



STAR Parent Training

*For parents and caregivers of children and young adults
with developmental disabilities*

The Summit Center's STAR Training, funded by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), offers parents and caregivers new strategies to manage various stages of their child's life. Sessions will be conducted by The Summit Center's professional staff who have significant background, training, and experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility: All sessions are available at no cost to those who are OPWDD eligible. Those with Self-Direction must include this in their budget.

To register: Please call Tim Philo, intake specialist, at 716.629.3421. For virtual sessions, a link to the training will be emailed to you after you are registered. ***Please note that the registration/approval process may take up to 10 days to complete. Timeframes for approval through Self-Direction may vary. Allow sufficient time for this approval process prior to each session you wish to attend.***

Community Social Skills **Wednesday, October 14, 2026** **6:15–7:15 p.m.**
Virtual Session

This training will provide caregivers with an overview of generalized methods for the use of prosocial behavior in community spaces as well as assist in identifying strategies that may help their children remain safe and succeed in community settings.

Presenter: Angela Deoki, B.A.

Independence with AAC **Tuesday, October 20, 2026** **6:15–7:15 p.m.**
Virtual session

This training will teach caregivers to feasibly integrate the use of their child's augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device into family routines. We will address demystifying basic device setup, strategies for modeling and prompting device use, and fun activities to support the independent and spontaneous use of their AAC. Additionally, we will address the use of AAC devices to navigate communication breakdowns and help safely communicate at times of escalation and/or crisis.

Presenter: Jasmine Atkinson, B.A.

Introduction to OPWDD & Care Management **Saturday, October 24, 2026 10–11 a.m.**
Virtual session

An introductory overview of OPWDD and the services offered, along with navigating the care management system. This includes the eligibility process, the role of a care manager, and how to obtain programming.

Presenter: Tim Philo, Intake Specialist

Toileting **Tuesday, November 3, 2026** **6:15–7:15 p.m.**
Virtual session

Many children, regardless of a developmental disability, have difficulty with toileting. This training will identify the challenges that caregivers typically face and teach simple strategies that focus on using reinforcement to encourage skill building in this area.

Presenter: Jasmine Atkinson, B.A.

Chores for people with Different Abilities **Wednesday, November 4, 2026** **6-7:30 p.m.**

Virtual session

This training will focus on providing caregivers with the understanding of generalized methods for teaching children to complete chores. It will help caregivers to choose household tasks that are realistic based on their child's developmental level, create beneficial independent living skills for their children, and are easily built into their family's routine.

Presenter: Angie Deokie, B.A.

Transition to Adulthood **Saturday, November 7, 2026** **10-11 a.m.**

Virtual Session

This training will cover many components of the process for transitioning students who will graduate with a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential. Including an overview of the process, potential options for adulthood, skills that may be needed for a successful transition to the adult world, and tasks that may need to be completed during the final two years of school.

Presenter: Tim Philo, Intake Specialist

Emotional Co-regulation **Wednesday, December 9, 2026** **6:15-7:15 p.m.**

Virtual session

This training will teach caregivers to identify and implement effective de-escalation strategies for their child. Topics will reflect how self-regulation relates to co-regulation, developing meaningful calming techniques, and teaching your child to request and rely upon these skills when escalated.

Presenter: Angela Deoki, B.A.

Introduction to OPWDD & Care Management **Saturday, December 12, 2026** **10-11 a.m.**

Virtual session

An introductory overview of OPWDD and the services offered, along with navigating the care management system. This includes the eligibility process, the role of a care manager, and how to obtain programming.

Presenter: Tim Philo, Intake Specialist

Behavior Basics **Tuesday, December 15, 2026** **6:15-7:15 p.m.**

Virtual session

This training will focus on basic proactive strategies to help caregivers reduce challenging behaviors that their children may exhibit. Topics will include reinforcement of positive behaviors, simple communication strategies, and other behavioral tips and techniques.

Presenter: Jasmine Atkinson, B.A.



The Summit Center is Western New York's leading expert on autism spectrum disorder. Through our educational, behavioral health, and community integration programs, we support more than 1,200 children and adults each year with autism and other developmental disabilities. For more than 50 years, we've given people the tools to achieve their greatest potential.
Learn more at TheSummitCenter.org.