



S.T.A.R. Parent Training

For parents and caregivers of children and young adults with developmental disabilities

The Summit Center's S.T.A.R. Training, funded by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), offers parents and caregivers new strategies to manage various stages of your child's life. Sessions will be conducted by The Summit Center's professional staff who have significant background, training, and experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility: All sessions open at no cost to those who are OPWDD eligible. Those with Self-Direction must include this in their budget.

To register: Please call Tim Philo, Intake Specialist, at 716.629.3421. For virtual sessions, a link to the training will be emailed to you after you are registered. ***Please note that the registration/approval process may take up to ten days to complete. Timeframe for approval through Self-Direction may vary. Please allow sufficient time for this approval process prior to each session you wish to attend.***



Community Social Skills

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

6:00p-7:00p

This training will provide caregivers with an overview of generalized methods for the use of prosocial behavior in community spaces as well as assist in identifying strategies that may help their children remain safe and succeed in community settings.

Presenter: Angela Deoki, B.A.



Toilet Training

Saturday, January 18, 2025

10:00a-11:00a

Virtual session

Many children, regardless of a developmental disability, can struggle with aspects of toileting. This training will identify the challenges that caregivers typically face and teach simple strategies that focus on using reinforcement to encourage skill building in this area.

Presenter: Gretchen Abdulla, Supervising Clinician, Behavior Support



Emotional Co-regulation

Saturday, January 25, 2025

10:00a-11:00a

Virtual session

This training will teach caregivers to identify and implement effective de-escalation strategies for their child. Topics will reflect how self-regulation relates to co-regulation, developing meaningful calming techniques, and teaching your child to request and rely upon these skills when escalated.

Presenter: Juli Gunner, M.S., BCBA



Toilet Training


Saturday, February 22, 2025


10:00a-11:00a


Virtual session


Many children, regardless of a developmental disability, can struggle with aspects of toileting. This training will identify the challenges that caregivers typically face and teach simple strategies that focus on using reinforcement to encourage skill building in this area.


Presenter: Gretchen Abdulla, Supervising Clinician, Behavior Support

 **Community Social Skills** **Wednesday, February 26, 2025** **6:00p-7:00p**
This training will provide caregivers with an overview of generalized methods for the use of prosocial behavior in community spaces as well as assist in identifying strategies that may help their children remain safe and succeed in community settings.
Presenter: Angela Deoki, B.A.

 **Independence with AAC** **Thursday, February 27, 2025** **6:00p-7:00p**
Virtual session
This training will teach caregivers to feasibly integrate the use of their child's augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device into family routines. We will address demystifying basic device setup, strategies for modeling and prompting device use, and fun activities for them learn to use their AAC independently and spontaneously. Additionally, we will address the use of AAC devices to navigate communication breakdowns and help safely communicate at times of escalation and/or crisis.
Presenter: Juli Gunner, M.S., BCBA

 **Emotional Co-regulation** **Tuesday, March 11, 2025** **7:00p-8:00p**
Virtual session
This training will teach caregivers to identify and implement effective de-escalation strategies for their child. Topics will reflect how self-regulation relates to co-regulation, developing meaningful calming techniques, and teaching your child to request and rely upon these skills when escalated.
Presenter: Juli Gunner, M.S., BCBA

 **Community Social Skills** **Thursday, March 20, 2025** **6:00p-7:00p**
This training will provide caregivers with an overview of generalized methods for the use of prosocial behavior in community spaces as well as assist in identifying strategies that may help their children remain safe and succeed in community settings.
Presenter: Angela Deoki, B.A.

 **Independence with AAC** **Wednesday, March 26, 2025** **6:00p-7:00p**
Virtual session
Presenter: Juli Gunner, M.S., BCBA, Behavior Consultant
This training will teach caregivers to feasibly integrate the use of their child's augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device into family routines. We will address demystifying basic device setup, strategies for modeling and prompting device use, and fun activities for them learn to use their AAC independently and spontaneously. Additionally, we will address the use of AAC devices to navigate communication breakdowns and help safely communicate at times of escalation and/or crisis.

With a staff of 600 professionals and expertise in autism and social/emotional development, The Summit Center is Western New York's leading provider of evidence-based educational, behavioral health, adult, and community programs to more than 1,000 children and adults each year.

