

STUDENT SERVICES



PARENT AND FAMILY GUIDE



Office of Student Services
100 Walnut Street, Newton, MA, 02460
Phone: 617 559-6025



NEWTON

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Equity & Excellence

Office of Student Services
Karen Shmukler, Ed.D., LMFT

Dear Newton Families,

The Office of Student Services' mission is to provide a comprehensive network of services and supports that are able to be customized and wrapped around students and families at the point of need. We serve in partnership with families and believe that families are central to the design and delivery of services and supports that are culturally responsive, proactive and preventive. We hope this guide is helpful.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your schools, teams and the Office of Student Services should you need help in accessing services and supports for your children and family.

In partnership,

Karen

THE IEP PROCESS



Referral: May be made by any source, including school staff, parent(s), or other individuals.

Consent: School has 5 days to send written consent forms to parent(s) upon referral receipt.

Evaluations: In all areas related to suspected disability. Psych evaluation is not required unless requested by parent(s). Evaluations must be completed within 30 school days of the parent(s) written consent. Parent(s) have the right receive all evaluation reports 2 days prior to the TEAM meeting. Reevaluations are held every 3 years.

Eligibility: 3 Questions – Must be YES to all. 1. Does the child have a disability? What type? 2. Is the child not making effective progress in school due to disability? 3. Does the child require specialized instruction to make effective progress?

IEP Meeting: Within 45 school days of parent(s) consent. TEAM must meet to discuss IEP. Required to meet annually, any further IEP meeting requests for the TEAM to meet are voluntary.

IEP Placement: The TEAM discusses and determine placement.

IEP to Parent: Parent(s) must be provided with service grid and summary at the close of the meeting and expect a full IEP report within 2 calendar weeks.

Parent response: Parent(s) have 30 calendar days to respond. Services begin immediately upon acceptance. Data drives eligibility, progress monitoring, and any removal of services must be based on current data.

Implement IEP: Immediate implementation upon parent(s) consent.

Progress Report: IEP progress is required to be reported as often as the school report card is issued.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE IEP

Your child's IEP must be formally reviewed and revised at least once a year by your IEP team. The purpose of this review is to see whether your child is making progress toward the stated annual goals.

At the annual review, you should share your observations about any changes in your child's education, including areas of growth, regression or lack of progress. You can prepare for the review meeting by reading your child's current IEP and listing considerations for the development of the next IEP.

During the annual review, the team will consider your child's strengths, your ideas for improving your child's education, results of any recent evaluations, and how your child has performed on system-wide and state assessments.

Whenever there are questions, concerns, or changes in your child's academic, social, or emotional well-being, you and your child's teacher or team specialist or liaison should talk. If you or the school decide the IEP is not working for your child, or expect progress is not occurring, the Team should meet to review and possibly change the IEP (this can and should happen prior to the annual review date).

THREE-YEAR RE-EVALUATION

In keeping with the mandates of IDEA, DESE requires that a student with a disability be reevaluated every three years (or more often, if conditions warrant) to determine whether he or she continues to have a disability and continues to need special education and related services. This process may be referred to as the triennial reevaluation. This reevaluation is a time to look critically at your child's progress and instructional needs, and determine the effectiveness of the services that are being provided.

The scope of the reevaluation is determined individually at a IEP team meeting and is based on your child's performance, behavior and needs. Information that you provide to the Team is also very important during this process.

The school will request your consent to conduct the three-year reevaluation. The school can also recommend to you that the evaluation information they have is sufficient to know that your child continues to be eligible and is also current enough to write an appropriate IEP. In that case, the school may recommend that no assessments are necessary. This helps to prevent over testing, but it should not prevent evaluation that you or the school believes is needed. You have the right to say you still want some or all of the assessments to be certain that the information is current; the school must provide the assessments that you request. A three-year reevaluation generally will include all of the types of assessments of the initial evaluation.

SCHOOL-BASED SERVICES

PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES (AGES 3-5)

Federal and state regulations require that school districts provide special education services to students who are identified with a disability beginning at age 3 and continuing until age 5. When a student turns 5 years old and is eligible to enter kindergarten, services will continue under school-aged special education services.

Newton Public Schools offers Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities to provide individually designed special education and related services to young children ages 3 through 5 years who are eligible to receive special education and related services. These services may occur in a variety of settings, including the school and various sites within your community as determined by your IEP team.

If your child has been receiving early intervention services through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education Care (EEC), your Early Intervention Team will coordinate with the Newton Early Childhood Program (NECP), an Early Intervention transition meeting that will include a representative from Newton Public Schools. This meeting is required to determine next steps in regards to your child's transition. This can include further assessment to determine eligibility for special education services.

