

**FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
**Special Education Department**  
**Board of Education**  
**1120 Dahlonega Highway**  
**Cumming, GA 30040**

**Free Parent Training Series 2016-2017 (No registration Necessary)**

| <b>Date/Time/<br/>Location</b>  | <b>Topic</b>                           | <b>Target Audience/Age</b>   | <b>Overview</b>  |
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| <b>September 1</b><br>10:30-12:00<br>BOE- Drive<br>Labs<br>1 & 2                        | Routines and Behaviors                 | Parents of Middle/High School<br>Students Served in Skills Based<br>Autism (SBA) and/or Intellectual<br>Disabilities (ID) Classrooms             | Parents of students with autism and/or intellectual disabilities will learn about the importance of developing routines at home. They will also learn how to handle challenging behaviors in the home environment. Specific topics will include: visual supports, teaching expectations, determining the function of behavior, and planned ignoring when appropriate.  |
| <b>September 8</b><br>10:30-12:00<br>BOE- Drive<br>Labs 1 & 2                           | Routines and Behaviors                 | Parents of Elementary Students<br>Served in Skills Based Autism<br>(SBA) and/or Intellectual or<br>Developmental Disabilities (ID)<br>Classrooms | Parents of students with autism and/or intellectual disabilities will learn about the importance of developing routines at home. They will also learn how to handle challenging behaviors in the home environment. Specific topics will include: visual supports, teaching expectations, determining the function of behavior, and planned ignoring when appropriate.  |
| <b>September 8</b><br>6:00-8:00<br>BOE - Room<br>380                                    | Communications                         | Parents of Preschool-Aged<br>Students  | This training will be provided by Community--Based Preschool Speech-Language Pathologists. It will define basic modes of communication and describe receptive and expressive language, pragmatic/social skills and articulation skills. The primary objective of the training is to provide functional strategies parents can use to foster communication skills during common daily activities. We will also address ways to repair communication breakdowns and improve self-esteem. |
| <b>September 16</b><br>10:30-12:00<br>BOE - Room<br>380                                 | Challenging Behavior at Home           | Parents of Elementary Students<br>Served in Accommodated<br>Curriculum Autism (ACA) and/or<br>Behavior Intervention Program<br>(BIP) Classrooms  | Parents of students with high functioning Autism and/or Emotional Behavior Disorder will learn about the impact of anxiety and emotional dysregulation on children's behavior along with strategies to aid their children in developing and using more appropriate coping skills. Multiple web based resources will be shared in the discussion of home, school, and community supports for children and families. This is a repeat session of the 2015 evening session.               |
| <b>September 20</b><br>6:00 - 7:00<br>BOE - Room<br>380<br><b>Session<br/>Cancelled</b> | Explaining the Referral<br>SST/504/IEP | All Parents of Special Education<br>Students   | Knowing what kind of assistance your student may receive through the intervention and referral process can be confusing for parents. This presentation breaks down the process and explains supports available.  |

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| <b>September 22</b><br>6:00 - 8:00<br>BOE - Room 380 | LIFE at Clemson - A Post-Secondary Inclusion Program at Clemson University  | Parents and Educators of Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities   | LIFE at Clemson representatives as well as a former Forsyth graduate and her parent, will share with parents, students and educators the enrollment procedures, courses, life on campus, supports and how their program differs from other post-secondary inclusive programs. Also discussed, how can students prepare while in middle and high school.  |
| <b>September 23</b><br>10:30-12:00<br>BOE - Room 380 | Challenging Behavior at Home  | Parents of Middle/High School Students Served in Accommodated Curriculum Autism (ACA) and/or Behavior Intervention Program (BIP) Classrooms | Parents of students with high functioning Autism and/or Emotional Behavior Disorder will learn about the impact of anxiety and emotional dysregulation on children's behavior along with strategies to aid their children in developing and using more appropriate coping skills. Multiple web based resources will be shared in the discussion of home, school, and community supports for children and families. This is a repeat session of the 2015 evening session.   |
| <b>October 11</b><br>6 PM to 7 PM<br>BOE - Room 380  | Social Security Income (SSI) Information for those heading to work - Presented by the Shepherd Center Benefits Navigator. | Current and Future Parents of Project LIFE Students or Students Planning on Working in the Near Future                                      | Answers to Most often Asked Questions<br>What happens to the SSI Check when a student goes to work while still enrolled in school? What happens to the check when the student graduates and works full time or part time? What is required on an annual or monthly basis to keep SSI?  |
| <b>October 11</b><br>7 PM to 8 PM<br>BOE - Room 380  | Project LIFE Overview   | Parents of Students Interested in Participating in Project LIFE   | Any parent wanting to know about Project LIFE, the referral process, businesses that partner with Project LIFE and how to prepare your son/daughter for Project LIFE – this workshop is for You!   |
| <b>October 13</b><br>6:00 - 8:00<br>BOE - Room 380   | Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) - Communication at its Core: Developing Communication Skills for Life      | Parents of minimally verbal or nonverbal students   | Why do many of our minimally verbal or nonverbal students continue to have significant difficulty communicating and generalizing the skills they have learned? How do we develop language for communication at school, at home ... and for life? AND WAIT ... what is the difference between language and communication? Join us for the answers to these questions as we look at fostering communication skills using "core vocabulary." Strategies and activities to develop communication using core vocabulary via a variety of methods to support our students' current abilities will also be highlighted. |
| <b>October 27</b><br>7 PM to 8 PM<br>BOE - Room 380  | Guardianship and Conservatorship  | Parents of Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities   | Mark Biernath, Attorney at Law returns to speak about the application process and how your decisions now could affect decisions later in life. He comes with a wealth of knowledge and unbiased suggestions and helpful hints  |
| <b>November 3</b><br>6:00-8:00<br>BOE - Room 380     | Behaviors   | Parents of Preschool-aged Students  | Parents will learn about the basic principles of what drives behavior and will learn simple, trusted ways to implement behavioral strategies in the home.  |

