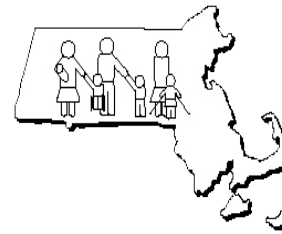




FAMILY TIES of Massachusetts



Together In Enhancing Support

1-800-905-TIES (8437) www.massfamilyties.org

What is Family TIES? – Presented to Cotting School – Making Things Possible: Educating the Whole Child – November 18, 2017

Family TIES is a project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs, funded by and in collaboration with the MA Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition, Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs.

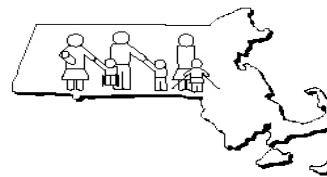
Who We Are ...

Family TIES of Massachusetts is a statewide information, referral and parent-to-parent matching program for families of children with special health needs, chronic illness or disability and their professional partners.



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

FAMILY TIES of Massachusetts





FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Federation for Children with Special Needs provides information about services for children and youth with special needs, including education and health services.

PHONE: 800-331-0688 or 617-236-7210

WEBSITE: www.fcsn.org





Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs offers health-related assistance.

[COMMUNITY SUPPORT LINE: 800-882-1435](tel:800-882-1435)

WEBSITE: www.mass.gov/dph



What We Do...

- Regional Coordinators provide information, resources and referrals
- Offer emotional support through the Parent-to-Parent Program
- Publish a Directory of Resources for Families of CYSHN
- Maintain regional parent support group lists
- Maintain the statewide Central Directory of Early Intervention programs
- Offer skill-building workshops
- Recruit parents for *Share Your Voice!*



Parent-to-Parent (P2P)

The **Parent-to-Parent Program** offers one-to-one phone connections for parents looking for an opportunity to talk about their child and family.

- Matches are based on diagnosis or similarity of special need, age of child or region of state
- Brings together parents who face similar challenges
- Parents gain strength and support through these connections



Parent to Parent (P2P)

The requesting parent completes a Match Request form. Parents can call the 800 line to request a form or download from [Family TIES of MA](#).

- Forms are available in Spanish
- Completed forms should be mailed to the Parent-to-Parent Coordinator

Family TIES of MA - Parent-to-Parent Match Request

DPH West Boylston Office

180 Beaman Street

West Boylston, MA 01583



Parent to Parent (P2P)

Support Parents are the core of this program. They affirm that parents are not alone in the journey of raising a child with special health needs.

Support Parents:

- Provide support and encouragement
- Share experiences and knowledge
- Participate on a voluntary basis
- Receive training and continued mentoring from the P2P Coordinator



Share Your Voice! Family Advisor Program

Parents are invited to share their experience and expertise in caring for a child with special health needs with the Department of Public Health (DPH).

Examples of ways Family Advisors contribute:

- Attend focus groups
- Participate in phone or written surveys
- Serve on an advisory board or committee
- Review educational materials or grants

Families can call the 800 line to request an enrollment form or download from [Family TIES of MA.](#)



Organizational Resources

- [Family TIES](#)
 - Resource directory and skill building workshops
- [Understood](#)
 - Support and resources for families of children with learning differences
- [DisabilityInfo.org](#)
 - INDEX, an extensive database to locate programs, professionals and services



Organizational Resources

- [ExceptionalLives](#)
 - Plain language guides and resource directory
- [MAAPS](#) – The Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools
 - Resources for parents include finding a school



Recreational Resources

- [Franciscan's Children's Resource Directory](#)
 - Adaptive sports and recreational opportunities
- [SpedMass](#)
 - Camps, events, assistive technology
- [Special Olympics](#)
 - Year-round sports training and competition
- [Challenger Sports](#)
 - Soccer for all abilities in Norwood



Recreational Resources

- [verywell](#)
 - Sports Programs and integrated sports information for individuals with disabilities
- [YMCA](#)
- [Boys & Girls Clubs](#)
- [Local Recreation Departments](#)



Legal Resources

- [FCSN Parent Training & Information Center](#)
 - Information and assistance on special education laws, procedures, community resources, disability information and advocacy
- [Disability Law Center](#)
 - Protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities
- [Mass Advocates for Children](#)
 - Part of a statewide network of legal aid and child advocacy organizations



Legal Resources

- [Special Needs Advocacy Network \(SPAN\)](#)
 - Professional development for advocates and directory
- [Wrightslaw](#)
 - Information, training and resources about special education law and advocacy for children with disabilities
- [Neuropsychology & Education Services for Children & Adolescents \(NESCA\)](#)
 - Directory of Special Ed Attorneys and Advocates



Transition & Life After 22 Resources

- [FCSN Link Center](#)
 - Transition planning resources
 - Planning A Life conference 11/30 & 12/1
- [DPH, Division for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs](#)
 - Health Transition Information
- [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\)](#)
 - Special Education Secondary Transition



Transition & Life After 22 Resources

- [Mass Families Organizing for Change](#)
 - Leadership training, workshops and advocacy for parents
- [Easter Seals of MA](#)
 - Youth Leadership Network
 - Youth Transition Services



For Information, Workshops and Support

Contact Family TIES!

1-800-905-TIES (8437)

or visit our website

www.massfamilyties.org





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