After your child exits Early Intervention Services (EIS), this is a time that many families begin to explore more organized or formal opportunities for their children. For children who are already participating in infant/toddler programs, their families may begin to explore options for pre-schools.

If your child is eligible to receive special education services, the IEP team may determine that there is a need for ongoing specially designed instruction that requires a NECP classroom to meet your child's needs. Therefore, your child will be assigned to a classroom for their services. For students who do not require specially designed instruction or who are enrolled in an appropriate pre-school program, the team and/or family may determine that related services can be accessed by parents bringing their child to a specified location to receive their related services (Speech/Language, Occupational Therapy, or Physical Therapy).

SCHOOL-AGE SERVICES (AGES 5-18)

Federal and state regulations require that Local Education Agencies (LEA) provide special education services to students in Kindergarten through twelfth grade who have an eligible disability as outlined by state and federal guidelines.

Students enrolled in Newton Public Schools who have an identified or suspected disability can access special education programs and services as determined by their IEP teams at their neighborhood school. It is the goal of the Newton Public Schools to educate students with disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment based on their individual learning, social, emotional and/or behavior needs.

TRANSITION SERVICES (AGES 14-22)

The goal of transition is that students acquire skills that are valued in the adult world so they will become independent, productive adults and assume responsibility for their behaviors and accomplishments. Post-school activities include post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment (including support employment), continuing adult education, adult services, community participation, and independent living. A coordinated set of

transition activities must be based on your child's needs, taking into account his or her preferences and interests, and must include:

- Instruction,
- community experiences, and
- the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives.

Transition planning will begin when your child turns 14 years of age. The IEP Team, including you and your child, will develop a transition plan that identifies your child's transition goals and service needs. When your child turns 16 years of age, the Team discussion of Vision, should include a post-school vision statement to reflect the individual interests, preferences and needs of your child in adult life.

The transition plan will focus on determining a course of study and whether that course of study will lead your child where he or she wants to go upon graduation. A course of study includes educational and vocational experiences your child needs to prepare for the transition from secondary education to postsecondary life. The transition plan may also include transition services in the areas of daily living skills, functional vocational evaluation, and inter-agency linkages. Secondary transition is a coordinated set of activities for your child to promote his or her movement from high school to post-school activities.

Newton Public Schools is committed to encouraging your child's involvement in making decisions about his or her educational programs and long-term goals. Whenever possible, the transition team should also include representatives from post-secondary environments desired by your child, so that they can establish contacts and become familiar with the requirements of the programs your child wants to enter.

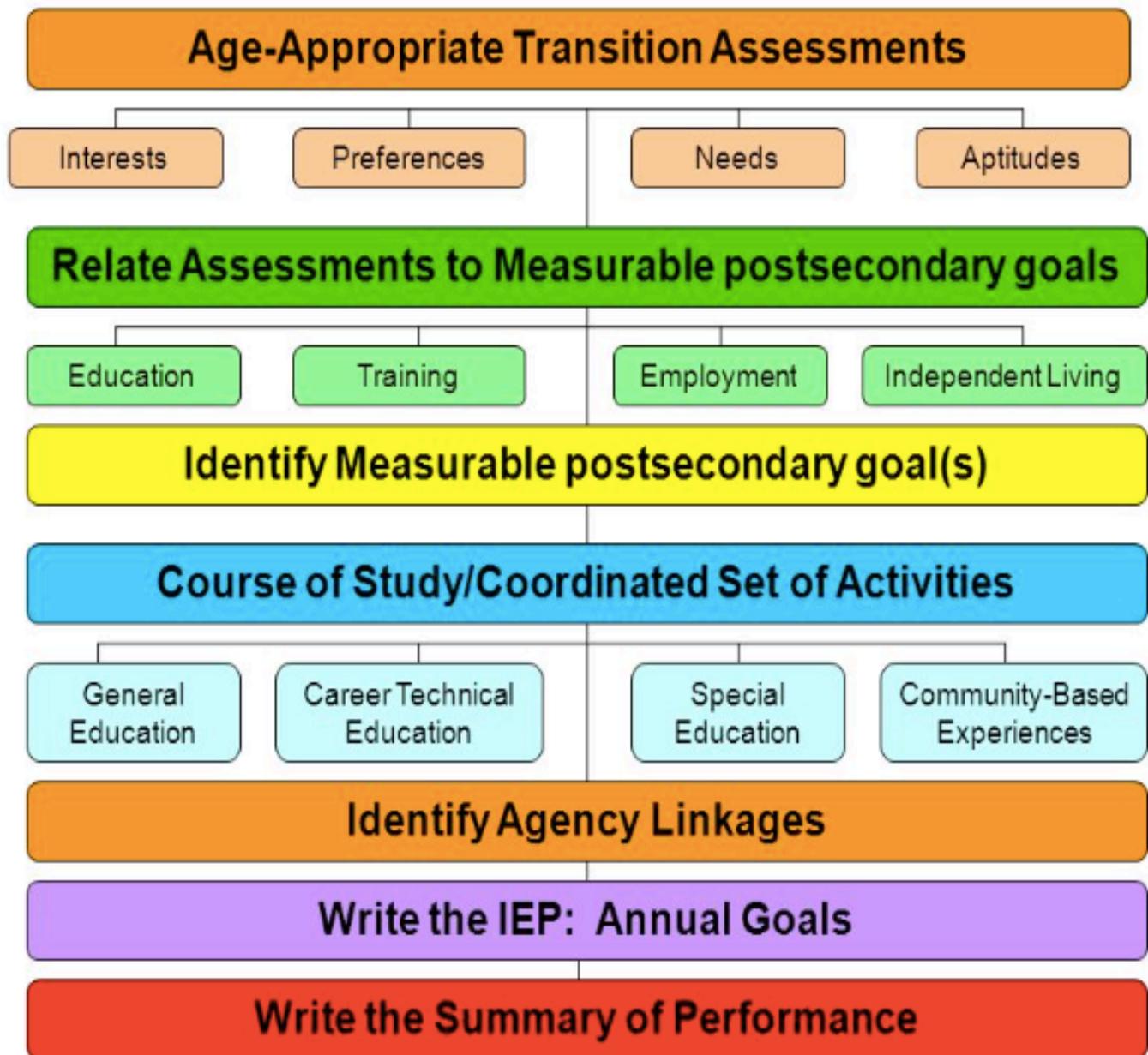
During transition planning, it is important to remember that when a student graduates from high school or upon their 22nd birthday, they are no longer entitled to special education services under IDEA. In the state of Massachusetts, there is a planning process to identify needed services from human service agencies for students with significant disabilities (Chapter 688 planning).

