



Raising
Special
Kids

Raising Special Kids Arizona's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI)

Special Education Advisory Panel: November 2020

OUR MISSION

Strengthening families and systems of care to improve outcomes for children with disabilities and special health care needs.



RAISING SPECIAL KIDS STATEWIDE SERVICES



Connections with a trained Parent Mentor skilled at providing information and support.



Accurate, authoritative information related to your child's disability or special health condition.



Special education consultations, training, and problem-resolution services.



Education and coaching for parents to learn the most effective methods in managing challenging behavior.

PTI FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Arizona's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) provides special education training and assistance to families of children with disabilities from birth through high school.

Every state has at least one center funded through the U.S. Department of Education under Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



IDEA 2004

- Part D--NATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
 - Section 671—Parent Training and Information Centers
 - (b) Required Activities.
 - (1) Provide training and information that meets the needs of parents of children with disabilities living in the area served by the center, particularly underserved parents and parents of children who may be inappropriately identified

Required Activities

- (4) assist parents to—
 - (B) communicate effectively and work collaboratively with personnel responsible for providing special education, early intervention services, transition services and related services;
 - (C) participate in decision making processes and the development of individualized education programs under part B and individualized family service plans under part C;
 - (F) participate in activities at the school level that benefit their children;

Required Activities (cont.)

- (6) assist parents in resolving disputes in the most expeditious and effective way possible, including encouraging the use, and explaining the benefits, of alternative methods of dispute resolution, such as the **mediation process** described in section 615(e); -
- (8) assist parents to understand the availability of, and how to effectively use, **procedural safeguards** under this title, including the resolution session described in section 615(e) -
- (9) assist parents in understanding, preparing for, and participating in, the process described in section 615(f)(1)(B); -

(c) Optional Activities

- --A parent training and information center...may provide information to teachers and other professionals to assist the teachers and professionals in improving results for children with disabilities.

97% Education professionals reported being better prepared to work with families
N = 327

ADE – RSK Partnership

- Longstanding partnership - activities include:
 - Professional Development for Arizona’s Educators
 - Pre-service & in-service teachers and related service providers
 - Effective strategies in working with families through the Special Education Process
 - Parent perspective training
 - Collaboration around Indicator 8 – family involvement survey
 - Annual RSK staff training with Family Engagement Specialist (Becky Raabe)
 - Encourage, support, and affirm importance of family participation through dissemination network
 - Ongoing consultation
 - Ensure family voice is represented in policy (Menu of Assessments, Graduation AZ-TAS, COVID-19, etc.)
 - Advise/inform on the needs of families
 - Other Activities
 - IDEA Conference
 - Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)
 - State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) partner
 - Family-friendly language translation/interpretation

Parent Panels

- Pre-service and In-Service
 - Teachers
 - Related Service Providers
 - Counselors
 - Behavioral Health Providers



Pre-service Professional Quotes

“Because we don't receive an academic class involving professional interactions with families, hearing your experiences, on what may and will help build relationships between teachers and parents, helps us better prepare for our own classrooms, and careers.”

- Pre-service Special Education Teacher

“The presentation helped put the parents' & teachers' role into perspective. The presentation was very informative & helped me learn new ways to become a better future teacher.”

