



# PEP NEWS BULLETIN

September 2011



# PARENT OPPORTUNITIES

## PEP WORKSHOPS

### Parents As Presenters Saturday, Oct. 8

(second date to be decided at the first workshop)  
8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Fee: None

The Parent-Educator Partnership (PEP) program is offering a workshop for parents of children with disabilities who are interested in participating in parent panels for various educational, medical, and service groups in the Grant Wood AEA services area. The workshop, titled "Parents as Presenters," helps parents organize, write, and present their story of having a child with a disability. Once parents have completed the workshop, their names are added to the list of parents PEP calls on to present groups such as the University of Iowa and Mount Mercy University students, medical personnel at the University of Iowa, St. Luke's and other health care agencies, service agencies, such as ARC of Eastern Iowa and teachers and administrators from many Grant Wood AEA school districts.

To register, contact Deb Johnson, [dejohanson@gwaea.org](mailto:dejohanson@gwaea.org) or 319-399-6777.

### Practice with PODD October 27, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Course Number: 191042-11-02

### November 11, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Course Number: 19042-11-03

Grant Wood AEA, 4401 Sixth St. SW, Cedar Rapids  
Fee: None

This workshop is intended to provide implementation support to IEP team members who are currently supporting students who are utilizing the PODD (Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display) communication books. This workshop is not intended as a formal PODD "training" however it will provide information and strategies to assist those seeking to communicate with existing PODD users.

The presenter will be Julie Freed, GWAEA speech-language pathologist. The workshops are designed for parents, teachers, paraeducators, speech-language pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, early childhood, and IEP team members to help provide implementation support to students who are utilizing the PODD (Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display) communication books.

To register, visit the Grant Wood AEA Professional Development Program at [www.gwaea.org](http://www.gwaea.org).

## Parent Scholarships

The Parent Educator Partnership (PEP) program at Grant Wood AEA offers limited parent scholarships for some Grant Wood AEA workshops and local, state, and national conferences.

For more information about PEP parent scholarships, call Sara Kane at 319-399-6702 for information and to request the scholarship application form.



### 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 • 800-332-8488 TDD: 399-6766 (Cedar Rapids), 358-6299 (Coralville) Design & Layout by: Grant Wood AEA Graphics Department Editors: The Parent Educator Partnership Staff



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## Road to Discovery: Transition to Adult Living, Learning and Working • Free Workshop

Planning for the future and setting high expectations for youth with disabilities can be a challenging time for families. This training will help families understand the importance of setting high expectations and give them the knowledge and skills they can use to achieve more positive outcomes for their youth. **Intended Audience:** • Families of 7th - 12th graders with IEP's • Students age 14 and older • Educators and other professionals who work with students with disabilities.

### MODULE #2

Road to Discovery: Transition to Adult Living, Learning, and Working

Monday, October 10, 2011

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

The goal of this workshop is to help parents understand the special education transition process in Iowa and how to participate effectively in developing the IEP. This outcome will be achieved by providing information, resources, and a supportive environment for parents to ask questions about the transition process.

### MODULE #3

Exploring and Preparing for Work as an Adult

Thursday, November 3, 2011

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

The goal of this workshop is to help parents understand and explore work as an adult and what they can do to help prepare their students for life after high school. This curriculum aims to provide parents with information, resources, and tips for helping their son or daughter prepare for adult learning and employment.

### LOCATION

Grant Wood Area Education Agency  
4401 Sixth Street SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

### REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Contact Deb Johnson at 319-399-6777

or [dejohnson@gwaea.org](mailto:dejohnson@gwaea.org)

## New Podcast Series Helps Youth Develop Soft Skills for Job Success

The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability has launched a new podcast series for parents and families titled, "Helping Youth Develop Soft Skills for Job Success." The podcasts are available on the organization's website

[www.ncwd-youth.info/](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/)

[Helping Youth Develop Soft Skills for Job Success \(Podcast\).](#)



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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

1. Click on Professional Development in the blue margins at the top right of the page.
2. Then click on Courses & Workshops.
3. Read who is listed under Audience and look to see if Parents are included.
4. If Parents are listed, then pursue registering electronically or phone PEP, 319-399-6702, to receive a hard copy of the registration form.
5. Scholarships may be available. Call PEP if a scholarship is needed.
6. Registering in advance is necessary.

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  
800-332-8488