Chapter 688 planning should begin at least two years before your child graduates high school or turns 22 years of age. The school district is responsible for making a referral for your child if adult services are needed. The Newton Public Schools has a transition coordinator and transition specialist who works collaboratively with students, teachers, families and school staff to plan for the transition of students with disabilities from high school. A referral to adult services does not guarantee the availability of services

AGE OF MAJORITY

In Massachusetts, a child reaches the age of majority (legal adulthood) at age 18. When a child with a disability becomes an adult, the rights granted to you as a parent by special education policies and procedures automatically transfer to your child regardless of the severity of the disability. You and your child will be notified about this transfer of rights at least one year before your child's 18th birthday. Parents are still allowed to receive all written notices and have access to school records. In certain cases, a child with a disability who has reached the age of majority may not have the ability to provide informed consent. In these cases, court action is required so that a court appointed guardian could give informed consent.

TRANSITION SERVICES FLOW CHART



RESOURCES

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Co-Chairs 2018

Christine Carey

carey@newtonsepac.org

Rajeev Parlikar

parlikar@newtonsepac.org

The Newton Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Newton SEPAC) is an all-volunteer group of parents of children with disabilities in Newton, MA. As mandated by Massachusetts law, SEPAC provides feedback to the School Committee and school district on special education programs and policies, and participate in their planning and development.

Newton SEPAC also serves as a liaison between parents of students with special needs and school district administrators. SEPAC offers information to the community on a range of disabilities, resources, remediation approaches, and education issues. SEPAC Meetings are open to all parents, teachers, specialists, and others with an interest in education.

SEPAC runs the [Newton SEPAC online discussion group](#) as a forum for parents to exchange information and share suggestions for community resources. For more information, contact: info@newtonpac.org or view the [brochure](#).

SUPPORT GROUPS: GREATER BOSTON AREA

(FAMILY TIES OF Massachusetts listing, massfamilyties.org)

Adoptive Families Together Boston: Meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 12:30-1:30PM in the 1st floor library at the John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse, 5 Post Office Square, Boston. Use the entrance facing Congress Street. Call for information. Group leaders are Pasqua Scibelli and Lori Baeumler.
CONTACT: Lori Baeumler, 857-728-2157 **E-MAIL:** lbaeumler@mspcc.org
WEBSITE: www.mspcc.org

Adoptive Families Together Jamaica Plain: Meets on the 1st Friday of the month from 6:30-8:30PM at Jamaica Plain MSPCC Office, 3815 Washington Street (near Forest Hills T). Call for details. Group leaders are Randi Schalet and Lori Bauemler.
CONTACT: Lori Baeumler, 857-728-2157
E-MAIL: lbaeumler@mspcc.org
WEBSITE: www.mspcc.org

