Mark your calendars for a special event for our kids!

We all hope and strive for the best education possible for our children. And you play a part in making that happen, whether you're a parent, caregiver, teacher, social worker, counselor or nurse.

Our partnering agencies have joined forces to host a training event tailored to those who live and work with children with special needs. The goal is to develop personally and professionally and create the best learning environments for our kids.

When: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Where: The Dairy Barn Arts Center in Athens, Ohio, Second Floor Meeting Room

RSVP: This event is free, but seats are limited. Please register on the OCECD's website at ocecd.org.

Special Notes: The location is wheelchair accessible. Visit dairybarn.org for directions. Refreshments and snacks will

be provided for registered attendees. Child care will be provided by reservation only.

Parent Advisory Council Luncheon 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the State Support Team Region 16 PAC luncheon. The goal is to provide feedback to the SST on the needs of families of children with disabilities in the region, and to foster collaboration that is child and family focused.

Parent Session 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Parents and caregivers will have the opportunity to speak with experts in special education law and public education. Bring your questions, as this is designed to be interactive. Or, send them in advance via your registration form. Certificates of attendance will be available.

Professional Session 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Professionals will have the chance to increase their level of expertise. During this session, you will discuss how to avoid the pit-falls involved with evaluation of students, the legal requirements regarding managing challenging behavior of students with disabilities, and how to successfully navigate the IEP process (including effective communication with parents). CE credits have been requested. Upon approval, they will be awarded to nurses, counselors and social workers. Certificates of attendance will be provided for teachers and early childhood education providers.

Speakers

Aimee E. Gilman, LPA, has been practicing law for the past 28 years. In 1998, Aimee began practicing special education law. She co-founded Special Education Services (SES) in 2001, a non-profit agency whose mission was to help families understand their children's special education needs and legal rights, as well as to educate parents and provide technical assistance. After eight years with SES, Aimee went back into private practice, continuing to focus on special education law. As the parent of a child with autism, Aimee knows first-hand the challenges that parents face and is dedicated to helping them.

Debbi Buck is a school psychologist who has worked in seven different southeastern Ohio districts over a twenty-year period. In some of those districts she was also the Local District Coordinator. Currently, Debbi is the lead special education consultant at State Support Team – Region 16, where she works with parents and districts when conflicts arise, represents the agency at the Parent Mentor conferences, and works closely with the Parent Advisory Committee at Region 16. Debbi has gained a greater understanding of the families' perspectives since being blessed with a granddaughter with special needs.

We'd like to extend a "Thank you!" to our sponsors, who made this event possible:

