With encouragement and support from educators and community providers, each family determines their level of participation in system processes.

In successful partnerships, families, educators, and community providers work together by recognizing, understanding, and respecting individual differences, cultural backgrounds, and differing approaches, and seek solutions.

Two-way frequent and meaningful communication builds successful partnerships.

Building partnerships among families, educators, and community providers as early as possible enhances the degree of family and child success.

Families, educators, and community providers all have important roles, responsibilities, and perspectives in the education and support of children.

The Parent-Educator Connection works to develop and sustain effective partnerships between families, educators, and community providers to promote success for all children and youth with disabilities.

Iowa Department of Education
Revised
July 2006

Thanks to the
College of Journalism and Mass Communication
Drake University, Special Publications
Spring 1995
Ronda Menke, Instructor
for helping to create and design this brochure

Families, schools, and communities in Iowa working together to promote educational success for children and youth.
Who Are We?

♦ The Parent-Educator Connection (PEC), started in 1984, provides a unique opportunity for parents and educators to build partnerships to improve educational programs for children and young adults with special needs.

♦ Modeling an effective collaborative partnership, the PEC is staffed by a parent coordinator who brings the perspective of a parent with a child having special needs and an educator coordinator who brings the perspective of an educator.

♦ Each of the 11 state Area Education Agencies (AEA’s) have a parent and an educator coordinator on staff to direct the program within the AEA. They deal directly with parents, local education agencies, and agencies outside the educational system.

♦ The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Children, Family and Community Services employs a parent coordinator who partners with educators at the department in order to provide assistance to AEAs and the children and families of Iowa.

What Can We Do for Parents and Educators?

♦ Link families and educators with needed services and resources.

♦ Assist parent-educator support groups.

♦ Conduct workshops on various subjects for families and educators.

♦ Provide books, pamphlets and video/audio tapes on issues regarding special education, parenting and disabilities.

♦ Network with other agencies and programs who work with parents and educators.

♦ Connect families and educators with similar needs and interests.

♦ Inform and encourage state and local educational groups to support home-school relationships.

The Partnership

Who can get involved...

♦ Families with children who have special learning needs, ages birth to twenty-one, can work with the PEC to build important relationships.

♦ Educators and other individuals who work with children with special needs may also access the PEC as a resource or volunteer to work with the PEC in supporting services.

How to get involved...

For more information or to find out how to contact the coordinators in your AEA, contact:

The Iowa Department of Education
Bureau of Children, Family and Community Services
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
(515) 242-5295
(515) 242-6019 FAX

Deb Samson, Parent Coordinator
Parent-Educator Connection Program
e-mail: deb.samson@iowa.gov