Adoptive Families Together Roslindale: Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7-8:30PM at Roslindale Congregational Church, 25 Cummins Highway. Group leaders are Michelle Novelle and Clare O'Donoghue. Childcare is available. Call for info.
CONTACT: Lori Baeumler, 857-728-2157 **E-MAIL:** lbaeumler@mspcc.org
WEBSITE: www.mspcc.org

ALL SPECIAL NEEDS

Todas as Necessidades Especiais (Support Group for Portuguese-Speaking Individuals / Grupode Apoio às Pessoas que Falam Português): Reuniões mensais. Telfonar para saber os dias: Federação para Crianças com Necessidades Especiais, The Schrafft Center, 529 Main Street, Suite 1M7, Boston. (Monthly meetings; call for schedule.)
CONTACT: Ruth Diaz, 617-236-7210
EMAIL: rdiaz@fcsn.org

ASTHMA AND ALLERGY

Asthma & Allergy Foundation of New England: Metro-Boston Area support group meetings, educational events and programs are run by AAFA New England and held at various sites including Newton-Wellesley Hospital, 2000 Washington Street, Newton. Sign up for e-mail announcements, check the website schedule, or call for dates and topics.

CONTACT: AAFA New England, 781-444-7778

E-MAIL: aafane@aafane.org

WEBSITE: www.asthmaandallergies.org

Food Allergy Group of the North Shore: Periodic support group meets at Salem Hospital, Davenport Conference Area, 81 Highland Avenue, Salem. Sign up for e-mail announcements and/or check the schedule on the website or call for dates and topics.

CONTACT: AAFA New England , 781-444-7778

E-MAIL: aafane@aafane.org

WEBSITE: www.asthmaandallergies.org

Merrimack Valley Allergy & Asthma Support Group: Meets periodically in North Andover, MA. Sign up for e-mail announcements and/or check the schedule on the website or call for dates and topics.

CONTACT: AAFA New England , 781-444-7778

E-MAIL: aafane@aafane.org

WEBSITE: www.asthmaandallergies.org

Metro-West Allergy & Asthma Support Group: Meets periodically in Framingham, MA. Sign up for e-mail announcements and/or check the schedule on the website or call for dates and topics.

CONTACT: AAFA New England, 781-444-7778

E-MAIL: aafane@aafne.org

WEBSITE: www.asthmaandallergies.org

Northwest Suburban Boston Area/Lexington: Meets periodically at Beth Israel and Children's Hospital Medical Care Center, 482 Bedford Street, Lexington. Sign up for e-mail announcements and/or check the schedule on the website or call for dates and topics.

CONTACT: AAFA New England 781-444-7778

E-MAIL: aafane@aafne.org

WEBSITE: www.asthmaandallergies.org

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Boston Families for Autism/TILL Inc.: Informational parent support group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30PM at Ohrenberger Community Center, 175 West Boundary Road, West Roxbury; call to confirm.

CONTACT: Lynn Tougas, Boston Families for Autism, 781-302-4782

WEBSITE: http://www.tillinc.org/autism_training.html

Garrett Pressley Autism Resource Center: This organization sponsors specific support groups for fathers, mothers, siblings, and groups for children over the age of 13. They gather at the Mildred Avenue Community Center, 5 Mildred Avenue, Mattapan. Call to confirm dates and times.

CONTACT: Deborah Smith-Pressley, 617-216-1676

EMAIL: gparc@outlook.com

WEBSITE: gpautismresourcecenter.org

TILL Hyde Park Grupo de apoyo para padres que hablen Español y tengan hijos con autism:

CUANDO: las reuniones son el tercer Jueves de cada mes de 10:00 am a 12:00 pm.

LUGAR: basement de la estacion de policia de Hyde park

DIRECCION: 1249 Hyde Park Avenue en Hyde Park, MA 02136

PERSONA DE CONTACTO: Sara Diaz, telefono: 617-364-4360

EMAIL: saradiaz95@hotmail.com

TILL Hyde Park Parent Support Group for Spanish-speaking parents who have children with Autism. The group meets monthly on the third Thursday from 10AM to Noon in the Basement Meeting Room of the Hyde Park Police Station, 1249 Hyde Park Avenue, Hyde Park.

CONTACT: Sara Diaz, 617-364-4360, saradiaz95@hotmail.com or Joshua Lyons at TILL, 781-302-4835

BRAIN INJURY

BABIS Group: Usually meets on the 1st Saturday of the month from 10AM-Noon at Spaulding Rehab Hospital, 125 Nashua Street, Room 8A, Boston. If the first Saturday falls on a holiday weekend, the BABIS Support Group will meet on the second Saturday. There are no meetings in July or October. Family & affected individuals are invited.

