

LEARN MORE ABOUT *LINK*

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For more about *LINK*, visit:

www.thearctn.org and click on *LINK*.

The Arc of TN is a family-based organization, committed to securing for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they live, learn, work and play.

The Arc of TN is further committed to supporting and empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy and education services.

The Arc of TN encourages and promotes the development of inclusive communities across the state where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are physically and socially integrated with people without disabilities as they live, learn, work and play.

This project is funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee, Department of Education and the TN Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The Arc of Tennessee
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Leaders In Education Networking for Kids

LINK

The
Arc
of Tennessee

- Building school-family teams

together to achieve their common goals.

What is LINK?

LINK (Leaders In Education Networking for Kids) is a Project of The Arc of Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Education and the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities fund the Project.

LINK seeks to build bridges of communication and collaboration between families and schools. The Project helps families and schools step outside the process of a specific child's Special Education program, and focus more on the big (local) picture.

LINK helps families and schools develop:

- Meaningful parent involvement
- Identifying local needs
- Long-range planning
- Developing Special Education Family Advisory Committees
- Improving SPP & PIPs (School Improvement Plans)
- Accessing state and national resources
- Networking with other **LINK** Groups
- Connecting Families to TN Division of Special Education's Regional Resource Centers
- Identifying and achieving success, by local standards

The LINK Vision

LINK facilitates team-building between families who have students with disabilities, and the schools who serve them.

Families will become informed and develop leadership abilities and learn how to work with schools to make education better for all students.

Families, educators and administrators communicate and work together with teachers, administrators, locally and statewide to achieve their identified goals.



The Challenge

When it comes to the Special Education Process, a divide has grown between some families and schools. Federal law *requires* that we work as a "team" to plan educational services for children. However, it is not possible to legislate teamwork. Outside the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) process, parents, teachers, and administrators often have the same systemic concerns.

LINK works to build and rebuild bridges of communication and collaboration between families and educators. The Project encourages families and schools to learn to work



LINK Outcomes

Project LINK helps families and educators build better relationships to improve the educational experience of all children. **LINK** is sensitive to the fact that each TN community is different and that those unique needs may change over time.

LOCAL LINK GROUPS

Different groups participate in different activities that are determined by each individual group.

Some do family information fairs, secondary and preschool transition fairs, sponsor training events, and much more. Contact the regional coordinator to learn about LINK in your community.

**The
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