Interactions Across Abilities: Supporting Families of Children With Special Needs

Announcing a new opportunity for parent educators, early interventionists, and early education providers!

The *Interactions Across Abilities* curriculum offers:

> Support for parenting behaviors that strengthen relationships within families.
> Suggestions for promoting parent-child interactions and fostering development through play.
> Strategies for making adaptations that increase a child’s participation in preferred activities, daily routines, and interactions.
> Techniques to effectively communicate and collaborate with other practitioners and caregivers.
> Information on diagnoses, conditions, and disabilities.
> Guidance on recognizing and responding to developmental red flags, including how and when to make a referral.
> Updates on early intervention law and access to educational opportunities.

The curriculum is divided into 13 sections:

1. Introduction, Terminology, and Resources
2. Promoting Development and Recognizing Red Flags
3. Diagnosis-Related Basics
4. Service Continuum
5. Parenting Behaviors – Nurturing
6. Parenting Behaviors – Designing/Guiding
7. Parenting Behaviors – Responding
8. Parenting Behaviors – Communicating
9. Parenting Behaviors – Supporting Learning
10. Parent-Child Interaction Activity Pages
11. Adaptations and Assistive Technology
12. Parent-Professional Relationships
13. Conditions, Disorders, and Disabilities

Curriculum and training options:

> Curriculum can be purchased separately in the following formats:
  - USB drive with Toolkit cards
  - Digital download with printable Toolkit cards
> The training and curriculum bundle includes the curriculum USB drive and Toolkit cards.

For more information:
[ParentsAsTeachers.org/interactions-across-abilities](http://ParentsAsTeachers.org/interactions-across-abilities)
The two-day *Interactions Across Abilities* training enhances the use of the curriculum by providing:

- An overview of the contents and practice navigating within the curriculum.
- Opportunities to apply the professional resources, parent handouts, and activity pages to current practice.
- An awareness of the abundant information contained within each professional resource.

**Unique features of the training:**

The *Interactions Across Abilities* training is designed for professionals who provide support to parents and help children receive the services they may require to reach their full potential. These include providers of:

- Personal visit to families in their homes or other settings.
- Care and education for children in a child care, preschool, or elementary school setting.
- Early intervention services.

Thanks to this diversity, the training is an opportunity to network and collaborate with many other family support professionals. It also offers:

- Strategies for sharing sensitive information with families and walking them through the referral process.
- Updates on early intervention and an introduction to specific interventions.
- An approach for adapting a child’s environment to increase participation in play, interactions, and everyday family routines.

**Hosting a training:**

We encourage hosts to recruit participants from all three unique groups of professionals in the field of early childhood. Having this variety in the *Interactions Across Abilities* trainings provides a richer learning and networking experience for all of the participants.

If you don’t see a training near you and are interested in learning how to bring a training to your city, contact Marilyn Kugman at Marilyn.Kugman@ParentsAsTeachers.org.

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**For more information:**

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