- Pre-service General Education Teacher

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

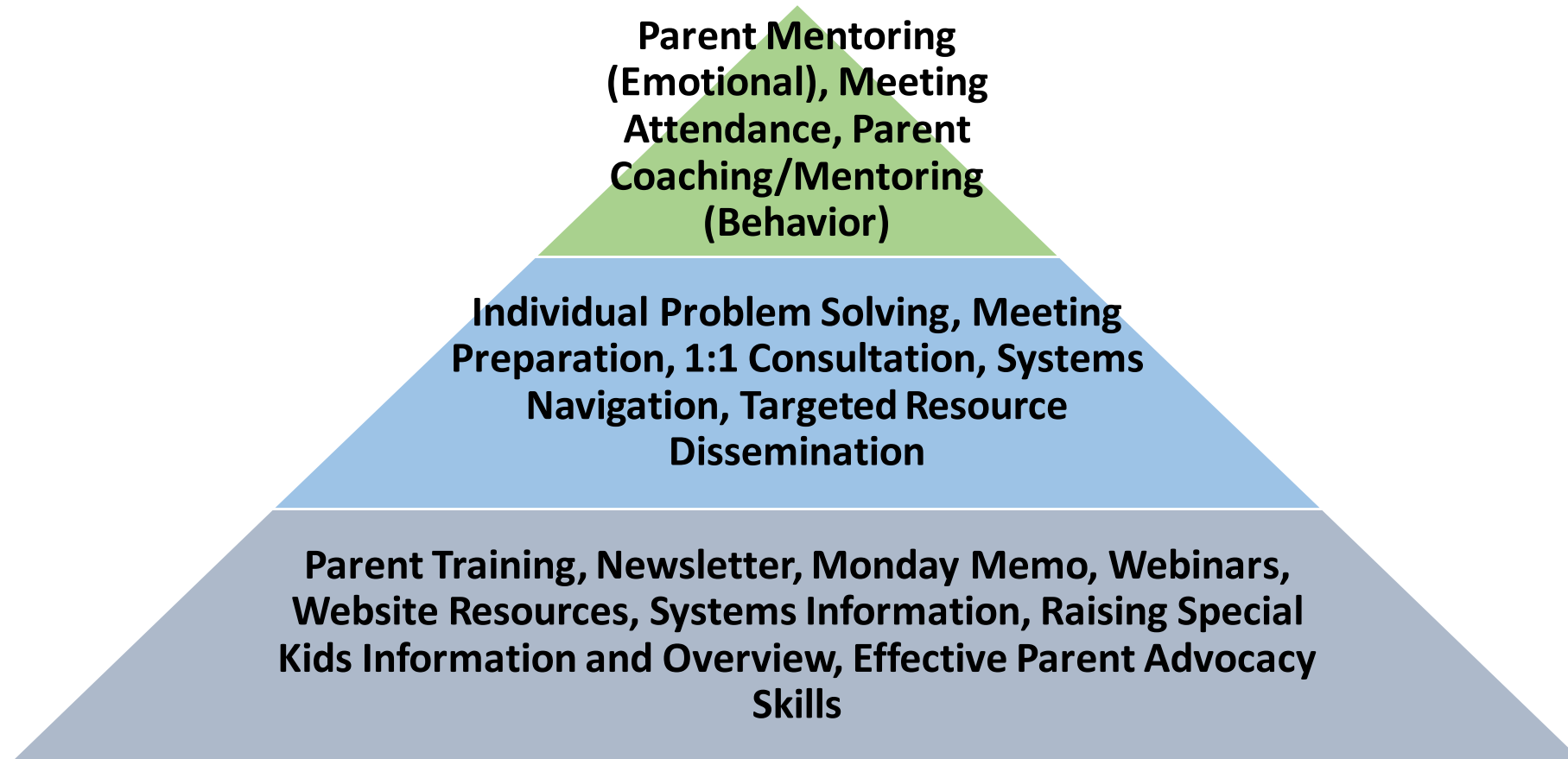
- Open all year M-F, 8-5 to talk to someone
- Website raisingspecialkids.org
 - COVID-19 resource page
- Online parent training available 24/7
 - Live online training
 - View calendar and register at raisingspecialkids.org
- Weekly Facebook Live chats
- Like and follow us on social media

WHAT CAN FAMILIES EXPECT?

