

Disability Awareness

As a parent of a child with a disability, it is very important that you be as informed as possible. The field of special education, with its laws, resources, materials, educational options, etc., can be so vast and complicated that at times it can seem very overwhelming. While there are numerous resources available, it can seem like a full time job to keep current with the latest and most important information as it relates to your child. The following Parent Teacher Conference Handout is a good starting place for disability awareness. Explore these sites to gain a good foundation of what is available.

Information on Specific Disabilities

- NICHCY offers disability information on the following disabilities, at:
<http://nichcy.org/disability/specific>
Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD), Autism Spectrum Disorders | Includes autism, Asperger Syndrome, Rett Syndrome, PDDNOS, and childhood disintegrative disorder., Blindness/ Visual Impairment, Cerebral Palsy, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness and Hearing Loss, Developmental Delay, Down Syndrome, Emotional Disturbance, Epilepsy, Intellectual Disability, Learning Disabilities | Includes dyslexia, dyscalcula, and dysgraphia., Other Health Impairment |, OHI is a disability category under IDEA that lists examples of health-related conditions that may qualify a child for special education. The conditions that are mentioned are: attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, heart conditions, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, sickle cell anemia, and Tourette Syndrome. Each of these conditions has a stand-alone resource page to connect you with more information. You'll still want to read the main OHI fact sheet., Rare Disorders, Severe and/or Multiple Disabilities, Speech and Language Impairments, Spina Bifida, Traumatic Brain Injury and Visual Impairment | Including blindness.
 - Center, which is a part of the Office of Rare Disorders and which answers questions from the general public, including patients and their families, health care professionals and biomedical researchers. Call toll-free at: 1.888.205.2311 (Voice), 1.888.205.3223 (TTY).
 - DiseaseInfoSearch, for information on specific genetic conditions, at:
http://geneticalliance.org/ws_display.asp?filter=diseases

Disability Organizations

Try the government's resource list.

DisabilityInfo.gov is the comprehensive Federal Web site of disability-related government resources. You can find out about government disability programs and benefits, the Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA), the 2002 Red Book on Work Incentives and Employment Supports, Career One-Stops, Employment, Education, Housing, Transportation, Health, Income Support, Technology, Community Life, and Civil Rights. <https://www.disability.gov/>

Disability Awareness

- **For Parents When They Learn That Their Child Has a Disability**

<http://nichcy.org/families-community/notalone>

If you have recently learned that your child has a developmental delay or a disability (which may or may not be completely defined), this message may be for you.

Parent Groups

- **Wondering what kind of parent groups are out there?**

<http://nichcy.org/families-community/help/parentgroups>

We offer a quick read on the subject: Accessing Parent Groups and its Spanish version Acceso a los Grupos de Padres.

- Sometimes only another parent can help.
To talk with another parent whose child has the same disability as yours, let Parent to Parent connect you. Find them at: www.p2pusa.org. (Wondering what Parent to Parent is?)
- Looking for a nearby parent group on your child's disability?
There are lots of parent groups organized around specific disabilities. If you're looking for one in your neck of the woods, either call us or take a look under "Disability-Specific Organizations" in our State Resource Sheets, at: <http://nichcy.org/state-organization-search-by-state>
- The special expertise of your state's PTI is at your fingertips.
Give your state's PTI (that stands for Parent Training and Information Center) a call when you want to find out about education rights in your state, learn how to advocate for your child, find local resources, or get expert advice on parenting a child with a disability. Find your state's PTI by looking at our State Resource Sheets or by checking out the PTI listings on the central PTI site at the Alliance, at: <http://www.parentcenternetwork.org/national/resources.html> .
- For adoptive parents, there's...
 - o the Child Welfare Information Gateway, at: www.childwelfare.gov/
 - o the National Adoption Center, at: www.adopt.org
 - o the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Adoption, at: www.nrcadoption.org/