • 817.9080 • rargenio@people-inc.org***

New This Year:

A Guided Process to Toileting Training

Presented by Shannon Bianco

In an effort to help parents with what can be seen as an overwhelming challenge, we have created a guided process to toileting training. We begin the process by observing the child and having the families complete a toileting questionnaire on the child's present level of toileting independence. Preparation of toilet training is a major key to success. Before toilet training begins, we will create together a charting system for the child's current toileting schedule and fluid intake. Families will then be provided with a personalized toileting guide that will walk them through the toileting process for their child.

New This Year:

My Child and Prader-Willi Syndrome

Presented by Gabrielle Landis, MSED

Prader-Willi Syndrome or (PWS) is a rare disorder present at birth that results in a number of physical, mental and behavioral problems. This class will discuss a brief overview of PWS, including behavioral methods to support the person diagnosed with Prader-Willi Syndrome.

Why Does my Child do That?

Presented by Mike Horn

As parents, we are always asking this question! Sometimes we see children act in certain ways that make us wonder, what has gotten into my kid? Parents of children with disabilities are no different-their kids face the same challenges as other children, and some that are posed by their disability. Whether it is difficulties with communicating or understanding what is being asked of them, impatience or confusion, frustration or sensory challenges, there are many causes for the challenging behaviors your child is showing you. The best help you can give them, and yourself, is making the effort to understand why. Why is the behavior happening? Then, as a family you can work on finding out how best to meet the child's needs, and your own. These sessions will be scheduled with each family, individually, to allow discussion to focus on the particular challenges you are facing. Sessions will be held at a convenient time and location that will be arranged with the presenter.

Overview on Residential Services for your Family Member

Presented by Susan Holler, Assistant Director

This FET will provide a basic understanding of residential services and the standardized process used to apply. The format will include an explanation of the different types of homes including an overview of how the settings may differ. Questions about residential programs are encouraged. These sessions will be scheduled with each family, individually, to allow discussion to focus on the particular challenges you are facing. Sessions will be held at a convenient time and location that will be arranged with the presenter.

Do I really Understand my Child's Disability?

Presented by Sue Olexenko

One of the toughest questions facing parents of children with disabilities is....What does the disability really mean? The information available for understanding the causes, progression, and limitations of each disability is often vast, and constantly changing. Then in some cases, it is hard to find, and even harder to understand. The first step in addressing the challenges posed by these conditions is learning enough about the condition – to understand what the child is experiencing, be aware of what they need, and to be able to make informed choices about services. In this session, you will be introduced to current information on the disabilities your family is interested in learning about, including strategies for meeting the specific needs that such disabilities often present to children. These sessions will be scheduled with each family, individually, to allow discussion to focus on the particular challenges you are facing. Sessions will be held at a convenient time and location that will be arranged with the presenter.

Meeting your Child's Sensory Needs as it Relates to their Behaviors

Presented by Kevin Cronyn

Is your child sensitive to touch? Will he/she only eat certain foods? Is your child over sensitive to smells, lights, or certain sounds? Does he or she cover their heads or body as if to escape the environment? Does your child seek certain gross motor activities such as jumping, spinning, or somersaulting? This session will discuss sensory input to and how it may assist your child by helping them calm and make better sense of the world. These sessions will be scheduled with each family, individually, to allow discussion to focus on the particular challenges you are facing. Sessions will be held at a convenient time and location that will be arranged with the presenter.

The “No Child Left Behind Act” 2001

Presented by Harpreet Saran-Rokicki/Elizabeth Assad-Penner
Educational Advocates

Learn about your rights (as a parent of a school-age child) & responsibilities under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and how this law affects your child's education.

Preparing for IEP meetings: How to Advocate for Your Child

Presented by Harpreet Saran-Rokicki/Elizabeth Assad-Penner
Educational Advocates

The IEP meeting can be an overwhelming experience. Learn how to plan for the meeting and advocate for your child.

Educational Advocacy

Presented by Harpreet Saran-Rokicki/Elizabeth Assad-Penner
Educational Advocates

Educational Advocate will define the role & process of the Committee for Special Education (CSE), implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEP), Assessments, and the parent's role as an advocate. Special concerns may also be addressed.

The Art of Writing Letters: How to Write Effective Letters to a School District Regarding Concerns Involving your Child's Education

Presented by Harpreet Saran-Rokicki/Elizabeth Assad-Penner
Educational Advocates

Learn how to write effective letters to a school district to express concern about your child's education or to request a change in the IEP. Sample letter formats will be provided.