



# Networker

visit us online at [www.ripin.org](http://www.ripin.org)



## Early Childhood Parent Consultant Team at RIPIN

Since taking on the program in 2000, RI Parent Information Network's Early Intervention Parent Consultant team has grown from two regionally based Parent Consultants to a team of twelve parent consultants, each placed in one of the 10 Early Intervention Programs throughout the state. Having accessed Early Intervention services for a family member of their own, these Parent Consultants are uniquely qualified to provide support, information and education to the families and staff involved with RI's Early Intervention System.

RIPIN provides training and professional development for each Parent Consultant in all areas of support needed by families in EI, including, but not limited to, transitioning from EI, Special Education, accessing Medicaid and other insurance options, and connection to other families who may have a child with a similar challenge or disability. As RI's Early Intervention program may provide services for a family only up through their child's third birthday, our Parent Consultants often provide a bridge from one system of education and care into another.

In an effort to best support families with very young children, we recently welcomed three members of RIPIN's Pediatric Practice Enhancement Program (PPEP) to our Parent Consultant team. With the addition of the Resource Specialists from the Women & Infants Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the Women & Infants NICU

Follow-up Clinic and the RI Hearing Assessment Program (RIHAP), as a group, we are now able to better support and guide families as they navigate between early childhood systems of care.

Also new to our team, is the Parent Consultant placed in the Katie Beckett unit at the Executive Offices of Health and Human Services. Families may now contact this Parent Consultant directly with any questions regarding their child's Katie Beckett application.

Visit

RIPIN's Early Childhood Parent Consultants online



RIPIN's Early Childhood Parent Consultant Team

## Parents as Teachers

Parents as Teachers is an evidence based home visiting program that provides personalized visits for families with children prenatal through age 5. Program components include home visits, group connections, screenings, and connections to community resources. RI Parent Information Network has served as the state office for Parents as Teachers for 15 years.

In 2010, when RI received new federal funding through the Affordable Care Act's Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, funding became available to support evidence based home visiting. RI Department of Health will now fund four voluntary, free home visiting programs: First Connections, Healthy

Families America, Nurse Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers. The funding for Parents as Teachers sites in Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket will begin in Spring 2012.

To find out if there is a program in your community, contact RIPIN's Resource Center at 270-0101.



Visit

Parents as Teachers online for more information

inform

support

educate

advocate

empower

## ***RIPIN Networker***

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# **RIPIN's Early Childhood Workshop Series**



RIPIN offers an **Early Childhood Workshop Series** three times per year; Winter, Summer and Fall. The series includes:

- **Transition from EI (2/29)**, which focuses on the process a family can expect as their child nears his or her third birthday and steps they can take to best prepare for options after EI
- **The Successful IEP Meeting (3/7)**, which concentrates on how to best prepare for that very first IEP meeting



Register  
Online

- **What's in the Box? Making Healthier Food Choices for your Family (3/14)**, which is a fun and interactive workshop, educating the audience on how to make informed and healthy food choices for families with very young children
- **Ready for Kindergarten (3/21)**, which is an interactive workshop, focusing on preparing your child and yourself for that child's first school experience, whether it be Kindergarten or Preschool

There is no cost to attend these workshops at RIPIN's main Cranston office from 10am-12pm and childcare is provided. **Please visit our website for more information on the early childhood workshop series.**

## **Learn Something New!**

## **RI Early Learning Standards**

### **Fun Family Activities for Preschoolers Facilitator Training**

**Fun Family Activities for Preschoolers** is a training series for parents and family members of preschool age children. The activities are based on the RI Early Learning Standards and are designed to help families support their children to develop skills that are important for school success.

RI Parent Information Network will host a RI Department of Education **training of facilitators** for the project. Participants should have knowledge of early childhood development, experience with training adults, and knowledge of the RI Early Learning Standards. Participants will learn how to deliver the interactive training and



receive certification from RIDE.

The training is scheduled for **March 15, 22, and 29 from 3:30-7:30 PM** at RIPIN. For more information or to register please contact Deb Meiklejohn at 270-0101 X108.

Visit

for more  
**information!**

**Coming soon in our next edition, a focus on Special Education!**