



Vermont I-Team

Statewide Collaborative Support for Vermont children and youth who require Intensive Special Education

A program of the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion/UVM

I-TEAM FAMILY RESOURCES CONSULTANTS' TOP 5 REQUESTS FROM FAMILIES FOR 2015/2016

The Family Resources Consultants (FRCs) perform outreach to families of I-Team referred students, providing ongoing support and technical assistance. Additionally, the FRCs provide information to other families and professionals in our regions upon request.

Please note that this list is not in order of importance or number of requests. For 2015/2016 the top 5 requests identified by families have been:

- 1. Navigating Special Education**
- 2. Family Support and Training**
- 3. Sharing Resources**
- 4. Direct Family Support as Requested by the Families**
- 5. Planning for Transitions**

1. Navigating Special Education

- Sharing strategies regarding effective communication
- Attending school team meetings with families (when appropriate and invited)
- Sharing and explaining specific Special Education resources (Parental Rights, Facts Sheets from Vermont Family Network, AOE's Website, etc.)
- Describing and explaining I-Team services
- Problem solving with families around challenging situations
- Providing information about and promoting Collaborative Teaming
- Explaining the conflict resolution options to families
- Clarifying IEP process (also understanding three-year evaluation process)
- Providing family support and information throughout the special education process

I-Team FRC's TOP 5 REQUESTS FROM FAMILIES FOR 2015/2016 (cont.)

2. Family Support and Training

- Encouraging family participation at school meetings
- Providing information about conferences, trainings, workshops and webinars
- Organizing parent learning opportunities (Mindfulness for Parents, Transition to Adulthood, Advocating for Your Child with Autism, Designated Agency for Developmental Disability Services Workshop, Family Support/Information Forum)
- Promoting networking among families (individually and support groups)
- Helping parents to understand Medicaid benefits

3. Sharing Resources

- Providing information about the Designated Agencies' programs and supports
- Assisting families to find funding for various support needs (i.e., home modifications)
- Distributing national resource information to families (via e-mail groups)
- Ensuring all families know about Vermont Family Network (encouraging contact)
- Providing information and support about Medicaid and private insurances
- Sharing information about The Continence Project (to help with toilet training)
- Providing information about disability-specific supports and funding (Autism, Deaf blindness, Down Syndrome, others)
- Providing information and support around Children's Personal Care Services
- Providing information and support for Care Conferences
- Identifying resources for recreational activities: AMBUCS, Make-A-Wish, Adaptive Riding, Adaptive Ski & Sport, Special Olympics, Camps, Etc.

4. Direct Family Support as Requested by the Families

- Information captured outside of team meetings that the family wanted to share
- Empathetic listening and problem solving
- Assistance provided as directed by families

5. Planning for Transitions (all transitions, not exclusive to transition to adult services)

- Promoting good communications between family and new school teams
- Explaining and promoting MAPS as a tool for planning successful transitions
- Providing information for families and teams around transition to adult services including:
 - Sharing information about Developmental Services and Designated Agencies
 - Providing information about Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Explaining guardianship and SSI Benefit
 - Providing information about post-secondary education (Think College, Succeed Program, Step Program, etc.)
 - Sharing information about Green Mountain Self Advocates