

EXPECTATION

PIC Parent Conference on disAbilities
 March 18, 2017 Ramada Inn Gillette *Change!*

At-a-Glance Schedule

Saturday, March 18, 2017	
8:00 - 9:00 am	Registration & Vendor Booths
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome and Opening
9:15 am -11:45 am	10 Steps to an Effective IEP and What to Do When It is NOT Working: Terri Dawson, Director, Parent Information Center Special education is a complicated and complex process, made more difficult by our emotions of hopes and dreams for our children. Understanding the basics of IEPs, and what we can ask for, can relieve some of the stress IEP meetings can bring. This interactive session will discuss the most important things families should know about IEPs, with strategies for getting what your child needs in a positive and productive way without straining relationships with members of the team. (break at 10:15-10:30 am)
11:45 am- 1:00 pm	Lunch on Your Own
1:00-2:30 pm	Sensory Integration Dysfunction, Sensory Processing Disorder: Interventions & Behavioral Supports: Amy Hadley, OTR/L Sensory Integration Dysfunction is real and has different levels of involvement and multiple categories of clusters of dysfunction. Sensory Processing disorder is also very real and presents with varying challenges for intervention and supports. Participants will learn about each type of dysfunction and the various "camps" that support research. Research based interventions will be described.
2:30-2:45 pm	Break
2:45-4:00 pm	Mindfulness & Student Success: Wendy Gauntner, PIC Outreach Parent Liaison School is a place where our children learn academics. Mindfulness has become a way for our children to learn tools for calming, attention, motivation, and increased school success. This session will help participants understand mindfulness, and how it can support our children's overall academic, social and emotional well-being.

The purpose and outcomes of the conference for families of children with disabilities, and those educators and providers who work with them, are to:

- Have an opportunity to meet, network and share ideas with other families and educators who have children and youth with similar needs.
- Increase families, educators and others expectations for their children's success, independence and employment opportunities even during times of change.
- Learn new skills on how to communicate as partners for better outcomes for your child/student through the IEP.
- Gain a greater understanding of special education and the critical areas to pay attention to in the IEP.

Speakers



Terri Dawson, has been the Executive Director of Parents Helping Parents of WY, Inc (PHP) since founding it and it's project, the Parent Information Center in 1991. Terri has a BS in Social Work and a MPA from the UW. Prior to PHP, Terri owned and operated her own flower shop in Buffalo for 10 years. After her son Ted was born, she began the 30 year journey of supporting families to increase their engagement in their children's education and learning, and is a passionate advocate for all kids. She and her husband live in Buffalo and have three adult children, and two grandsons. Terri enjoys traveling, reading, mountain biking and spending time with family.



Wendy Borders Gauntner, is an adoptive mother, educator, writer, and mindfulness coach. She has recently joined the team at the Parent Information Center, supporting families and helping them navigate special education. She holds a B.A. in Special and General Education and an M.S. in Adult Learning and Technology. Through a community grant aimed at community resilience, she became a community educator for Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction. Wendy is the author of *Lee & Me: What I Learned from Parenting a Child with Adverse Childhood Experiences* and has a passion for how these experiences affect the education of special education students. She loves volunteering, learning, being active, loves the outdoors (including beaches!) and lives in Gillette with her husband, son and rescue dog.



Amy Hadley, OTR/L, COMS. Amy has been a practicing Occupational Therapist since 1987. She has specialties in sensory integration and sensory processing disorders, wheelchair seating and power mobility, splinting and casting and working with low vision. She has been an Orientation and Mobility Specialist since 2011. For the past few years, Amy served six school districts and worked with the University of Wyoming WATR project working in both fields. She is currently working as an OT for Park Co School District # 1 in Powell and loving every minute of her work.