

## WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT PEP

"I learned a lot of great information. I feel relieved and empowered and know I am not alone."

"The 'couples must attend together' rule was puzzling to us at first. People have to work. We can't both take off three days and find a sitter! Ya! We get it now. This has started a movement in us to better our relationship like nothing ever has. Thank You So Much!"

"Life changing! I can't even express how amazing and encouraged I feel."

"I loved that it was parent focused and we were encouraged to share our feelings as well as our knowledge."

"I like that this conference is put on basically by 'lay people' with special needs kids who live this every day. Thank you!"

"I came thinking this wasn't for me and I am leaving understanding more than I could have imagined."

## WHAT EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS SAY ABOUT PEP

"I felt I was able to give some school side perspective as I visited with parents. It was also great to talk to parents about the IEP."

"I was able to take my professional hat off and listen to what parents with a child with a disability go through from the day they learn about the disability."

"Very Informative, best conference I've attended since I started teaching 7 years ago."

**PLEASE COPY AND SHARE THIS  
BROCHURE WITH PARENTS OR  
EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS WHO  
MAY BENEFIT FROM ATTENDING PEP.**

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## CAPABLE PARENTS & CARING PROFESSIONALS

### COMMENTS SHARED ABOUT THE INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS AT PEP:

#### GOOD GRIEF!:

"Grieving is an emotional process so it was good to have the "words" put to the process. I could identify with the presenters even though our child has a different disability."

#### IFSP/IEP PROCESS:

"A tremendous amount of information presented well in clear understandable terms. Easy to follow. Simple steps to a complicated process."

#### POSITIVE BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT:

"Lots of good info... a good road map to find success in dealing with our son."

#### SIBLINGS:

"It was great to hear these siblings share what they thought and felt about their family life."

#### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

"Very helpful to have all the products in the room."

#### SOCIAL SKILLS:

"Excellent presenter. I learned actual tools to help my son in his most difficult area of social skills."

#### ESTATE and FINANCIAL PLANNING:

"Good outline of what we needed to know to get started. Very useful."

#### PEARLS OF WISDOM:

"Real stories from real parents in the trenches. Gut wrenching, funny & tearful - the best part."

## CONFERENCE & SCHEDULE

### Thursday, March 19

Registration (4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)  
Dinner  
Welcome  
Discussion Group

### Friday, March 20

The IFSP/IEP Process  
Building Partnerships  
Lunch  
Good Grief!  
Discussion Group  
Dinner (on your own)  
Evening free to socialize, network and relax

### Saturday, March 21

Concurrent Sessions

- Assistive Technology
- Estate and Financial Planning for the Child with Special Needs
- For Men Only
- Siblings
- Social Skills
- Transition
- Positive Behavior Management

Lunch  
Discussion Group  
Pearls of Wisdom  
Closing and Evaluations (3:30 p.m.)

# PEP

## PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS

### March 19-21, 2015

### Younes Conference Center Kearney, Nebraska

Sponsored by Nebraska Department of  
Education, Special Education & ESU 16

Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special needs? Does your child have an IFSP or an IEP? Then this conference is for you!

## NO REGISTRATION FEE

Lodging and most meals provided



Website: [www.education.ne.gov/sped/parentinfo.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/parentinfo.html)

## WHAT IS PEP?

The purpose of PEP is to bring parents of children with disabilities together in an accepting and confidential environment, giving them the opportunity to share ideas, feelings and common concerns, and to obtain information on parenting and educating a child with a disability. A major objective of the weekend is to help parents realize that each is doing the best he/she can do at this time. By the end of the conference, parents will go home with renewed energy, spirit, hope and a desire to work closely with professionals who serve their child so that every child can experience the fullest life.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This conference is open to all Nebraska parents who are raising a child with a verified disability. The child with the disability must have either an active IFSP or IEP.

A small number of openings are reserved for education professionals who serve children with disabilities and are employed in NE school districts. Professionals will experience PEP from a parent perspective.

Enrollment is limited to 110 participants and registration is on a **first come, first serve basis**.

If you cannot attend PEP this year, please fill out the Parent Registration form (your name and address only) and check the box that states you cannot attend this year. You will then receive a brochure directly to your address for PEP 2016.

## HOW DO I REGISTER?

To register, first READ the Guidelines for Participation in the PEP Conference. Then complete and return the conference registration form. PEP staff will reserve a hotel room in your name and a confirmation will be mailed or emailed to you. For further information, call Gina Roth at the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Education Office, at 402-471-2471 (Voice/TDD).

## GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

*(Please read before signing registration form)*

■ **Please share information about this conference** with other parents or professionals who might like to attend. Please do not register if you have attended PEP within the last 8 years.

■ **For married couples, both husband and wife are required to register and attend the conference.** The greatest benefits are gained when parents experience PEP together.

■ **Single parents are welcome to attend PEP.** A support person may accompany a single parent provided this adult shares responsibility in raising the child, is actively involved in the child's educational program and is willing to fully participate in PEP.

■ **Please make your own childcare arrangements as childcare is not provided at PEP.** Participants will gain the maximum benefit without the disruption of children. No children are allowed to stay at the hotel or attend PEP sessions.

■ **Participants must attend the entire conference and cannot be accepted on a part-time basis.**

■ **Dinner on Thursday, breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday, and lodging will be provided.** Dinner on Friday is on your own. Transportation costs to and from PEP will not be reimbursed.

■ **Dress for the entire conference is casual.**

■ **Participants are responsible** for any physical damage to the hotel's property as a result of misuse or recklessness, as well as charges for telephone calls or other incidentals.

■ **Once you have registered for PEP, you are expected to attend because the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Education Office, has financially committed to the hotel for your room and meals.** If an emergency arises that prevents you from attending PEP, please notify us at (402) 471-2471 immediately so we can cancel your reservation and allow others to register.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (PLEASE PRINT!)

PARENT REGISTRATION  I cannot attend. Please put me on next year's mailing list.

Participant 1: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

Marital Status:  Married  Single  
Relationship to Child(ren) with an IFSP/IEP:  Parent  Foster Parent  Legal Guardian  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

List Age and Disability of Child(ren) with an IFSP/IEP: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Participant 1:  Spouse  Significant Other  Support Person  
Relationship to Child(ren) with IFSP/IEP:  Parent  Step Parent  Foster Parent  
 Legal Guardian  Other

**PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION If you are a parent of a special needs child and an education professional, you must register as a parent.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Work with:  Birth to Age 5  Elementary  Middle School  High School

**\*ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SIGN BELOW\***

**I/WE HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS (PEP) CONFERENCE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant 1 or Professional's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant 2 Signature

Mark any accommodations needed: (The hotel is a smoke free facility.)

- Need a wheelchair accessible sleeping room  
 Need a language translator: (language: \_\_\_\_\_)  Need a signing interpreter  
 Other needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN TO: Gina Roth, Special Education Office, Nebraska Department of Education, P.O. Box 94987, Lincoln, NE 68509-4987**