

# Advocacy Training Series

The CT Autism Spectrum Resource Center  
conducts an annual 'Advocacy Training Series'

Families are their child's best advocates, but they need to be prepared to act on behalf of their child in a truly productive way. This means they must understand the nature of their child's disability, school district policies and procedures, basic principles of IDEA law, and what is considered to be best practice for children with autism spectrum disorders. It is also important to develop good communication and negotiation skills in order to present your ideas successfully and participate as a valuable member of your child's IEP team.

In our Advocacy Training Series, parents will learn about:

- Appropriate components of an educational program for kids with ASD
- Good evaluation procedures and how to read evaluation reports
- Assertiveness
- Communication, negotiation, and partnership skills
- Availability of educational resources and supports
- Appropriate classroom support and teaching techniques
- Transition planning for autism spectrum disorders
- The IEP form
- Federal special education law (IDEA) and CT state regulations
- School district and State Dept. of Education hierarchy, protocol, and procedures
- Due process, mediation, and complaint procedures and realities

If you are interested in becoming a professional advocate or work with families in other capacities (support group, social work, etc.), you may sign up for our additional sessions on:

- How to work with families
- The 'business' of advocacy

These make up the focus of our training series, along with opportunities to brainstorm techniques and options, interpret records, problem solve, and discuss and share experiences.

We welcome anyone interested in learning these skills to attend the Advocacy Training Series. We know that everyone comes with a variety of goals in mind. Individuals can and do commit to this series for a variety of reasons, both personal and professional, and we will try to accommodate the goals of each individual.

---

**I am interested in receiving information about the next Advocacy  
Training Series**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to: ASRC, 1978 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517**  
Call (203) 248-5222 with questions