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IEP Coaches ***A new resource for parents and IEP teams!***

We are happy to announce that the Utah Parent Center (UPC or Center) has prepared a cadre of individuals to serve as IEP Coaches!

What is an IEP Coach?

IEP Coaches:

- Are specially trained parent volunteers available through the Utah Parent Center.
- Have current knowledge and skills to effectively support parents in regard to their role, responsibilities, and rights in the IEP process.
- Are available to “coach” parents as they prepare for, participate in, and follow-up on IEP meetings and their role in the process of developing effective educational programs for their students with disabilities.
- Work actively to promote a positive, effective partnership between parents, the school, and other professionals who serve their children.
- Must demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to effectively fulfill their responsibilities in order to become actively involved in working with parents.
- Participate in ongoing training and skill-building.

What kind of training has an IEP Coach received?

Most IEP Coaches have been associated with the UPC for some time and they have received training from the staff of the Center on a number of topics. In addition, they participate in intensive and ongoing training to deepen their understanding, increase their knowledge, and hone their skills.

Training, support, mentoring, and assistance are available from UPC staff as they fulfill their responsibilities. Training covers the following topics:

- The Role and Responsibilities of an IEP Coach
- IEP Process - “Parents As Partners”
- Transition to Adult Life
- Special Education Laws, Rules, and Regulations
- Effective Communication and Handling Difficult Situations
- Diffusing the Anxious Parent
- Negotiation and Advocacy Skills Training (Interest-based negotiation)
- Dispute Resolution Processes – focusing on early dispute resolution
- Problem-Solving and IEP Coach Role Playing
- Setting Boundaries – Supporting Other Parents
- UPC Volunteer Policies and Guidelines

For more information about IEP Coaches:

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