What is Raising Special Kids?
Mission Statement

- To improve the lives of children with disabilities and special health needs by providing parents with information, training and support.

- We do this so parents can become effective advocates and encourage their children to successfully navigate through today’s world.
Our Services

- We work hard to keep our services at no cost to families
- Available in English and Spanish
- Support families of diverse culture, structure and background
Comprehensive Family Resource Center

- Serving all of Arizona with staff in Phoenix, Flagstaff and Tucson
- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization
- Founded in 1979
- Serve families with children with the full range of disabilities and special health care needs
- Staffed by family members of children with disabilities and special health care needs
Serving families of children with disabilities and special health care needs

- Parent Training and Information Center for Special Education
- Family-to-Family Health Information Center
- Parent to Parent USA Founding Member
Provide special education training and assistance to families of children with disabilities from birth through twenty-six years. Every state has at least one center funded through the U.S. Department of Education under Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
As Arizona’s Parent and Training Information Center we offer support through workshops and consultations on:

- Identification
- Special Education Eligibility
- Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)
- Transition Processes and Procedures
- Dispute Resolution
- and more …
What does it look like?

- A parent calls in with a concern
- A Raising Special Kids Family Support Specialist:
  - Listens and offers technical assistance
  - Recommends training
  - Connects to community resources
  - May offer a 1:1 consultation
  - Can review documentation
  - Assist family with ‘next steps’
  - Encourages collaboration
  - Assists with dispute resolution
Trainings for Education

- IFSP Basics
- AzEIP to Preschool Transition
- IEP Basics
- Parent/Professional Collaboration
- Advanced IEP
- Preschool to Kindergarten Transition
- High School Transition
- Organizing your Records
- Bully-Free Environments
- Positive Behavior Support
- Understanding 504
Health Care Systems

- Arizona’s Family-to-Family Health Information and Education Center
- Member of Family Voices, a national organization focused on children’s health issues
- Involving families in health care financing and service delivery systems
What is “Family Support”?

- Talking with someone who has “been there”
- Information and training
- Problem-solving and advocacy

We do not provide legal advice.
Avenues of Family Support

- Community resources and information
- Parents mentoring parents
- Workshops and trainings
Community Resources and Information

- Helping families learn how to find services and referring parents to sources of information
- Navigating state systems including health, disability services and special education
- Learning techniques for effective advocacy
Trainings for Family Support

- Resilient Relationships
- Journey to Adulthood
- Parent and Professional Collaboration
- Positive Behavior Support
- Guardianship
- Getting and Keeping the First Job
Training Health Care Professionals

Emphasize the family perspective:

- Family-centered care
- Medical Home
- Delivering the diagnosis
- Cultural competence
- Community resources

Staff presentations & parent panels

Parent Leader “family faculty” host medical residents in their homes
Parent to Parent Program

• Upon request, Parent Leaders and Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona provide Parent to Parent Mentoring.

• Upon request, Parent Leaders are matched with families facing a new concern (e.g.: new diagnosis, medical and therapy options).

• Offer support and guidance

• Provide opportunities to share personal experiences and the perspective of a family who has faced similar issues
Impact of Parent to Parent Support

- Increases families’ ability to cope
- Supports families in problem solving
- Develops awareness of community support

98% of parents have reported that Parent to Parent support is helpful to them.
Professionals We Serve

- Doctors and health care staff
- Medical and dental students
- Social services staff
- Educators
- Pre-service teachers
- School administrators
- State agency staff
Parent Leadership Development

- Parent Leaders are trained in
  - Confidentiality
  - Accountability
  - Professionalism
  - Ethics
  - Building from strengths
  - Telling their story
Opportunities for Parent Leaders:

- Parent Mentoring (P2P)
- Parent Panels (Universities, hospitals, colleges)
- Community Outreach Events
- Advisory Groups, Councils, and Committees
- Legislative Advocacy
- Policy Development and Review
- Public Speaking, Media Interviews
- Training Curriculum and Materials Preparation
How Can Raising Special Kids Serve You?

- Resource for parents
  - Information
    - Health Care Systems
    - Special Education
    - Parent to Parent
  - Training
    - Parent Role in Special Education
    - Parent Rights and Responsibilities
How to Refer a Family to Raising Special Kids

- Obtain consent from the family to be referred
- Contact Raising Special Kids (phone, e-mail, fax, or letter) and send copy of referral form signed by family with their information
- Raising Special Kids staff contacts the family member within 48 hours with appropriate support, training, and information
- If a Parent to Parent connection is desired, staff arranges the match and follows up with both parties after the connection
- Referral forms are available on our website [www.raisingspecialkids.org](http://www.raisingspecialkids.org) or by calling our office 602-242-4366 or 800-237-3007
How Else Can Raising Special Kids Serve You?

You Tell Us

Q & A
Resources for Parents

• **Raising Special Kids** (800) 237-3007 or (520) 441-4007  
  [www.raisingspecialkids.org](http://www.raisingspecialkids.org)

• **Pilot Parent of Southern Arizona**  

• **Arizona Center for Disability Law**  
  (602) 274-6287  [www.acdl.com](http://www.acdl.com)
Resources for Parents

- **PACER CENTER**  [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)
- **NICHCY** (National Information Center for children & Youth with Disabilities)  [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)
- **Technical Assistance ALLIANCE** for parent centers  [www.taalliance.org](http://www.taalliance.org)
- **CADRE** (Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education)  [http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/](http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/)
You can help Raising Special Kids serve thousands more Arizona families and it won't cost you a dime

- Donations to Raising Special Kids qualify for state tax credits.
- Donors who itemize on their Arizona tax return can claim a personal tax credit up to $400 per couple ($200 as an individual).
- This is not just another deduction—it’s a tax credit that reduces the amount you owe the state... dollar for dollar.
- Your donation to Raising Special Kids may also be deductible on your federal tax return—even though you get it all back as a state tax credit.
- To learn more, log on to www.raisingspecialkids.org
Thank You!

Phone #: 520-441-4007

www.raisingspecialkids.org

Thank you for completing the evaluation form

Presenter: Jeanne Hollabaugh

Topic: What is Raising Special Kids?

Raising Special Kids is Going Green!

Please return materials for recycling if you will not need them 😊