



STAR Parent Training

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

The Summit Center's STAR Training, funded by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), offers parents and caregivers new strategies to manage various stages of their 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 are available 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 10 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.***

Communication

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

6–7 p.m.

Virtual session

This training will discuss the basics of functional communication, how to encourage communication, promote communication independence, and capitalize on naturalistic teaching opportunities.

Presenter: Angela Deoki, B.A.

Toileting

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

6–7 p.m.

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: Angela Deoki, B.A.

Behavior Basics

Saturday, October 25, 2025

10–11 a.m.

Virtual Session

This training will focus on basic proactive strategies to help caregivers reduce challenging behaviors that their children may exhibit. Topics will include reinforcement of positive behaviors, simple communication strategies, and other behavioral tips and techniques.

Presenter: Gretchen Abdulla, Supervising Clinician, Behavior Support

Adaptive Skills

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

6–7 p.m.

Virtual Session

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

Presenter: Angela Deoki, B.A.

Managing Challenging Behaviors Thursday, November 6, 2025**6:30–7:30 p.m.***Virtual session* ****New & Improved****

This training will focus on teaching caregivers where challenging behaviors typically come from, what challenging behaviors mean, and some simple strategies that use reinforcement to decrease challenging behaviors and build skills.

Presenter: Juli Gunner, M.S., BCBA**Transition to Adulthood****Thursday, November 13, 2025****6–7 p.m.***Virtual Session*

This training will cover many components of the process for transitioning students who will graduate with a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential. Including an overview of the process, potential options for adulthood, skills that may be needed for a successful transition to the adult world, and tasks that may need to be completed during the final two years of school.

Presenter: Tim Philo, Intake Specialist, Community and Adult Services**Toileting****Saturday, November 15, 2025****10-11 a.m.***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****Tuesday, December 2, 2025****6:30–7:30 p.m.***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****Wednesday, December 3, 2025****6–7 p.m.***Virtual Session*

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.**Behavior Basics****Saturday, December 6, 2025****10–11 a.m.***Virtual Session*

This training will focus on basic proactive strategies to help caregivers reduce challenging behaviors that their children may exhibit. Topics will include reinforcement of positive behaviors, simple communication strategies, and other behavioral tips and techniques.

Presenter: Gretchen Abdulla, Supervising Clinician, Behavior Support

Toileting**Wednesday, December 10, 2025****6–7 p.m.***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: Angela Deoki, B.A.

Transition to Adulthood**Thursday, December 11, 2025****6–7 p.m.***Virtual Session*

This training will cover many components of the process for transitioning students who will graduate with a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential. Including an overview of the process, potential options for adulthood, skills that may be needed for a successful transition to the adult world, and tasks that may need to be completed during the final two years of school.

Presenter: Tim Philo, Intake Specialist, Community and Adult Services

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.



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