CONTACT: Sally Johnson, 617-952-6254 -

WEBSITE: <http://www.babis.info/>

Stroke Club: Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 3-4PM at Spaulding Rehab Hospital, 125 Nashua Street, Room 8A, Boston. Open to all ages.

CONTACT: Karen Halfon, 617-952-6560

CROHN'S DISEASE AND COLITIS

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Parent Support Group: This group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from 6:30-7:30PM at Mass. General Hospital, Yawkey Building, Room 4-820, 55 Fruit Street, Boston. For details, call or visit: www.ccfa.org

CONTACT: Melissa Murphy, 781-449-0324

E-MAIL: mmurphy@ccfa.org

Parent & Family IBD Support Group: Call for information about meetings held at Children's Hospital Boston, 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston. Call for details.

CONTACT: 617-355-6058

EMAIL: ibdcenter@childrens.harvard.edu

DOWN SYNDROME

Children's Hospital Boston Down Syndrome Program Parent Group: A supportive group to share personal experiences make social connections, and increase awareness and knowledge of issues. Meetings are held quarterly on Saturdays from 10AM-Noon

at Children's Hospital, 9 Hope Ave, Waltham. Refreshments, free parking, and childcare provided.

CONTACT: Angela Lombardo, 857-218-4329

EMAIL: angela.lombardo@childrens.harvard.edu

Massachusetts DADS (Dads Appreciating Down Syndrome): An action group for Fathers of children and youth with Down Syndrome; monthly meetings and activities provide opportunities for discussion and strategizing. Visit our website or email for details.

CONTACT: Jeff Roback

E-MAIL: dadsmass@yahoo.com

WEBSITE: www.mdsc.org/programs/DADsGroup.cfm

Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress: MDSC helps parents and professionals to understand and cope with issues relating to Down syndrome. FIRST CALL program connects parents with veteran families.

CONTACT: 800-664-MDSC

E-MAIL: mdsc@mdsc.org

WEBSITE: www.mdsc.org



MGH/Chelsea HealthCare Center

Por favor, unase a nosotros: un grupo de padres de habla hispana con un hijo/hija con Síndrome de Down de 7 años o menos de edad.

La clínica de Síndrome de Down de MGH-Boston y el Congreso de síndrome de Down colaboran en MGH/Chelsea Salud Centro pediatría para reunir a los padres cada 2-3 meses para la educación y apoyo. Con frecuencia tenemos un orador con experiencia en trabajo con niños con síndrome de Down. Hemos tenido un especialista educativo, un OT, un PT, y terapeuta del habla. Disponemos de un intérprete que interpreta simultáneamente Inglés – Español o Español – Inglés.

FECHA DE PRÓXIMA REUNIÓN: En septiembre en mediodía

LUGAR: MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center, 151 Everett Ave, Chelsea, MA 02150
Piso 4, Sala 401 (Eleanor Clark Conference room)

El almuerzo es servido. Hay guardería para los niños menores de 3 años que no están en la escuela.

OPCIONES DE TRANSPORTACION:

1. Puede usar el autobus de MGH de las siguientes localizaciones: MGH – MGH/Chelsea
2. Otra opcion es el transporte publico
Autobus #112 desde la estacion de Maverick (linea azul) O
Autobus #112 desde la estacion de Wellington (linea naranja)

Por favor RESERVE vía correo electrónico con Bonnie Fishman, bfishman@partners.org o llame a 617-887-3817.

21 Shades: 21 Shades is an inclusive support group for all families of African heritage who love someone with Down Syndrome. Meetings will be held on the 1st Thursday of every month from 7-8PM. Call or e-mail for more information. Conference call information: 712-775-7031. Access code: 850-505.

CONTACT: Roxanne Hoke-Chandler, 617-399-8343

EMAIL: chandler@fcsn.org

FOOD ALLERGY: See ASTHMA AND ALLERGY

GRANDPARENTS & RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN

KINnections Program/MSPCC: The KINnections Program connects grandparents raising grandchildren and kinship families to resources, information & activities in their community that support and strengthen families. The program provides support groups, trainings and workshops, information assistance, family focused activities/events and respite care support.

CONTACT: Deanna Forist or Lori Baeumler at KINnections/MSPCC, 617-983-5800

E-MAIL: lbaeumler@mspcc.org

WEBSITE: www.mspcc.org

FOOD ALLERGY: See ASTHMA AND ALLERGY

G Tubes= EGID support group of

Provide children, teens, and adults with eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders the opportunity to meet and socialize with their peers.