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| <b>November 9</b><br>6:00 - 8:00<br>BOE - Room 380  | How can Assistive Technology make my student an independent learner?                                  | Parents of students participating in our Interrelated Resource Classes, Co-taught, and Supportive Instruction environments.   | An overview of Assistive Technology in the schools will be presented as well as the role of the Assistive Technology team in supporting their student. A brief overview of what is provided for students to access in the school buildings will occur.   |
| <b>January 12</b><br>6:00-8:00<br>BOE - Room 380    | NOW/COMP Waiver and Family Supports:<br>Application Walk thru<br>Camps and Recreational Opportunities | Parents of Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities   | Representatives with DBHDD and AVITA will speak about their programs and walk parents through the application process for NOW/COMP Waiver and Family Supports. Family supports will provide attendees with the latest application packets. These can no longer be posted on the website  |
| <b>January 19</b><br>6:00 - 8:00 PM<br>BOE Room 380 | IEPs 101  | All Parents of Students in Special Education<br>Grades PreK-12  | We have created this workshop to help parents and/or students to understand their part in the IEP process, with the belief that the most effective IEPs are where the parent, the student, and the school staff collaborate to write an individual plan to help the student succeed in school.   |
| <b>February 2</b><br>6:00 - 7:30p<br>BOE - Room 380 | Augmentative & Alternative Communication -<br>Dinner Conversation with AAC Devices                    | Parents of students who own and use computerized AAC devices for communication<br><br>Please RSVP to Jennifer Ro at <a href="mailto:jro@forsyth.k12.ga.us">jro@forsyth.k12.ga.us</a><br><br>**Parents must bring their child's communication device to this session** | "Leave the kids at home and join the Forsyth AAC team for some fun conversation with other parents talking only with communication devices! Gestures, other modes of communication, and questions are encouraged during our social time. Afterwards, verbal speech will be used as we discuss our experiences using only our communication devices to talk!"<br><br><u>Additional Information:</u><br><br>A light meal will be provided, so plan for a "typical dinner out" at Forsyth's Board of Education! From the menu provided, parents will order from the menu communicating only with devices. Dinner and (device only) conversation will round out the mealtime experience. To end the evening, Forsyth's AAC team will lead a brief talk and question/answer session (verbal speech allowed) about AAC at home and in the community.<br>In order to plan adequately for the activities and to accommodate all attending, it would be helpful to know<br>1. Name of Parent/s<br>2. Will 1 or 2 parents attend?<br>3. What device will you bring to the session? |
| <b>February 9</b><br>6:00-8:00<br>BOE - Room 380    | Special Needs Financial Planning  | Parents of Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities   | Speak with the Special Needs Financial Representative and hear how families can best plan for their child's financial future. Understand how income (gifts, donations, earnings, and inheritance) can affect one's benefits status. This is strictly informational with no obligation on parents to use the services in the future. Updates on the ABLE Act provided as well.  |
| <b>February 16</b><br>6:00-8:00<br>BOE - Room 380   | Transition to Kindergarten  | Parents of Preschool-aged Students  | Parents will gain insight into what expectations are for entering kindergarten and review the standards for the first nine weeks. Parents will also gain understanding of what to expect at the transition IEP meeting and learn the continuum of service options for kindergarten.  |

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| <b>February 23</b><br>6:00 - 7:30<br>BOE - Room 380 | Panel of Student Assistive Technology Users and Their Families Discuss How AT Has Changed Their Lives | Parents of students participating in our Interrelated Resource Classes, Co-taught, and Supportive Instruction environments. | Hear first hand student and parent accounts of the variety of tools they use that have increased their independence with academic participation.  |
| <b>March 14</b><br>6:00 7:30<br>BOE - Room 380      | Getting Ready for Summer: Summer Reading Resources  | All Parents of Special Education Students   | Summer will be here before we know it. This presentation is targeted to parents who would like to set up a reading intervention or enrichment plan to keep their student engaged throughout the summer break.   |
| <b>March 16</b><br>6:00-8:00<br>BOE - Room 380      | Creative Enterprise of Forsyth County   | Parents of Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities   | New to Forsyth County, the program originally established in Gwinnett County is dedicated to assisting adults with disabilities with employment opportunities. They offer a variety of programs and services to help individuals obtain an optimal level of social, vocational and economic independence.   |
| <b>April 20</b><br>6:00 - 8:00 PM<br>BOE - Room 380 | Vocational Rehabilitation Services by Department  | Parents of Students with Disabilities   | Vocational Rehabilitation is a free service provided to any individual with a disability that is willing to work. Services can begin as early as age 14 in the areas of career exploration and job skills training. Students are often referred to Vocational Rehabilitation their junior year in order to provide a smooth transition from HS to college, vocational training or work. VR will also provide updates on the new E3 grant and what that means for GA services. |
| <b>May 11</b><br>6:00-8:00<br>BOE - Room 380        | Summer Activities   | Parents of Preschool-aged Students  | Parents will be given an overview of various camps and summer resources for preschool students as well as discuss ways to continue their child's progress with simple activities that they can do in the home setting.  |