

Family Report

9-12-02

The Family Involvement Project has been receiving many calls from families with children with Autism. Some of the calls are from parents who are confused by the conflicting and convincing information about what is the best treatment for children with Autism. The parents are getting conflicting information from physicians, the Internet, other parents, Autism information and support groups, and early intervention service providers. Other calls are from families who have decided on what services they believe are in the best interest of their child and are having a difficult time getting these services due to funding barriers and a lack of trained professionals to work with them.

We also receive many calls from parents and providers looking for resources to help fund a variety of things. The project's resource coordinator, Regina Myrick has been able to assist many families. To increase our success in this area we are now able to write letters using The Arc of Virginia letterhead and non-profit status to help families with getting funding from local churches, businesses and civic groups. Recently Regina worked with a family whose child needed a special and expensive kind of formula, through a letter she was able to get Wal-Mart to supply that family with a gift card to purchase the formula with. If you or a family you are working with need some assistance you can reach Regina on her toll free message line, 888-604-2677 ext 4, remember to leave your area code! and by e-mail at rmyrick@arcfip.org

Finally, we also get a large number of parent and provider calls about our expanded statewide Parent to Parent program. The number of families accessing this service continues to grow, and the feedback from the parent partner trainings and from parents receiving matches has been great. For more information on this service contact the PTP coordinator, Scottie Burnette at 1-888-604-2677 ext 5, remember to leave your area code! and by e-mail at sburnette@arcfip.org

Submitted by:

Wanda B. Pruett, Statewide Family Representative