

## WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT PEP

"I learned a lot of great information. I feel relieved and empowered and know I am not alone."

"I feel so blessed that I was able to come to PEP. It has brought my husband and I so close and I feel we can really be a team and advocate for our child."

"Life changing! I can't even express how amazing and encouraged I feel."

"I loved that it was parent focused and we were encouraged to share our feelings as well as our knowledge."

"I like that this conference is put on basically by "lay people" with special needs kids who live this every day. Thank you!"

"I came thinking this wasn't for me and I am leaving understanding more than I could have imagined"

## WHAT EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS SAY ABOUT PEP

"I felt I was able to give some school side perspective as I visited with parents. It was also great to talk to parents about the IEP."

"I was able to take my professional hat off and listen to what parents with a child with a disability go through from the day they learn about the disability."

"Very Informative, best conference I've attended since I started teaching 7 years ago."

**PLEASE COPY AND SHARE THIS BROCHURE WITH PARENTS OR EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM ATTENDING PEP.**

This brochure was funded with Federal funds, Part B, IDEA, grant number H027A100079 with the State of Nebraska.

## CAPABLE PARENTS & CARING PROFESSIONALS

### COMMENTS SHARED ABOUT THE INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS AT PEP:

#### GOOD GRIEF!:

"Grieving is an emotional process so it was good to have the "words" put to the process. I could identify with the presenters even though our child has a different disability."

#### IFSP/IEP PROCESS:

"A tremendous amount of information presented well in clear understandable terms. Easy to follow. Simple steps to a complicated process."

#### BUILDING POSITIVE PARENT/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS:

"I liked that Building Positive Parent/School Partnerships was taught by parents and they shared from their own experiences."

#### SIBLINGS:

"It was great to hear these siblings share what they thought and felt about their family life."

#### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

"Very helpful to have all the products in the room."

#### SOCIAL SKILLS:

"Excellent presenter. I learned actual tools to help my son in his most difficult area of social skills."

#### YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S BEST ADVOCATE:

"I needed this for my kids so I know what to do for them and how to do it right"

#### PEARLS OF WISDOM:

"Real stories from real parents in the trenches. Gut wrenching, funny & tearful - the best part."

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Thursday, March 15

Registration (4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)  
Dinner  
Welcome  
Discussion Group

### Friday, March 16

Breakfast  
The IFSP/IEP Process  
Building Positive Parent-School Partnerships  
Lunch  
Good Grief!  
Discussion Group  
Dinner (on your own)  
Evening free to socialize, network and relax

### Saturday, March 17

Breakfast  
Concurrent Sessions

- Assistive Technology
- Behavioral Challenges
- Estate Planning for Special Need Trusts
- For Men Only
- The Mediation Process
- Siblings
- Social Skills
- Transition
- You are Your Child's Best Advocate

Lunch  
Discussion Group  
Pearls of Wisdom  
Closing and Evaluations (3:30 p.m.)

# PEP

**PARENTS  
ENCOURAGING  
PARENTS**

**March 15-17, 2012**

**Midtown Holiday Inn  
Grand Island, Nebraska**

**Sponsored by Nebraska Department of  
Education, Special Education & ESU 16**

Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special needs? Does your child have an IFSP or an IEP? Then this conference is for you!

**NO REGISTRATION FEE**

Lodging and most meals provided



Website: [www.education.ne.gov/sped/parentinfo.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/parentinfo.html)

## WHAT IS PEP?

The purpose of PEP is to bring parents of children with disabilities together in an accepting and confidential environment, giving them the opportunity to share ideas, feelings and common concerns, and to obtain information on parenting and educating a child with a disability. A major objective of the weekend is to help parents realize that each is doing the best he/she can do at this time. By the end of the conference, parents will go home with renewed energy, spirit, hope and a desire to work closely with professionals who serve their child so that every child can experience the fullest life.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This conference is open to all Nebraska parents who are raising a child with a verified disability. The child with the disability must have either an active IFSP or IEP.

A small number of openings are reserved for education professionals who serve children with disabilities in local school districts. Professionals will experience PEP from a parent perspective.

Enrollment is limited to 100 participants and registration is on a first come, first serve basis.

If you cannot attend PEP this year, please fill out the Parent Registration form (your name and address only) and check the box that states you cannot attend this year. You will then receive a brochure directly to your address for PEP 2013.

## HOW DO I REGISTER?

To register, first read the Guidelines for Participation in the PEP Conference. Then complete and return the conference registration form. Confirmation will be mailed to you and a hotel room will be reserved in your name. **Do not** register with the hotel directly. For further information, call Ann Figard at the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Education Office, at 402-471-2471 (Voice/TDD).

## GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

■ **Please share information about this conference** with other parents or professionals who might like to attend. Please do not register if you have attended PEP within the last 10 years.

■ **For married couples, both husband and wife are required to register and attend the conference.** The greatest benefits are gained when parents experience PEP together.

■ **Single parents are welcome to attend PEP.** A support person may accompany a single parent provided this adult shares responsibility in raising the child, is actively involved in the child's educational program and is willing to fully participate in PEP.

■ **Please make your own childcare arrangements as childcare is not provided at PEP.** Participants will gain the maximum benefit without the disruption of children. No children are allowed to stay at the hotel or attend PEP sessions.

■ **Participants must attend the entire conference and cannot be accepted on a part-time basis.**

■ **Dinner on Thursday, breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday, and lodging will be provided.** Dinner on Friday is on your own. Transportation costs to and from PEP will not be reimbursed.

■ **Dress for the entire conference is casual.**

■ **Participants are responsible** for any physical damage to the hotel's property as a result of misuse or recklessness, as well as charges for telephone calls or other incidentals.

■ **Once you have registered for PEP, you are expected to attend because the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Education Office, has financially committed to the hotel for your room and meals.** If an emergency arises that prevents you from attending PEP, please notify us at (402) 471-2471 immediately so we can cancel your reservation and allow others to register.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

### PARENT REGISTRATION

I cannot attend. Please put me on next year's mailing list.

Participant 1: \_\_\_\_\_

#### PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

Marital Status:  Married  Single  
Relationship to Child(ren) with an IFSP/IEP:  Parent  Foster Parent  Legal Guardian  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email : \_\_\_\_\_

List Age and Disability of Child(ren) with an IFSP/IEP: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Participant 1:  Spouse  Significant Other  Support Person  
Relationship to Child(ren) with IFSP/IEP:  Parent  Step Parent  Foster Parent  
 Legal Guardian  Other

### PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Work with:  Birth to Age 5  Elementary  Secondary

### ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SIGN BELOW

I/WE UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS (PEP) CONFERENCE

Participant 1 or Professional's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Participant 2 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mark any accommodations needed: (The hotel is a smoke free facility.)

Need a wheelchair accessible sleeping room  Need a 1st floor sleeping room to avoid stairs  
 Need a language translator: (language: \_\_\_\_\_)  Need a signing interpreter  
 Special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_  Other needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO: Ann Figard, Special Education Office, Nebraska Department of Education, P.O. Box 94987, Lincoln, NE 68509-4987**