



Academic Development Institute
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Champions Together™

Family Liaison Training and Courses for Parents

Special Education



Academic Development Institute

Training and certification to serve as a Family Liaison

The Family Liaisons work with parents of children who receive special education services to facilitate positive, productive relationships between parents and schools for the benefit of the children.

Why Family Liaisons?

Parents of children receiving special education services have a lot on their minds. They may feel overwhelmed by the additional responsibilities of raising a child with a disability. They may be confused by the numerous rules and regulations. They may be frustrated, fearful, and in need of guidance and support.

A Family Liaison for parents of children in special education is one way to increase the comfort level of parents and establish positive relationships between parents and schools.

What is the role of the Family Liaison?

A Family Liaison's job may include:

- Point of contact for the school for parents of children with disabilities;
- Liaison between the school and parents;
- Meeting with parents who are new to the special education system;
- Explaining district policies and procedures;
- Facilitating parent training groups;
- Providing information and linkage to community services;
- Providing follow-up on school-parent agreements;
- Helping families make the transition to adult services.

"Champions Together assists school districts in meeting the ICIP goal of increased family involvement."

James Gunnell
ISBE Division Administrator

Learn New Skills, Hone Old Ones

In the two-day workshop, participants become certified as Family Liaisons, with training to:

- Work with parents of children with disabilities;
- Understand the ISBE Parents' Guide for special education;
- Understand the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;
- Form parent support groups;
- Facilitate parent courses

Learn to Facilitate Parent Courses

Family Liaisons are trained to facilitate small-group courses for parents. The curriculum of two courses is covered:

My Child at Home

- Dealing with the Diagnosis
- Medical / Health Needs
- Parenting Practices

My Child at School

- ISBE Rules and Regs
- The IEP Meeting
- My Child's Champion

Graduates of the Family Liaison workshop receive CDs and master copies of materials for parent courses.

For locations and dates of upcoming training sessions, check www.isrc.us or www.adi.org.

Or call
Cheri Sinnott
Illinois Service Resource Center
847.559.8195
or e-mail: isrc@isrc.us
www.isrc.us

