

WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT PEP

"I learned a lot of great information. I feel relieved and empowered and know I am not alone."

"I feel so blessed that I was able to come to PEP. It has brought my husband and I so close and I feel we can really be a team and advocate for our child."

"Life changing! I can't even express how amazing and encouraged I feel."

"Gained knowledge, encouragement and hope."

"I loved that it was parent focused and we were encouraged to share our feelings as well as our knowledge."

WHAT EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS SAY ABOUT PEP

"I felt I was able to give some school side perspective as I visited with parents. It was also great to talk to parents about the IEP."

"I was able to take my professional hat off and listen to what parents with a child with a disability go through from the day they learn about the disability."

**PLEASE COPY AND SHARE THIS
BROCHURE WITH PARENTS OR
EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS WHO
MAY BENEFIT FROM ATTENDING PEP.**

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CAPABLE PARENTS & CARING PROFESSIONALS

COMMENTS SHARED ABOUT THE INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS AT PEP:

THE GRIEVING CYCLE:

"Grieving is an emotional process so it was good to have the "words" put to the process. I could identify with the presenters even though our child has a different disability."

IEP/IFSP PROCESS:

"The presenter did an excellent job covering all aspects of the IEP/IFSP process."

BUILDING POSITIVE PARENT/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS:

"I liked that Building Positive Parent/School Partnerships was taught by parents and they shared from their own experiences."

SIBLINGS:

"It was great to hear these siblings share what they thought and felt about their family life."

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

"Very helpful to have all the products in the room."

PEARLS OF WISDOM:

"Wonderful and touching stories of families with children that have disabilities. Thanks for your wisdom."

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 18

Registration (5:00 p.m.)
Dinner
Welcome
Discussion Group

Friday, March 19

Breakfast
The Grieving Cycle
Discussion Group
Lunch
The IFSP/IEP Process
Working Together: Building Positive
Parent-School Partnerships
Dinner (on your own)
Evening free to socialize, network and relax

Saturday, March 20

Breakfast
Concurrent Sessions

- Assistive Technology for Students with Special Needs
- Estate Planning for Special Need Trusts
- For Men Only
- The Mediation Process
- Siblings
- Transition
- You are Your Child's Best Advocate

Lunch
Discussion Group
Pearls of Wisdom
Closing and Evaluations (3:30 p.m.)

PEP

**PARENTS
ENCOURAGING
PARENTS**

March 18-20, 2010

**Midtown Holiday Inn
Grand Island, Nebraska**

Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special needs? Does your child have an IFSP or an IEP?
Then this conference is for you!

NO REGISTRATION FEE

Lodging and most meals provided



WHAT IS PEP?

The purpose of PEP is to bring parents of children with disabilities together in an accepting and confidential environment, giving them the opportunity to share ideas, feelings and common concerns, and to obtain information on parenting and educating a child with a disability. A major objective of the weekend is to help parents realize that each is doing the best he/she can do at this time. By the end of the conference, parents will go home with renewed energy, spirit, hope and a desire to work closely with professionals who serve their child so that every child can experience the fullest life.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This conference is open to all Nebraska parents who are raising a child with a verified disability. The child with the disability must have either an active IFSP or IEP.

A small number of openings are reserved for education professionals who serve children with disabilities in local school districts. Professionals will experience PEP from a parent perspective.

Enrollment is limited to 100 participants and registration is on a first come, first serve basis.

If you cannot attend PEP this year, please fill out the Parent Registration form (your name and address only) and check the box that states you cannot attend this year. You will then receive a brochure directly to your address for PEP 2011.

HOW DO I REGISTER?

To register, first read the Guidelines for Participation in the PEP Conference. Then complete and return the conference registration form. Confirmation will be mailed to you and a hotel room will be reserved in your name. **Do not** register with the hotel directly. For further information, call Ann Figard at the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Populations Office, at 402-471-2471 (Voice/TDD).

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

■ **Please share information about this conference** with other parents or professionals who might like to attend. Please do not register if you have attended PEP within the last 10 years.

■ **For married couples, both husband and wife are required to register and attend the conference.** The greatest benefits are gained when parents experience PEP together.

■ **Single parents are welcome to attend PEP.** A support person may accompany a single parent provided this adult shares responsibility in raising the child, is actively involved in the child's educational program and is willing to fully participate in PEP.

■ **Please make your own childcare arrangements as childcare is not provided at PEP.** Participants will gain the maximum benefit without the disruption of children. No children are allowed to stay at the hotel or attend PEP sessions.

■ **Participants must attend the entire conference and cannot be accepted on a part-time basis.**

■ **Dinner on Thursday, breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday, and lodging will be provided.** Dinner on Friday is on your own. Transportation costs to and from PEP will not be reimbursed.

■ **Dress for the entire conference is casual.**

■ **Participants are responsible** for any physical damage to the hotel's property as a result of misuse or recklessness, as well as charges for telephone calls or other incidentals.

■ **Once you have registered for PEP, you are expected to attend because the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Populations, has financially committed to the hotel for your room and meals.** If an emergency arises that prevents you from attending PEP, please notify us at (402) 471-2471 immediately so we can cancel your reservation and allow others to register.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

PARENT REGISTRATION

I cannot attend. Please put me on next year's mailing list.

Participant 1: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

Marital Status: Married Single

Relationship to Child(ren) with an IFSP/IEP: Parent Foster Parent Guardian

Other _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

List Age and Disability of Child(ren) with an IFSP/IEP: _____

Participant 2: _____

Relationship to Participant 1: Spouse Significant Other Support Person

Relationship to Child(ren) with IFSP/IEP: Parent Step Parent Foster Parent

Guardian Other

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Position: _____ School: _____

Work with: Birth to Age 5 Elementary Secondary

ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDED All participants must complete this section.

Non-Smoking Sleeping Room Smoking Sleeping Room Accessible Sleeping Room

Language Translator: (language) _____ Signing Interpreter

Dietary _____ Other _____

I/WE UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS (PEP) CONFERENCE.

Participant 1 or Professional's Signature

Participant 2 Signature

RETURN TO: Ann Figard, Special Populations Office, Nebraska Department of Education, P.O. Box 94987, Lincoln, NE 68509-4987