- Confidentiality
- Local resources
- Services in Spanish & English
- Eligibility information about systems: DDD, ALTCS, Behavioral Health, SSI, IDEA
- Connect to other parents who are informed, experienced, and ready to assist in problem-solving



Multi-Tiered System of Family Support



Education Information and Services



Workshops and consultations on:

- Special education eligibility
- Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Transition processes
 - AzEIP to Preschool
 - Preschool to Kindergarten
 - High School
- Dispute resolution
- IEP Partner

Community Resources and Information



- Helping families learn how to find services and referring parents to sources of information
- Navigating state systems of care including health, disability services and special education
- Learning techniques for effective advocacy

Ongoing Parent Training

- Turning 18 - Legal Options
- IEP Training
- Positive Behavior Support
- High School Transition
- Road to Employment
- Talking with Your Kids about Sexuality
- Early Childhood Education
(Birth to Kindergarten)
- Bullying Prevention
- Understanding 504



Training Health Care Professionals



2017: **98%** Physicians reported training improved ability to communicate with families **N= 57**

- Emphasize the family perspective
 - Family-centered care
 - Medical home
 - Delivering the diagnosis
 - Cultural competence
 - Transition to Adult Health Care
 - Community resources
- Staff presentations and parent panels
- “Family Faculty” program

Parent to Parent Mentoring

Individual mentoring and coaching for 8 weeks

- Confidential
- Open eligibility
- Offered at no charge
- Available in Spanish
- Monitored and evaluated at 2, 4, and 8 weeks



Parent to Parent Program

- Upon request, Parent Leaders are matched with families facing a new concern
- Parent Leaders offer support and guidance
- Provides opportunities to share personal experiences and the perspective of a family who has faced similar issues



Impact of Parent to Parent Support

- Increases families' ability to cope
- Supports families in problem solving
- Develops awareness of community support



Parent Leadership Development

Prospective parent leaders are identified and recruited by Raising Special Kids staff and have demonstrated resiliency and effective advocacy skills for children.

Parent Leader Training includes these learning objectives:

- Confidentiality
- Accountability
- Professionalism
- Ethics
- Building from strengths
- Telling their story



Parent Leader Activities



- Parent to Parent Mentoring
- Parent Panels
- Community outreach events
- Systems level advisory groups, councils and committees
- Policy Development and review
- Public speaking, media interviews
- Training curriculum and materials preparation

Organization response to COVID-19

- Raising Special Kids staff continue to work from home
- In person workshops and trainings for all audiences were cancelled as of March 12, 2020 until further notice
- Intensive individual assistance provided by phone or online conferencing
- Defer requests for in-person training or outreach events
- In-person meetings with community partners and professionals are changed to phone or online conferencing

Organizational shift

- Not unlike the shift that schools and districts made in March, but on a smaller scale.
 - Developed technology for providing online training and outreach
 - Created unique messaging for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs
 - We are all in this together
 - This situation is something that likely none of us have ever experienced
 - It is okay to not be perfect, doing the best we can for our family is all that anyone can ask
 - Leaned-in to Social Media to push out accurate information
 - Mobilized staff and volunteers for individual outreach
 - Started calling families – ‘how are things?’

Raising Special Kids services and supports

- Dedicated COVID-19 resource page on our website
 - <https://m.raisingpecialkids.org/resources/covid-19-info#>
- Quarterly newsletter shift in 11 days
 - <https://m.raisingpecialkids.org/blog/2020/connecting-spring-2020-all-in-this-together-covid9-19>
- New and existing parent training curriculum offerings:
 - Positive Behavior Support
 - Special Education During COVID-19
 - Health Care Systems During COVID-19
 - Legal Options & Considerations During COVID-19
 - <https://m.raisingpecialkids.org/events-training>
- Facebook Live Fridays (Wednesdays in Spanish) happening now!
- Tuesday RSK Speaker Series

Raising Special Kids supports and services - continued

- Individual Assistance for parents and families
 - Parent to Parent Mentoring
 - Family Support (education, healthcare, basic needs, etc.)
 - Intensive Individual Assistance (document review, meeting attendance, behavior coaching, etc.)
 - Refer a family: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4664831>
- Services and supports for professionals
 - Parent perspective panel presentations
 - Professional development and facilitation in partnering with parents and family engagement

What families are sharing

Families can always contact us directly

602-242-4366 or 800-237-3007

info@raisingspecialkids.org

Refer families directly

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4664831>

We will follow up with you after making contact with the family you referred!

Thank You!



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