

LANCASTER COUNTY
EARLY INTERVENTION

Family Connections Program

For further information contact:

**LANCASTER COUNTY
EARLY
INTERVENTION FAMILY
CONNECTIONS
PROGRAM**

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EARLY
INTERVENTION
FAMILY
CONNECTIONS
PROGRAM

(717) 871-9403



A Program of Lancaster County
Mental Health/Mental Retardation

WHAT IS THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM?

The Family Connections Program is a group of parents who have participated in the Early Intervention process and are available to share their experiences, answer questions and help you find resources. Our group works closely with Early Intervention Support Coordinators to help parents find the information and resources that can be helpful to families of children with developmental delays.

WHAT IS A FAMILY CONNECTIONS PEER SUPPORTER?

A Peer Supporter . . .

- ✓ has insight into the Early Intervention process from a parent's perspective
- ✓ is a person who understands
- ✓ can offer suggestions and strategies to help parents cope
- ✓ can help a parent feel supported
- ✓ can help parents get in touch with the help they need

HOW CAN A PEER SUPPORTER HELP ME?

The goal of the Family Connections Program is to help parents learn to get as much benefit as possible from Early Intervention supports. A peer supporter can also provide a shoulder to lean on, a listening ear and the experience of someone who has walked a similar path.

WHO ARE THE PEER SUPPORTERS?

Peer Supporters are parents just like you who have a child in the Early Intervention Program or a child who has recently transitioned from Early Intervention. The Peer Supporters are available to share their experiences with Early Intervention. They can help you locate valuable resources in your community. Talking with a Peer Supporter is a good way to connect with other parents who are coping with the challenges of parenting a child with developmental delays.

HOW DO I CONTACT FAMILY CONNECTIONS?

You can contact a peer supporter by calling Hillary Buckwalter, Family Connections Coordinator, at (717) 871-9403 or (717) 278-6382.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I CALL FAMILY CONNECTIONS?

When you place a call to the Family Connections Coordinator you will be asked some general questions about you and your family.

With your permission, your name will be given to the first available Peer Supporter who will contact you by phone. Your Peer Supporter will be available to share experiences and help connect you with resources on an ongoing basis through continued phone conversations.