Meetings are the 1st Monday of the month, 7-9pm at BIDMC/Children's Hospital in Lexington

For more info visit www.EGIDBoston.org

GRIEF & HEALING SUPPORT

Club STAR: This support group is for children in kindergarten through senior year who are grieving the loss of a parent or sibling. Share experiences, create projects, and more. Dinner and parking are provided. First Wed of the month from Oct-Jun, 5:30-7:30pm. Mass. General Hospital, 55 Fruit Street, Boston.

CONTACT: Hillary D'Amato, 617-643-9276

EMAIL: mghclubstar@partners.org

HEARING LOSS

Hear My Dreams Support Group, for parents of children with hearing

loss: Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of odd numbered months from 7-9PM at HearSmart Audiology, 435 King Street, Suite 2, Littleton). All are welcome, regardless of where child receives audiology services.

CONTACT: Megan Ford, Au.D, 978-952-2500

EMAIL: hearmydreams@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.hearmydreams.com

HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Parent Support Group: Hospital-based support, for parents of children of all ages who are patients of the specified hospital; call for meeting dates and specific locations at Boston Floating Hospital for Children, Department of Hematology and Oncology, 750 Washington Street, Boston.

CONTACT: Carol Farwell or Jeane Hampton, 617-636-5535

HOSPITAL-BASED SUPPORT

Parent and Family Support Groups: Hospital-based support for family members of children of all ages who are patients of our hospital; call for meeting dates and specific locations at Children's Hospital, 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston, which also offers Parent Matching Opportunities in many of its clinics for specific health and disability issues.

CONTACT: Center for Families, 617-355-6279

VIBS-Very Important Brothers and Sisters: Hospital-based support, for siblings of children of all ages who are patients of our hospital; call for meeting dates and specific location at Boston Floating Hospital for Children, Department of Hematology and Oncology.

CONTACT: Carol Farwell or Jeane Hampton, 617-636-5535

HYDROCEPHALUS

Hydrocephalus Association Boston Community Network: : This group provides support, education, and empowerment through community for individuals and families impacted by hydrocephalus. Meetings are typically held at Children's Hospital, 9 Hope Avenue, Waltham. Call for details.

CONTACT: Jennifer Miles or Sue Wieggers

EMAIL: BostonCommunity@hydroassoc.org

LEUKEMIA / LYMPHOMA

Leukemia/Lymphoma Society: Family Support groups for adults, families and caregivers meet periodically every month, at 9 Erie Drive, Natick. Call to register for first time.

CONTACT: Gayle Bagley, Patient Services, 508-810-1340

Brachial Plexus Family Group: Periodic family meetings offer opportunities for socialization and education. Contact for details and scheduled events.

CONTACT: Katherine Sheldon

EMAIL: nebrachialplexusgroup@gmail.com

Celiac Support Group of Central MA: Meets at the Fallon Clinic Nutrition Department, 630 Plantation Street, Worcester. Open to all; call for more information. .

CONTACT: 508-852-6175

Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disorders Support Group: Parent support and opportunities to meet and share for young adults and adults affected by EGID. Educational speakers arranged for monthly meetings, held on the 1st Monday at Children's Hospital Lexington, 482 Bedford Street from 7-9PM. Call for details/RSVP.
CONTACT: Dianna Queheillalt
E-MAIL: dianna@EGIDBoston.org
WEBSITE: www.EGIDBoston.org

MitoAction Support Groups: MitoAction hosts weekly support groups for the mitochondrial disease community. Phone support groups include sessions specific to newly diagnosed patients; parents; and adult patients and spouses. MitoAction also offers quarterly Autism and Mito calls.
WEBSITE: www.mitoaction.org/news-and-events

Prader-Willi Syndrome Association of New England: Provides information and support, quarterly parent support groups, family recreation events, conferences every other year, parent to parent support, and informational newsletter. Call for details.
CONTACT: Mary Raymond, 978-207-1185
E-MAIL: murphyno7@aol.com
WEBSITE: <http://www.pwsausa.org/new-england-chapter/>

Rett Syndrome Support Group: Has events and programs available throughout the year. Check the website for upcoming events or call for more information.
CONTACT: Irene Gladstone, 781-444-8164
WEBSITE: rettsyndromemass.org

Sanfilippo Mothers Group: Group meetings are currently put on hold, but individual counseling is still available. Call for details about meeting format and location. All families are welcome.
CONTACT: Mary-Frances, 781-366-5300
EMAIL: mfgcgc@yahoo.com

Scleroderma Syndrome Support Group: Worcester Area Group meets monthly on a Sunday at 2PM at 640 Lincoln Street, Worcester. Please call for specific dates.
CONTACT: Nancy Velleco, 508-869-2997

Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England: The Spina Bifida Association serves individuals living with Spina Bifida along with their families and caregivers located in MA, NH, VT, and ME. Programs and services have included Education Days, Financial Benefits, Social Events, Get Active, and Outreach with newsletters social media.
CONTACT: 888-479-1900

Spinal Cord Injury Support Group: Weekly support groups for anyone affected by SCI (Spinal Cord Injury), to help and inspire the newly injured through role models and peer mentors, and to support individuals and family members as they begin their post-

injury journeys. Meets every Thursday from 4-5PM at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, 300 First Avenue, Charlestown in The Lantern Room located on the 6th floor.

