



RESOURCES FOR OHIO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Children with disabilities have diverse needs that require services from schools, multiple community agencies and organizations. The resources below will help parents learn about their rights and how to serve as partners in their children's education.

DO YOU SUSPECT THAT YOUR CHILD HAS A DISABILITY?

If you are a parent of a child (age 3 and above) who has a disability that interferes with his or her education, or if your child is suspected of having such a disability, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has prepared a handbook for school districts to give you. Titled *Whose IDEA is This?*, the publication summarizes the main points of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004.

Whose IDEA is This? explains the step-by-step process for determining children's educational needs and getting special education services, if needed. The publication serves as the required "procedural safeguards notice" for parents about their rights to a "free, appropriate public education" for their children who have a qualifying disability. Contact your child's teacher, principal or guidance counselor for a copy of the publication, or download the publication at the Web link below.

www.ode.state.oh.us, keyword search: *Whose IDEA?*

ADDITIONAL OHIO RESOURCES

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) provides funding for these family organizations and services:

- **Ohio Coalition for Students with Disabilities**

The Ohio Coalition for Children with Disabilities in Marion serves Ohio's families of children and young adults with disabilities from birth to age 22. The Center helps families obtain appropriate education and services for their children with disabilities; works to improve education results for all children; trains and informs parents and professionals on varied topics; resolves problems between families and schools or other agencies; and connects children with disabilities to community resources that address their needs. The Coalition has compiled an online list of Ohio's service agencies and resources for families of students with disabilities.

<http://www.ocecd.org/>

- **Parent Mentors**

Parent Mentors are parents of children with special needs who work within some Ohio school districts to provide families with information and support for effectively working with schools. Parent mentors offer workshops, write newsletters and respond to parent calls and inquiries. They also work as liaisons between families and school district personnel so that together they can build positive relationships and create the best education plans for children. The Ohio Coalition for Students with Disabilities currently works with nearly 100 parent mentors in more than 250 of Ohio's 612 public school districts. Check the Web link below to see if your school district has a parent mentor.

http://www.thelinkto.org/parentmentor/parent_center.htm

- **The Autism Scholarship Program** - This state program allows ODE to pay a scholarship to the parents of a qualified child with autism. The scholarship gives parents a choice of sending their child to a special

education program, other than the one operated by their child's school district, to receive the services outlined in the child's individualized education program (IEP). For answers to common questions, a current provider list and program guidelines, see the Web page below.

www.ode.state.oh.us, keyword search: autism

Ohio Autism groups – Search the Autism Society of America’s Web site for its Ohio chapters.

<http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer>

Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) - OCALI serves parents and educators of students with autism and low incidence disabilities including autism spectrum disorders, deaf-blindness, deafness and hearing impairments, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, traumatic brain injuries and visual impairments. Its mission is to create, promote and ensure access for children and youth with autism and low incidence disabilities through partnerships, technology and training.

<http://www.ocali.org/>

The Research Unit on Pediatric Psychopharmacology (RUPP) – This Ohio State University Nisonger Center Web site provides research and resources compiled by professionals in pharmacology, psychiatry, behavioral science, nutrition and alternative treatments for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders, ADHD and other childhood disorders.

<http://psychmed.osu.edu/>

NATIONAL DISABILITY AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

AutismLink – This Web site provides discussion forums for general and biomedical questions and extensive listings of services and education opportunities for people affected by autism.

<http://www.autismlink.com/>

Autism Society of America (ASA) is the nation’s leading grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of all affected by autism. Their efforts include increasing public awareness about issues faced by people with autism spectrum disabilities; advocating for appropriate lifelong services; and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

<http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer>

Discover Camp - Resource for parents of children with disabilities who are selecting a camp for their child for the first time.

<http://www.ncpad.org/get/discover/index-2.html>

Parent Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Children with Disabilities

This tool kit includes information to help parents learn about student behavior, teaching practices, accommodations and how their children will be assessed.

<http://osepideasthatwork.org/parentkit/index.asp>

The Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers has compiled many resources including a list of federal organizations that support families of children with disabilities; a list of publications, organizations and Web sites supporting Hispanic families; and the publication *Resolution Meetings: A Guide for Parents* to assist in resolving disputes.

<http://www.taalliance.org/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact the ODE Office for Exceptional Children at (877) 644-6338.