

Family Training Series
September 2009 to December 2009

Health Education (Part 1)

September 21, 2009

9:30-11:00 a.m. or 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Presented by: Andrew Shlesinger, M.S.W., Coordinator of Program Services & Tiffany Esposito, M.S., BCBA, Director of Residential Services, Melmark New England

Providing individuals with skills to be independent and thorough in the completion of personal health and hygiene routines is important in promoting a high quality of life. Children entering and progressing through adolescence are faced with a variety of challenges as their bodies change and adjust through puberty. Children and adolescents with autism and/or other developmental delays present a unique set of challenges, each of which will be highlighted and discussed within this training. Tips and techniques for teaching and promoting skill development in the areas of: diet and hygiene routines (e.g., shaving, deodorant use, appearance, menstruation) will be provided. Behavioral challenges that a family may face within a home setting will also be a topic of discussion. Those attending this training are encouraged to bring any current challenges they may be facing or any questions they have related to the health and hygiene needs of their child. Resources utilized by Melmark *New England* to develop teaching plans and behavioral strategies will be available for viewing to all those attending.

Adult Transition: The Process and The Challenges We Face!

October 5, 2009

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Presented by: Paul Cullinane, Tim and Nadine Mahoney, Peter Bollier, Parents Frank L. Bird, M.Ed., BCBA, Vice President & Chief Clinical Officer, Patricia A. Finney, M.S.Ed., BCBA, Director of School Services & Lisa A. Studer, M.S., BCBA, Assistant Director of Clinical Services, Melmark New England

This will be a panel discussion regarding the challenges that both students and their families will face when they transition from a private school into adulthood and the Department of Developmental Disabilities formerly (DMR). Parents of adults who have made this transition will provide insight and feedback regarding the process and information will be provided as to how to best facilitate this monumental shift from children services to adult services.

Addressing Feeding Challenges in Children with Autism (Part 1)

October 12, 2009

9:30-11:00 a.m. or 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Presented by: Frank L. Bird, M.Ed., BCBA Vice President & Chief Clinical Officer John Demanche, M.Ed., BCBA, Director of School Services, Melmark New England

The primary objective of this training will be to describe feeding problems, how they develop and how to assess these challenges. Parents will be welcome to identify the feeding issues they are facing with their own child and the role of assessment. Part 2, to be offered at a subsequent training, will discuss treatment strategies for these challenges.

Addressing Toileting Challenges in Children with Autism

November 9, 2009

9:30-11:00 a.m. or 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Presented by: Helena L. Maguire, M.S., BCBA, Senior Director of School Services & Stacey Williams, M.S., BCBA, Educational Coordinator, Melmark New England

Toilet training is simply not easy and you don't need us to tell you that it is among the most important skills your child needs to learn. This training will discuss skills involved in toileting, the importance of record keeping, where to begin (bowel or urine training), determining a toileting schedule and behavior challenges. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss specific toileting issues as it relates to their own child.

Preparing For the Holidays

November 30, 2009

9:30-11:00 a.m. or 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Presented by Barbara Cannon, Ph.D., BCBA, Behavioral Consultant, Melmark New England

This presentation will provide tips and resources for getting through the busy holiday season. It will also allow parents to share information and strategies with one another that have been helpful to them in the past. Additionally, there will be time for brainstorming and developing individual plans to make the holidays as smooth as possible.

To register, please contact Karen Fitzgerald at 978-654-4351 or KFitzgerald@melmarkne.org