

Megan Kirshbaum

Serving Parents with Disabilities
and their Children in Early Head
Start

7/30/2014

18th Annual Birth to Three
Institute



**Serving Families
with Disabilities
Since 1982**

**Through the
Looking Glass**

**3075 Adeline Street
Suite 120
Berkeley, CA 94703**

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lookingglass.org

**National Center
for
Parents with Disabilities
and their Families**

CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

*Through the Looking Glass (TLG) is a disability and Deaf community-based nonprofit organization in Berkeley, California. Since its founding in 1982 TLG has provided infant mental health or infant/parent/family therapy and relationship-based intervention. TLG has pioneered clinical and supportive services, as well as training and research serving families in which one or more members, whether parent or child, has a disability or medical issue. TLG's mission is **To create, demonstrate and encourage non-pathological and empowering resources and model early intervention services for families with disability issues in parent or child which integrate expertise derived from personal disability experience and disability culture.** TLG's staff includes psychologists, researchers, occupational therapists, rehabilitation counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, developmental specialists, nurse, childbirth educator, early childhood educators and family law attorney. The staff have diverse cultural backgrounds, and nearly 80% of the 63 staff members are disabled, parents of disabled children, or have disabled family members.*

NATIONAL CENTER FOR PARENTS WITH DISABILITIES & THEIR FAMILIES:

Funded by NIDRR, U.S. Department of Education, the National Center's activities focus on priority issues facing parents with disabilities and their children.

- Information & Referral
- Technical Assistance & Consultations
- Research and Development
- Legislation and Public Policy
- Website
- Professional Trainings & Workshops
- Publications
- Legal Program: Custody Issues

BAY AREA SERVICES: *Comprehensive services to parenting families with diverse disabilities and medical issues throughout the family life cycle.*

- Home-based infant/parent/child and family mental health services when parent, parenting grandparent, infant, or child has a disability/medical issue
- Home-based parent/child intervention, family support, and parenting education for families with disabilities in parent, parenting grandparent, or infant/child
- Infant/Toddler developmental evaluation and early intervention
- Adaptive baby care equipment evaluation and provision for parents, expectant parents or parenting grandparents with physical disabilities
- Childbirth and parenting education for expectant parents with intellectual disability
- Support groups for (1) parents of disabled babies or children; (2) parents with physical or visual disabilities; and (3) parents with intellectual disabilities
- Play therapy for children with disabilities and children of parents with disabilities
- Parenting evaluations for child welfare-involved parents with disabilities
- Developmental play groups for children and their parents with intellectual disabilities
- Early Head Start Program with three classrooms and home-based services

BAY AREA CONSULTATION AND TRAINING: *Tailored to program needs.*

- Early childhood and early intervention practitioners and programs
- Mental health practitioners and interns
- Diverse health practitioners and students
- Child welfare systems
- Legal practitioners and advocates



SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES:

Our National Center is proud to have contributed to successful outcomes in many individual family situations as well as to changes in local, regional and national systems. Some of the notable outcomes we have achieved:

- > TLG expertise informed ground-breaking legislation passed in California, Idaho and Kansas that focused on improving the lives of parents with disabilities and their children.
- > Nationally, 40-60% of parents with intellectual disabilities lose their children. In contrast, only 4-7% of parents with intellectual disabilities receiving our local intervention services lost custody of their children.
- > Our research studies document that adaptive baby care equipment and strategies can have a positive impact on parent/baby interaction, and can reduce the difficulty, pain and fatigue associated with caring for a baby or child.
- > In 2012, TLG substantially contributed to the National Council on Disability's groundbreaking policy study "Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and their Children." The report was submitted to the President and Congress.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Requests for information, consultation or training can be made via toll-free telephone (voice or TTY), email, letter or FAX.

The National Center for Parents with Disabilities & Their Families

Through the Looking Glass

3075 Adeline Street, Suite 120

Berkeley, CA 94703

(800) 644-2666 (toll-free voice)

(510) 848-1005 (TTY)

Fax: 510/848-4445

(510) 848-1112 (international voice)

tlg@lookingglass.org

Web site: <http://www.lookingglass.org>

TLG is a founding member of the Ed Roberts Campus, a national and international model dedicated to disability rights and universal access.



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
PARENTS WITH DISABILITIES
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Through the Looking Glass (TLG)

is a disability and Deaf community-based nonprofit organization founded in Berkeley, California (1982). Our focus is on families with disabilities – whether in an infant, child, parent or grandparent. Our mission is *"to create, demonstrate and encourage non-pathological and empowering resources and model early intervention services for families with disability issues, integrating personal disability experience and disability culture experience."*

TLG's 60 member staff includes culturally and linguistically diverse professionals, most of whom are disabled, parents of disabled children, or members of families with disabilities.

TLG contributes its expertise to the development of national public policy on behalf of parents with disabilities and their children — to end discrimination as well as promote more appropriate services and resources. Our expertise draws from decades of working with local families with disabilities.



Nationally Available Services & Resources

The National Center provides consultations, trainings and publications regarding parenting with a disability including:

- * National Toll-free Information & Referral
- * Individualized Consultations to Parents, Family Members and Professionals
- * Professional Trainings, Workshops & Presentations
- * Publications & Training Modules
- * Legal Program's Custody and Public Policy Technical Assistance
- * Website including downloadable free publications

Since 1998 the National Resource Center for Parents with Disabilities has responded to over 13,000 requests for technical assistance, trained more than 70,000 consumers and professionals in all 50 states and 49 countries, consulted with several hundred regional and national systems, published more than 100 journal articles and book chapters. Media coverage has included CBS, ABC, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal and Parenting Magazine.

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR PARENTS WITH DISABILITIES & THEIR FAMILIES

Since 1998, TLG has been the first National Center on Parents with Disabilities, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education. The Center's overall goal is to increase knowledge and support for more disability-appropriate resources for parents with disabilities and their children throughout the U.S.

The National Center focuses on the nearly 4.1 million U.S. parents with disabilities and their children under age 18. This includes parents with physical disabilities, blind parents, parents with intellectual disabilities, parents with psychiatric disabilities, parents with medical conditions as well as parents who may not necessarily identify themselves as "disabled" such as Deaf parents, or parents with chronic health conditions.

The Center is staffed by nationally recognized experts regarding parents with disabilities, most of whom have personal or family experience with disability or deafness.

Under a new federal grant (2012-2016), our Center is conducting several national research studies on critical areas that impact parents with disabilities: custody, family roles; parenting and childcare assessment; and intervention strategies for parents with cognitive and intellectual disabilities.

The Center also has a number of other national projects including: a scholarship program for high school seniors and college students whose parents have disabilities; webinars/trainings for the Early Head Start system and Independent Living Centers; and, childcare adaptations for grandparents with disabilities.