CONTACT: SCI Boston, 617-952-5643

EMAIL: sciboston@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.sciboston.com/support.htm

Spinal Cord Support/Discussion Group: Spinal cord injury support group and discussion for family, friends, and caregivers held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:30PM to 5:30PM at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, 300 First Avenue, Charlestown, MA in the Patient Education Room located on the 6th floor. **CONTACT:** SCI Boston, 617-952-5643

EMAIL: sciboston@aol.com

WEBSITE: www.sciboston.com/support.htm

TrachCare Inc.: Statewide support for parents of children of all ages who have a tracheostomy. Telephone support and occasional group meetings are available.

E-MAIL: info@trachcare.org

WEBSITE: www.trachcare.org

MENTAL HEALTH

NAMI Family Support Group: Provides understanding, comfort, hope, and help for family members, friends, and other caregivers. Meets in the Basement Board Room at Carney Hospital, 2100 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester 2nd Thursday of the month from 6-7:30PM. MBTA accessible and parking available.

CONTACT: Monica, 857-342-2796 or Mark, 617-522-7439

EMAIL: mpomare28@gmail.com or mzanger@comcast.net

NAMI Family Support Group: For caregivers. To find the closest one to your area, contact the NAMI Mass office or visit the website.

CONTACT: 800-370-9085

EMAIL: info@namimass.org

WEBSITE: www.namimass.org/programs/nami-family-support-groups

www.namimass.org/programs/nami-caregiver-support-groups

Our Courageous Journey: A Support Group for the Family and Friends of those with mental illnesses: The group is facilitated by a Certified Family Life Educator and a Mental Health Professional with a combined 45 years of experience; they are also family members of loved ones with mental illnesses. The group meets weekly for 90 minutes. Participants come as they choose, every week or less frequently as needed.

The only requirement is that you have a loved one or a friend with a mental illness that affects YOU. Participants are directed to appropriate resources and referrals as needed. Groups are not available over the summer. Contact for days and times.

CONTACT: Mara Briere, 781-405-8376.

EMAIL: GASFlnc@outlook.com

Parent /Grandparent Support Group: Boston Residents Group meets once or twice a month at 157 Green Street, Jamaica Plain. Call for details.
CONTACT: 617-983-5800 or 617-587-1522

Parent Support Group: Meets a couple Thursdays a month from 6-7:30PM at 61 Medford Street, Somerville, MA. . Childcare is available if you call in advance.
CONTACT: Bay Cove Human Services, 617-371-3000

Parent /Grandparent Support Group, MSPCC: Group meets once or twice a month at 157 Green Street, Jamaica Plain. Call for details.
CONTACT: (617) 983-5800

Parent Support Group: Meets every Thursday from Noon-1:30PM at 66 Canal Street, Boston. This group includes one-on-one support from Parent Partners, a variety of trainings based on the parents' needs, and culturally diverse staff with a wide range of language capacity. Call to ask about childcare and refreshments. NOTE: All groups are subject to change. Please ALWAYS call in advance if attending.
CONTACT: Bay Cove Human Services, 617-371-3000

Parent Support Group/Early Intervention: Meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from 6-7:30PM at 105 Victory Road, Dorchester. Call to ask about childcare and refreshments. NOTE: All groups are subject to change. Please ALWAYS call in advance if attending.
CONTACT: Bay Cove Human Services, 617-371-3000

Parents of Transitional Age Youth Support Group: Meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday from 6-7:30PM at 105 Victory Road, Dorchester. Call to ask about childcare and refreshments. NOTE: All groups are subject to change. Please ALWAYS call in advance if attending.
CONTACT: Bay Cove Human Services, 617-371-3000

Parent Support Group (Spanish Language): Meets Fridays from 10-11AM at Bay Cove, 66 Canal Street, Boston. Childcare is available if you call in advance. NOTE: All groups are subject to change. ALWAYS call in advance if planning to attend.
CONTACT: Bay Cove Human Services, 617-371-3000

Parent Skills group for parents of children with behavioral concerns ages 7-11

Please refer parents of children with significant behavioral concerns (e.g. tantruming, acting out, forgetfulness, trouble following directions, staying on task) Meet weekly for 4 week. Contact Liz Victor at 617-355-0635 or Elizabeth.victor@childrens.harvard.edu

Parents skills for parents with young children ages 3-6

Meeting to strengthen parent- child relationships. Improve child compliance at home, & learn additional parenting skills.

