



# 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. Timeframes for approval through Self-Direction may vary. Allow sufficient time for this approval process prior to each session you wish to attend.***

## **Managing Challenging Behaviors**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

**6:15–7:15 p.m.**

*Virtual session*

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 build skills and decrease challenging behaviors.

**Presenter:** Angela Deoki, B.A.

## **Introduction to OPWDD & Care Management**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2026 6–7 p.m.**

*Virtual session*

An introductory overview of OPWDD and the services offered, along with navigating the care management system. This includes the eligibility process, the role of a care manager, and how to obtain programming.

**Presenter:** Tim Philo, intake specialist

## **Independence with AAC**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

**6:15–7:15 p.m.**

*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 to support the independent and spontaneous use of their AAC. 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:** Angie Deoki, B.A.

## **Transition to Adulthood**

**Saturday, May 9, 2026**

**10–11 a.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

**Toileting****Wednesday, May 13, 2026****6:15–7:15 p.m.***Virtual session*

Many children, regardless of a developmental disability, have difficulty with 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.**Community Social Skills****Wednesday, May 20, 2026****6:15–7:15 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****Thursday, June 4, 2026****6:15–7:15 p.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:** Angela Deoki, B.A.**Adaptive Skills****Wednesday, June 10, 2026****6:15–7:15 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.**Introduction to OPWDD & Care Management****Saturday, June 13, 2026****10–11 a.m.***Virtual session*

An introductory overview of OPWDD and the services offered, along with navigating the care management system. This includes the eligibility process, the role of a care manager, and how to obtain programming.

**Presenter:** Tim Philo, intake specialist

*The Summit Center is Western New York's leading expert on autism spectrum disorder. Through our educational, behavioral health, and community integration programs, we support more than 1,200 children and adults each year with autism and other developmental disabilities. For more than 50 years, we've given people the tools to achieve their greatest potential.*

*Learn more at [TheSummitCenter.org](http://TheSummitCenter.org).*