

Family Support 360 Learning Circle

Services available to children with disabilities

November 1, 2005

Opening the Circle

Introductions

- Who are you?
- What brought you here?
- What did you want to learn?
- What is a Learning Circle?
- What is Family Support 360?

realize that we all have expertise to share. We learn from each other.

What is a Learning Circle?

The use of a circle as both the organizational structure and descriptive metaphor for a meeting of equals is likely to have been a part of our history for as long as fire. The learning circle is a mechanism for organizing and honoring the collective wisdom of the group and is present in many indigenous cultures. For example, in early native councils of elders came together to understand problems in a spirit of shared community called "wisdom circles".

Over time and across countries, civic organizations, neighborhood communities, trade unions, churches and social justice groups have used learning circles to empower their members to make choices and take action.

Among the goals of this activity are helping participants develop the trust and respect for diversity of experience, and fostering both listening and speaking skills among peers and colleagues.

What is a Developmental Disability?

A severe, chronic disability of an individual that:

1. is attributable to mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
2. is manifested before the individual attains the age of 22
3. is likely to continue indefinitely;

4. results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive living, and economic self-sufficiency; and;

5. reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic services, individualized support, or other forms of assistance that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

When applied to infants and children, developmental disabilities means an individuals from birth to age 9, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, and may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting 3 or more of the criteria above if the individuals, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

reference.

Dane County Road Map

Advocacy
Family Support and Respite
Parent education
Wheelchair recycling project
Teen outreach

In-home support
Parent support
Recreation
Child care

Who to call for Help

Family Support 360, 261-9139.

Southern Regional Center for CSHCN at the Waisman Center 1-800-532-3321.

The Roadmap

Wisconsin First Step Hotline, 1-800 642-7837.

211, Help Hotline

Closing the Circle

Where to go next?
Closing statements....
Ideas for other learning circles
Evaluations

Thank you for your contribution!