



PEP NEWS BULLETIN

April 2010



PARENT WEBINAR

Parent Webinar with BookShare DIGITAL TALKING BOOKS & ASSISTIVE READING TECHNOLOGY

Do you have a child who finds it very difficult or impossible to read traditional print books? Has your child struggled with reading schoolwork or popular books like Harry Potter or Twilight? If your child struggles with reading due to a print disability like blindness, low vision, a physical disability or severe learning disability like dyslexia, he or she may qualify for **free digital talking books** and **assistive reading technology** from Bookshare.

Bookshare (www.bookshare.org) is a nonprofit online library that has over 68,000 digital books that can be accessed by students with qualified print disabilities (http://www.bookshare.org/_/membership/qualifications). Using assistive reading software, students can listen to books, read the words as they are being highlighted on the computer screen, or both at the same time. With Bookshare, students can begin to build reading and studying independence.

Qualified students can get free access to Bookshare both at school and at home through an award from the Office of Special Education Programs at the U.S. Department of Education. Learn more about Bookshare and how your child may be able to access its great book collection and technology by visiting the Bookshare website (www.bookshare.org) or attending a webinar for parents in Iowa (To register, please use this link: <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=expjbmjvbj27>).

Bookshare 101 for Parents

Date: Wed, May 5, 2010

Time: 12:00 PM CDT

Duration: 1 hour

Host(s): Kristina Cohen and Mario Oliveros

Register today!

<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/schedule/display.do?udc=expjbmjvbj27>

Join Bookshare and the Iowa Department of Education to learn about free reading resources for qualified Iowa students. Students who struggle with reading due to a print disability like blindness, low vision, physical disabilities, and severe learning disabilities like dyslexia qualify for free access to Bookshare, a nonprofit online library with over 68,000 digital books and free assistive reading software that can be installed at home.

In this webinar, you will learn:

- What is Bookshare?
- How does Bookshare help students with print disabilities?
- Who is eligible for Bookshare and how do students sign up?
- How can parents help their children?



Parent Educator Partnership (PEP)

The PEP Bulletin is published by the Parent Educator Partnership (PEP) of Grant Wood Area Education Agency, 4401 Sixth St. S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 • 1-800-332-8488 TDD: 399-6766 (Cedar Rapids), 358-6299 (Coralville) **Design & Layout by:** Grant Wood AEA Graphics
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Grant Wood Area Education Agency

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WHAT IS PEP?

What is the Grant Wood AEA PEP Program?

- PEP is a program that helps in building partnerships with parents and educators to ensure the best outcomes for their children.
- It is a statewide program since 1985, supported by Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs) with state and federal funds.
- Our PEP is a staff of four: two parents of children with special needs, an educator, and secretary.

Professional Development

Opportunities Open to Parents

www.aea10.k12.ia.us/schcomplan/pep/pepprofdev.html

The workshops listed at the above link are open to families to attend. They are designed to help professionals who work with students. Families are welcome to learn with the professionals. It is not a time to talk about specific children and needs. Prior registration is a requirement to attend. All workshops are held at Grant Wood AEA, 4401 6th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA unless otherwise noted.

PEP has a limited number of scholarships available to help families pay some or all of the registration fee on a first come first serve basis. To find out if scholarships are available, please call, 319-399-6777.

For more information about each workshop, visit Grant Wood AEA's website and click on [Professional Development](#) or call the PEP Program at (319) 399-6702.



Why would someone call PEP?

Parents: We have information on...

- How to prepare for your child's next IFSP or IEP meeting
- Parent/student rights and responsibilities
- Transition
- Information on services and support groups
- Workshops and conferences
- Resources available to check out
- Another parent to talk with

Educators and School Administrators: We have information on...

- Conferences, support groups, workshops or newsletters
- Someone to work with or support a parent
- Resources on specific disabilities or disability awareness and understanding
- Brochures regarding PEP, Parent Rights, and tools to prepare for IEP meetings

How do I reach one of the PEP staff?



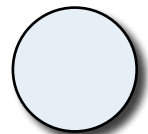
Sara Kane
Parent Partner
399-6702



Liz Hooley
Educator Partner
399-6719



Susan Curtland
Asst. Parent Partner
399-6807



Deb Johnson
Secretary
399-6777

Stop by the Grant Wood AEA PEP Office,
1120 33rd Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
1-800-332-8488

