

School Age Matters Program

As children enter the school system, educational issues become a priority for families. Many parents look for advice and support as they begin to create a collaborative relationship with their child's school. The School Age Matters Coordinator is available to assist parents and help provide direction as they learn about the IEP process, effective teaching strategies and making social connections. This program offers families:

Seminars and Workshops: A variety of educational programs are held throughout the year to offer parents tips and strategies to create a productive relationship with their child's school. Past seminars have included:

- Transition tips to preschool, elementary, high school and post-secondary opportunities.
- Developing friendships
- Medicaid waivers
- Peer mentors

"The School Age Matters Coordinator was a tremendous help to us in working with our son's school. She helped us create a great IEP so that he can be successful. We could not have done it without her."

Social Events: Family volunteers offer to host social events for their school age child with Down syndrome and their siblings. Events in the community are hosted by parents and offer opportunities for children to connect with others in their neighborhood in a social setting. Past events have included pool parties, visits to a local farm, museums, and holiday parties. Two groups are currently organized in both Ohio and Kentucky.

Buddy Clubs offer activities for children ages 7 through 12.

Teen Clubs address the needs of the older school age students.

celebrating extraordinary lives



School Age Matters e-News: Information about upcoming activities, local resources, and interesting opportunities is circulated in a bi-monthly email newsletter. Please confirm your correct email address with the DSAGC so that you can stay informed.

Specialty Classes/Camps: The DSAGC collaborates with other local organizations to offer classes and support for families in our area. For example, **Summer Adventures Expo** is held annually to showcase the wide variety of summer camp options available to families with children with disabilities.

Lose the Training Wheels summer camp is also held every few years to offer children an opportunity to develop bike riding skills on specialized equipment. These types of classes are held at convenient times and locations in various locations in our community.

Individual Education Plan Support (IEP): The School Age Matters Coordinator meets with families to help parents become informed and collaborative members of the IEP process. Working with families from preschool through high school, she offers suggestions on ways to create effective IEP goals and tips on how to build effective collaborations with teachers and schools.



For more information,
please contact
Molly Mattheis
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or call 513-761-5400

IEP Mentor Training: Parents who are interested in developing a greater understanding of the IEP process and have a desire to assist other parents, may participate in a long term training program held over several sessions. Each session is led by local professionals from our Educational Advisory Board on various topics including:

- IEP's and the law—What is my child entitled to?
- IEP Tool Kits and Kid Portfolios
- Parent panel sharing success stories
- Curriculum accommodations and modifications

For more information on any of these programs, please contact the DSAGC.



The mission of the DSAGC is to empower individuals, educate families, enhance communities and together, celebrate the extraordinary lives of people with Down syndrome.

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