For details Contact molly Markiewicz at 617-355-8565 or
molly.markiewicz@childrens.harvard.edu

PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcus)

Parent Group: Periodic support groups meet in Salem and Rockland, supporting families with children affected by PANDAS/PITAND or PANS. Call for specific locations, time and date.

EMAIL: megangreenstein@aol.com

PARENTING SUPPORT

Boston Family Support Group for Cantonese/Mandarin-speaking

families: Meets on the 3rd Friday of each month from 6:00-8:00PM in Chinatown, Boston. Childcare services and a light dinner are provided. For childcare arrangements, please contact Susan Ou. Group coordinator: Dr. Lusa Lo.

CONTACT: Susan Ou

PHONE: 617-236-7210, ext 358

EMAIL: susanou@fcsn.org

Elizabeth Stone House: There are three Moms' groups that run continuously throughout the year. The Nurturing group is a 10 week curriculum group that runs from January to June. The Family First Parenting Group runs for 4 weeks from March to September. The Parents Support Group is a 6 week program that runs from April to October. Call for more information on these programs.

CONTACT: Ruth Rollins, 617-409-5413

EMAIL: rrollins@elizabethstone.org

Let's Celebrate the Arrival of Your Newborn: Free and available to any family living in the Boston Region, birth to 4 months old.

CONTACT: Valerie Bean, Development Officer, 617-474-1143

- Allston/Brighton: Colleen McGuire, 617-474-1143, Ext. 7
- Roslindale Area: Maxine Hall, 617-325-6732
- Dorchester Area: Sandy Sachs, 617-474-1143, Ext. 227
- En Espanol, Bienvenido Bebe: Sylvia Toruno, 617-474-1143, Ext. 252
- Em Portugues e Creolo Caboverdeano, Bem- vindo Bebe: Noemia, 617-474-1256, Ext. 252
- Nurturing Fathers' Program: John O'Neil, 617-474-1143

Nurturing Center Of Massachusetts (Spanish, English and Cape

Verdean Creole): A variety of neighborhood-based Nurturing program for families, fathers, and mothers are available. Call or visit the website for the locations and times of upcoming meetings.

CONTACT: Carla Walker, 617-474-1143

WEBSITE: www.familynurturing.org

Parenting Group (English): Parenting group for all parents, offered every Thursday from Noon-1:30PM at Bay Cove Human Services, 66 Canal Street, Boston. This group includes one-on-one support from Parent Partners, a variety of trainings based on the parents' needs, and culturally diverse staff with a wide range of language capacity. (English only). NOTE: All groups are subject to change. Please ALWAYS call in advance.
CONTACT: 617-371-3000

Parenting Group (Spanish): Parenting group for all parents, offered every Friday from 10-11AM at Bay Cove Human Services, 66 Canal Street, Boston. (Spanish only)
NOTA: Todos los grupos estan sujetos a cambiar. Por favor llamar si desea atender.
CONTACT: 617-371-3000

Parenting Young Children: Parenting group for parents of children up to age 3, offered on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, from 6-7:30PM at Bay Cove Early Intervention, 105 Victory Road, Dorchester. (English only) NOTE: All groups are subject to change. Please ALWAYS call in advance if attending.
CONTACT: 617-371-3000

Parenting Young Children: Parenting group for parents of children approaching age 3, offered on the 4th Wednesday of every month, from 6-7:30PM at Bay Cove Early Intervention, 105 Victory Road, Dorchester. (English only) NOTE: All groups are subject to change. Please ALWAYS call in advance if attending.
CONTACT: Candace, Program Director, Parenting Young Children, 617-371-3000

Parents Helping Parents: Does parenting leave you feeling stressed, alone, or overwhelmed? Any parent who is feeling overwhelmed, isolated, or stressed who would like free, confidential, and anonymous support may call. Call for schedule of all groups and for exact locations in Boston, Dorchester, Chelsea (English and Spanish), Newton, Quincy, and other locations in Massachusetts. Or visit the website and click "locate a group" for more information.
CONTACT: 617-926-5008
WEBSITE: www.parentshelpingparents.org

SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

SCDAA Family Support Group: Meets periodically at SCDAA office, 1803 Dorchester Avenue, 2nd Floor, Dorchester. Call for schedule.
CONTACT: 617-825-4595