

Registration Deadline: September 12, 2003

Please print or type

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Affiliation/ Title _____
 Agency and Address _____

Registration Fee

_____ \$55 for members of The Arc.
 _____ \$65 for non-members of The Arc. *This also includes a one year free membership in The Arc.*

_____ Check enclosed. Please make payable to:
The Arc of New Jersey

_____ Charge my MasterCard or Visa
 Card # _____
 Expiration Date ____/____/_____
 Signature _____

Scholarship (A limited number of scholarships are available for family members of persons with disabilities.) Please call 732.246.2525, ext. 24 before registering, to inquire about scholarships.

Special dietary request or need for an interpreter?
 Please specify: _____

Workshop Choices

Please circle the workshop of your 1st and 2nd choices. Early registration is advised to assure your first choice of workshops.

	<u>1st Choice</u>	<u>2nd Choice</u>
A.M. Workshops	A B C D E F	A B C D E F
P.M. Workshops	A B C D E F	A B C D E F
Post-Conference Workshop	___ (A - Part III)	
Individual IEP Review Session	___ (See below) **	

**** Individual IEP Review Sessions**

This special offer is first-come, first-serve. We may not be able to accommodate everyone who asks for an individual IEP review. A confirmation letter will be sent prior to the conference.

_____ Sign me up for an individual IEP review!
 My son/ daughter's age is _____
 The county we live in is _____

Please mail this form to:

**Education Advocacy Conference
 The Arc of New Jersey
 985 Livingston Avenue
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902**

**The Arc of New Jersey's
 Department of Education Advocacy**

The Arc is a nationwide, nonprofit organization that has been helping people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities reach their greatest level of personal fulfillment and potential for more than 50 years. The Arc is comprised of a strong network of state and local chapters throughout the United States.

The Arc of New Jersey's Department of Education Advocacy was developed to assist families and school districts in ensuring that children with disabilities receive quality educational services appropriately tailored to their needs. The Department serves as a statewide resource on special education issues for both parents and professionals throughout New Jersey.

Conference Objectives and Audience

The quality of the education provided to children with disabilities is a major determining factor in their ability to successfully transition to employment and community living. This conference is intended to give both parents of children with disabilities and special education professionals the practical knowledge they need in order to ensure that students with disabilities receive effective and quality educational programs. This conference is intended for everyone who is concerned about providing quality educational services to students with disabilities.

Accreditation

Everyone who attends will receive a Certificate of Attendance. Teachers and school personnel can receive up to six (6) continuing education credits.

Directions to the Ramada Inn

999 Route 1 South
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902
 (732) 246-3737

The Ramada Inn is located on Southbound Route 1 in North Brunswick, NJ.

From the NJ Turnpike, take Exit 9 to Route 18 North. On 18 North, take the exit for Route 1 South. Proceed on Route 1 South for approximately 2.8 miles and the hotel is on the right.

For more information visit, www.arcnj.org
 or www.ramadainorthbrunswick.com

1st Annual Education Advocacy Conference
September 20, 2003
 Space is Limited - Register Today!

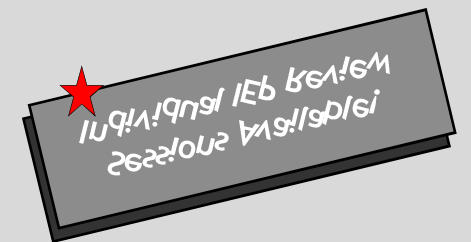
The Arc
 of New Jersey
 Education Advocacy Department
 985 Livingston Avenue
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902



1st Annual
 Education Advocacy Conference

**Getting Back to Basics:
 Making Special Education
 Understandable for
 Parents & Advocates**

Saturday, September 20, 2003
 Ramada Inn
 North Brunswick, New Jersey



- 8:30 - 9:30 am Registration
Continental Breakfast
Exhibits
- 9:30 - 10:45 am Welcome Remarks
Introductions
Gordon B. Shelton, President
Thomas Baffuto, Executive Director
Overview of Program
Elizabeth Shea, Director,
Education Advocacy
- Keynote Address
"Beyond IDEA: The Power of Community
in our Schools" - Sue Swenson
- 10:45 - 11:00 am Break, Exhibits
- 11:00 - 12:30 pm Workshop #1
- A. From Nuts to Bolts: The Special Education System (Part I)
 - B. Developing Social Relationships and Skills in Schools
 - C. Family & School Partnerships: Possible and Powerful
 - D. The Basics of Inclusion and Writing Inclusive IEPs
 - E. Developing a Legally Appropriate IEP
 - F. Transition from School to Adult Life: A Practical Approach
- 12:30 - 1:30 pm Buffet Lunch, Exhibits
- 1:30 - 3:00 pm Workshop #2
- A. From Nuts to Bolts: The Special Education System (Part II)
 - B. Developing Social Relationships and Skills in Schools
 - C. Family & School Partnerships: Possible and Powerful
 - D. The Basics of Inclusion and Writing Inclusive IEPs
 - E. Developing a Legally Appropriate IEP
 - F. Transition from School to Adult Life: A Practical Approach
- 3:00 - 3:15 pm Break
- 3:15 - 4:45 pm Post-Conference Workshops
- A. From Nuts to Bolts: The Special Education System (Part III)
 - B. Individualized IEP Review (By Advance Reservation Only)
Parents will have the opportunity to sit with an education advocate for a one-on-one 20 minute review session to look over their son or daughter's IEP.
Please see registration form for more information.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Beyond IDEA: The Power of Community in our Schools

