

Family Education and Training Series – July - December 2008

Offered by People Inc.

Location: 3131 Sheridan Drive, Amherst, NY 14226

The following series 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 of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), Family Education and Training may be provided to families of consumers enrolled in the Home and Community Based waiver who are under 18 years of age. The purpose of family education and training is to enhance the decision making capacity of the family unit, provide orientation regarding the nature and impact of developmental disabilities upon the consumer and his or their family, and inform them about service alternatives. Family education and training is distinct from service coordination in that the purpose is to support the family unit in understanding and coping with the developmental disability.

For families enrolled in the Home and Community Based Waiver and have Family Education and Training listed as a service, this is totally funded through OMRDD, which 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.

Other sessions may be made available in the future. Please let your service coordinator know if there is a topic of interest that is currently not being covered.

Attached is a sign up sheet for sessions July-December 2008. For your convenience, please complete and return to:

Family Education and Training
People Inc. Northtown Business Center
3131 Sheridan Drive
Amherst, NY 14226

Or call the switchboard at Northtown Business Center and schedule.
The number is: 880-3700.

If you have any additional questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact Erica Newsom at 880-3831 or your Service Coordinator at 880-3700.

Educational Advocacy

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

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

Dates offered: Available by arrangement only- please call 880-3700 to schedule

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.

Dates offered: Available by arrangement only- please call 880-3700 to schedule.

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.

Dates offered: Available by arrangement only- please call 880-3700 to schedule.

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:

Thursday, July 17, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, August 28, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, September 18, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, October 30, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, November 13, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, December 18, 2008	6:30 – 8:30p.m.

What are your legal rights as a parent/guardian of a child in the Special Education system?

Presented by Harpreet Saran-Rokicki/Elizabeth Assad-Penner, Educational Advocates, and Legal council to be present.

Legal council will present an informational session about parents' rights in special education. Bring your special education questions and learn tips on how to effectively work with your school district.

Dates offered: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 6:30 – 8:30pm

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) and responsibilities under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and how this law affects your child's education.

Dates offered: Available by arrangement only- please call 880-3700 to schedule.

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:

Thursday, July 24, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, August 21, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, September 25, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, October 23, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, November 20, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm
Thursday, December 11, 2008	6:30 – 8:30pm

Guardianship, Wills and Trusts

Presented by Mr. Tracy Harrienger - General Counsel, People Inc.

This presentation is an overview of legal guardianship and the process. Also discussed will be your responsibilities as a legal guardian. Information about wills and trusts and their impact on your children's future will be reviewed.

Dates offered:

Tuesday, July 22, 2008	3:00-5:00pm
Tuesday, September 23, 2008	3:00-5:00pm
Tuesday, October 28, 2008	3:00-5:00pm
Tuesday, November 25, 2008	3:00-5:00pm

Trainings will all be held at 1219 North Forest Road, People Inc.

Financial/Benefits

Presented by Dan Gribbin and Chris Parisi, Consumer benefits Specialist

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:

Saturday, July 26, 2008	10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 23, 2008	10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 20, 2008	10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 18, 2008	10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 8, 2008	10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 7, 2008	10:00 – 12:00 p.m.

"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 has helped to reduce the number of lives lost to fire in recent years. The number of fires has not been reduced, nor has the number of burn injuries. For these reasons it is important to be always prepared to respond to a dangerous fire.

Wednesday July 30	6:30- 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday August 27	6:30- 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday September 24	6:30- 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday October 29	6:30- 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday November 19	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday December 17	6:30- 8:30 p.m.

Trainings will be held at 1219 North Forest, People Inc.

FET Transitioning

Is your family member on a waiting list or considering moving out to a residential program? Do you have many questions about what is involved, what needs to be considered and how it all works? This session will address your questions in a structured way about transitioning to a residence and services that will be provided. General topic areas and information regarding supports for your family member in health areas, benefits, recreation, transportation and many more will be addressed and given to you in a handbook style to take home with you.

Dates Offered:

Saturday, July 26, 2008	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 23, 2008	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 20, 2008	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 18, 2008	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 8, 2008	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 7, 2008	1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Toilet Teaching
A Step-by-Step Approach

Presented by: Jennifer Griffith, In Home Behavior Consultant

Have you tried everything possible to encourage your child to use the toilet? Has your doctor stated that s/he cannot find a medical cause for your child's accidents? Then consider learning more about a toilet teaching program that has taught many individuals how to "pee in the potty."

Wednesday August 20, 2008	5:30-7:30pm
Wednesday September 17, 2008	5:30-7:30pm
Wednesday October 22, 2008	5:30-7:30pm
Wednesday November 19, 2008	5:30-7:30pm
Wednesday December 17, 2008	5:30-7:30pm

Self Advocacy

As your children get older they may express a desire to have more control over their lives.

Come learn about what self advocacy is and why it is important to individuals with disabilities. Self advocates will share stories about the positive impacts being involved with self advocacy has had on their lives. You will also learn ways that staff, family members and other concerned individuals can support self advocacy.

Dates offered: Available by arrangement only- please call 880-3700 to schedule

Health and Wellness: An overview of exercise, nutrition, emotional well-being, and medical needs for parents of children with disabilities.

Presented by the Rehabilitation Department of the Elmwood Health Center

This program will educate families about health risk factors, appropriate medical screenings, and other important issues pertaining to your child's disability. We will also discuss stress management, how to make healthy food choices, and the benefits of regular exercise. At the end of the session you will be ready to apply this information to address issues specific to your child.

Dates Offered:

Wednesday, September 17, 2008 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 22, 2008 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 6:00- 8:00 p.m.

Trainings will be held at People Inc.'s clinic, The Elmwood Health Center located at 2128 Elmwood Ave.

Looking for Information on Residential Services for your Family Member

1. It's never too early to start learning about residential programs. If a group home or supervised apartment may be in your future for your family member.
2. There are no stupid questions-of course you have questions about how things work, what you can expect and what we can do to help.

Sign up for one of our new lunch sessions where you'll learn the answers to those questions and more. You'll tour two of our residential services, have lunch and learn a lot.

Dates Offered:

Thursday, July 24, 2008 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Please call 817-7438 and get location details

Family Education and Training Series

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Return this form to: Family Education and Training
People Inc. Northtown Business Center
3131 Sheridan Drive
Amherst, NY 14226

Sign me up for the following program(s):

Your Name	Child's Name	Service Coordinator	Session	Date

Are there any special concerns that you wish to have addressed at the session (s):

Remember you must attend at least one session per year to participate in this program.