

Research Highlights

Topic: Parent to Parent

Santelli, B., Turnbull, A.P., Marquis, J.G., & Lerner, E. (1997). Parent to Parent Programs: A resource for parents and professionals. *Journal of Early Intervention*, 21(1), 73-83.

BOTTOM LINE

Parent to Parent programs have been providing information and emotional support to parents for over 20 years. They offer parents of children who have special needs the opportunity to receive emotional and informational support from another parent who is experiencing a similar set of circumstances. Many resources are available to promote successful Parent to Parent programs.

TIPS

- Be proactive in locating a local or state Parent to Parent program in order to make referrals.
- Use the U.S. map on the Beach Center website (www.beachcenter.org) to find the contact information for local and state programs.
- Contribute to developing new Parent to Parent programs by implementing the tips in this article.
- Take advantage of the many national resources that are cited in the article. Many of these can be found on the Beach Center website.

HIGHLIGHTS

- A vignette is included that illustrates a Parent-to-Parent match of a veteran parent with a referred parent.
 - ◆ The experience shared by the veteran parent and the referred parent provides insights to the informational and emotional support gained by such a match.
 - ◆ Furthermore, the vignette helps establish the reciprocal nature of support experienced by a Parent to Parent match.

HIGHLIGHTS

cont.

- ◆ The results of a national survey of local Parent to Parent programs are highlighted.
 - ◆ Most Parent to Parent programs are parent-directed.
 - ◆ The vast majority of Parent to Parent programs are cross-disability, serving families who have children with a variety of disabilities and chronic illnesses.
 - ◆ Most referrals to Parent to Parent programs come from members of the medical profession.
 - ◆ Most Parent to Parent programs provide training to veteran parents before they are matched.
 - ◆ Most veteran parents reported that they were serving as a veteran parent so they could give back to the Parent to Parent program or grow personally.
- Early intervention professionals can both benefit from and contribute to the development of Parent to Parent programs.
 - Helpful tips are provided on the following topics:
 - ◆ Developing a Parent to Parent Program
 - ◆ Deciding about sponsorship
 - ◆ Seeking funding
 - ◆ Recruiting and training veteran parents
 - ◆ Establishing the referral and matching system
 - National resources for Parent to Parent organizations and programs are identified.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

Ainbinder, J., Blanchard, L., Singer, G.H.S., Sullivan, M., Powers, L., Marquis, J., & Santelli, B. (1998). How parents help one another: A qualitative study of Parent to Parent self-help. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 23, 99-109.

Santelli, B., Poyadue, F., & Young, J. (2001). *The Parent to Parent handbook: Connecting families of children with special needs*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes.

RELATED
PUBLICATIONS
cont.

Santelli, B., Singer, G.H.S., DiVenere, N., Ginsberg, C., & Powers, L. (1998). Participatory action research: Reflections on critical incidents in a PAR project. *Journal of the Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps*, 23(3), 211-222.

Santelli, B., Turnbull, A., Marquis, J., & Lerner, E. (2000). Statewide Parent to Parent programs: Partners in early intervention. *Infants and Young Children*, 13(1), 74-88.

Singer, G.H.S., Marquis, J., Powers, L., Blanchard, L., DiVenere, N., Santelli, B., & Sharp, M. (1999). A multi-site evaluation of Parent to Parent programs for parents of children with disabilities. *Journal of Early Intervention*, 22(3), 217-229.

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