Navigating the special education system can be frustrating for both parents and professionals. The process of advocating for appropriate educational services for their child often makes parents feel tired, isolated, overwhelmed and angry — and teachers, too. Too often, we have to focus on fighting over the details of doing what the law says — even if we can do better by putting our heads together! This presentation will explore ways to move forward from wherever you are so that our schools are more supportive of everybody — all children, all parents, and all educators. You will get some new ideas to help you build more positive relationships for you and your child — without “giving up” or “backing down.” And couldn’t you use a little support? **Our speaker, Sue Swenson, is the mom of three sons, one of whom had an IEP all through school. She is an Assistant Executive Director for The Arc of the United States, and was previously Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities in the US DHHS under the Clinton administration. She worked on IDEA in 1996 as a Kennedy fellow in the US Senate, and has conducted workshops and given speeches across the US.**

“Sue Swenson is a truth teller, and in ways people can hear; a heavy hitter. She takes risks by speaking out but builds a solid case for the points she makes. Thank goodness for truth tellers.”



**** From Nuts to Bolts:
The Special Education System
(Part I, II, III)**

*** Please note: Attendees will only be able to sign up for this particular workshop as it runs all-day ***

Presenter: Elizabeth Shea, Director, Education Advocacy, The Arc of New Jersey

This three-part workshop series is designed especially for parents, professionals, or advocates who are new to the special education system or want training on the broad picture of special education. The workshop will cover the basics of special education law, the six “stages” of the special education process, an overview of some of the key issues in special education, and advocacy within the special education context.

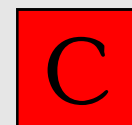
Participants who are interested in this workshop are asked to sign up for the entire three-part series as the sessions will be a continuation of each other.



Developing Social Relationships and Skills in Schools

Presenter: Jerry G. Petroff, Assistant Professor, The College of New Jersey

Our relationships with others are central to our lives. Regardless of what attributes define you as a person, it is friendships and healthy social network that provide for your quality of life. This session will present Dr. Petroff’s action research initiatives regarding social relationships/networks and introduce a newly developed Social Relationship Profile (Petroff & Creegan, 2002) tool. This assessment is a protocol that outlines an individual’s social network and identifies areas that require attention. The tool is currently being piloted with students with disabilities who are included in their home schools.



Family & School Partnerships: Possible and Powerful

Presenter: Diana MTK Autin, Esq., Executive Co-Director, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)
Federal and state education laws require schools to build and maintain partnerships with families to improve education for children. But family-school partnerships take

time, energy, and commitment on the part of parents and professionals. This workshop summarizes the legal requirements for family-school partnerships and provides helpful hints for parents and professionals on effective strategies to make those partnerships work.



The Basics of Inclusion and Writing Inclusive IEPs

Presenter: Paula Lieb, Esq., Executive Director, New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education

This workshop will explore what the inclusive classroom looks like and the educational practices that support inclusive programming from the creation of the IEP throughout the school year.



Developing a Legally Appropriate IEP

Presenter: Ira M. Fingles, Esq., The Law Offices of Herbert D. Hinkle

The Individualized Educational Program has been described as the “heart” of the special education system. In this workshop, participants will become familiar with the laws governing the development, implementation, and review of IEPs, and will also learn practical strategies for avoiding or, if necessary, resolving disputes that arise in the process.



Transition from School to Adult Life: A Practical Approach

Presenter: Jennifer Joyce, Technical Assistance Coordinator, The Arc of New Jersey - Project HIRE

Transition from school to adult life can be an overwhelming experience if students, their families, and professionals do not properly plan for leaving a school, where the student is *entitled* to receive services, to entering an adult service system, where the individual must be determined *eligible* to receive services. This workshop will discuss the importance of effective and realistic transition planning and address specific strategies that families and schools can use to assist students of all ages in preparing for the transition process. In addition, an overview of the implementation of transition and the necessary knowledge to navigate the adult service system will be provided.