



# STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.  
*Commissioner*

Wendy E. Saunders  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

December 2008

Dear Parent:

The NYS Department of Health’s Bureau of Early Intervention and the Family Initiative Coordination Services Project at the Just Kids Foundation are sponsoring an *Early Intervention Partners Training Project* in Long Island this spring. The *Early Intervention Partners Training Project* is for parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities currently receiving early intervention services in Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Kings counties.

The *Early Intervention Partners Training Project* helps parents of young children with disabilities become involved in Early Intervention Program leadership activities. The training sessions provide information, resources, and skill-building activities designed to increase parent advocacy and leadership skills. Parents are encouraged to form working partnerships with early intervention professionals and policymakers.

We are inviting you to apply to participate in this training program. We will select parents from Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Kings counties to attend. The training program is *free of charge*, and all meals, training materials, and overnight accommodations are provided at no cost. A limited amount of funding is available to assist parents in need of support for child care and travel expenses. Prior approval by the Family Initiative Coordinator is required for those needing assistance.

A series of three sessions will be held at the Islandia Marriott Long Island, 3635 Express Drive North, Islandia, NY, on the following dates:

<b>Session</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meals</b>
Session I:	Saturday	March 7, 2009	9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.	Lunch
Session II:	Friday	April 24, 2009	4:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.	Dinner
	Saturday	April 25, 2009	9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.	Breakfast/Lunch
Session III:	Friday	May 29, 2009	4:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M.	Dinner
	Saturday	May 30, 2009	9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.	Breakfast/Lunch

Session I meets for one day. Sessions II and III meet for two, two day sessions and include an optional overnight stay.

Applicants must commit to attend Session I and *both* days of Sessions II and III. This commitment is a requirement for acceptance to the *Early Intervention Partners Training Project*. In addition, parents who wish to attend with a partner or another family member must submit a joint application.

Space is limited. If you are interested in attending, you must complete and return the enclosed application. You can also download extra copies, or complete the application online at: <http://www.eifamilies.com>. Applications are due by Friday, **January 23, 2009**. Notification of acceptance will be mailed on Monday, **January 26, 2009**.

These training sessions will help parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities gain a better understanding of the Early Intervention Program. Parents who are accepted to attend will receive information about early intervention laws and regulations, Individualized Family Service Plan development, family assessment, natural environments, transition, funding, record keeping and confidentiality, clinical practice guidelines, and parent rights. In addition, parents who are accepted to attend will also learn more about opportunities for parent involvement within New York State's Early Intervention Program.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Margaret Sampson, Family Initiative Coordinator:

- E-mail: [ms.fic@att.net](mailto:ms.fic@att.net)
- Phone: 1-877-205-0502 (toll-free)
- Web: <http://www.eifamilies.com>

We thank you for your interest and commitment to this project, and for your cooperation by responding in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Bradley Hutton, M.P.H.  
Director, Bureau of Early Intervention  
NYS Department of Health

Margaret Sampson  
Family Initiative Coordinator  
Family Initiative Coordination Services Project

Enclosure