



# THE PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM

## *BRIDGING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL*

### WHAT IS A PARENT MENTOR?

The Parent Mentor is a parent of a child with a disability, and provides the necessary support and resources, free of charge, to families of children with disabilities and to the professionals who serve them. The Parent Mentor can provide information and resources to families and school districts including education laws, district programs and services, community resources, and special-need related resources (free of charge) through the Parent Mentor Lending Library.

The Paulding County Parent Mentor Grant Program is funded by a grant from the Ohio Dept. of Education.

### SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE PARENT MENTOR:

- Guide* families through the special education process, including rights & responsibilities
- Listen* and provide support to families and educators on an individual basis
- Attend* Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings and other meetings at parent and school's request
- Organize and conduct informational sessions or workshops based on the needs of families and school personnel
- Build* collaborative partnerships between families, schools, and agencies to benefit students with disabilities.

### REASONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONTACT THE PARENT MENTOR:

- I am concerned about my child changing school districts, or transitioning from preschool to kindergarten
- I feel alone and wish I could talk to another parent who understands my concerns
- I have many questions about my child's education, but forgot to ask them at the school meetings
- I would like to have someone attend and support me at IEP and other meetings at school

### DISABILITY-RELATED RESOURCE LINKS – this is by no means an exhaustive list but hopefully you will find these to be helpful:

#### ADHD

CHADD – Nat'l Resource Center on ADHD [www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)

#### AUTISM

Autism Society of NWO [www.asno.org](http://www.asno.org)

Autism Speaks [www.autismspeaks.com](http://www.autismspeaks.com)

CDC Learn the Signs Act Early Autism Awareness Kit [www.cdc.gov/actearly](http://www.cdc.gov/actearly)

Child-Autism-Parent-Café [www.child-autism-parent-café.com](http://www.child-autism-parent-café.com)

Future Horizons [www.FHautism.com](http://www.FHautism.com)

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) [www.ocali.org](http://www.ocali.org)

#### DEAF AND BLIND

Ohio Assoc. of the Deaf [www.oad-deaf.org](http://www.oad-deaf.org)

Ohio School for the Deaf [www.ohioschoolforthedeaf.org](http://www.ohioschoolforthedeaf.org)

Ohio State School for the Blind [www.ossb.oh.gov](http://www.ossb.oh.gov)

## DOWN SYNDROME

Down Syndrome Assoc. of Greater Toledo [www.dsagt.org](http://www.dsagt.org)

GIGI'S Playhouse [www.gigisplayhouse.org](http://www.gigisplayhouse.org)

## EPILEPSY

Epilepsy Center of NWO [www.epilepsycenter.org](http://www.epilepsycenter.org)

## FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Double ARC FASD of Toledo [www.doublearc.org](http://www.doublearc.org)

## TOURETTE SYNDROME

Ohio Tourettes Syndrome [www.tsaohio.org](http://www.tsaohio.org)

Tourette Syndrome Resources and Support – Tourette Assoc. of America, Ohio Chapter [www.tourette.org](http://www.tourette.org)

## TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Traumatic Brain Injury Resource Center [www.tbic.org](http://www.tbic.org)

## DISABILITY-RELATED AGENCY RESOURCE LINKS

Center for Parent Information and Resources [www.parentcenterhub.org](http://www.parentcenterhub.org)

Legal Aid Office of Western Ohio [www.ablelaw.org](http://www.ablelaw.org)

National Center for Learning Disabilities [www.nclld.org](http://www.nclld.org)

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities [www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org)

Ohio Department of Education – Office for Exceptional Children [www.ode.org](http://www.ode.org)

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities [www.ood.ohio.gov](http://www.ood.ohio.gov)

PACER Center (National organization providing support and advocacy for children with disabilities and their parents)  
[www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

Paulding County Board of Developmental Disabilities [www.pauldingdd.com](http://www.pauldingdd.com)

State Support Team Region 1 (SSTR1 - among many other things provides assistance in areas of special ed., reading, secondary transition and parent/family engagement) [www.sstr1.org](http://www.sstr1.org)

UNDERSTOOD (this website helps parents of kids with learning and attention issues) [www.understood.org](http://www.understood.org)



As a Parent Mentor for Paulding County, I am just a phone call away if you need help with your child's special education services, if you need information, or if you have questions.

*Cathy Ruiz, Parent Mentor*

419-399-4711 (o) or 419-203-7364 (c)

[cruiz@wb.noacsc.org](mailto:cruiz@wb.noacsc.org)

(To find a Parent Mentor outside of Paulding County go to [www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org) Parent Mentors of Ohio link)