



**Central Florida
Parent Center**

(888) 612-9273



Central Florida Parent Center is a nonprofit organization that provides assistance to parents of children with disabilities or special education needs. Our Center receives funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs for its AWARE project, a Parent Training and Information Center (PTI).

The AWARE project serves 30 counties in central and northeast Florida. AWARE's purpose is to ensure that parents of children with disabilities and young adults with disabilities will receive training and information on their rights, responsibilities, and protections under IDEA in order to develop the skills necessary to cooperatively and effectively participate in planning and decision-making relating to early intervention, educational, and transitional services.

The AWARE Project provides:

Interactive Presentations.

We have trainers who are available to do workshops (for everyone – parents, professionals – any interested parties!) on topics related to the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. If you would like to host a workshop for five or more participants, we would be happy to add your event to our schedule!

One-on-One Assistance and Support.

The IEP process can be confusing for everyone involved and sometimes frustrating for parents who may not understand the many laws and procedures. We are not attorneys – nor are we advocates – but we can share our expertise about the process, enabling families to become active, knowledgeable, and comfortable participants.

We work with families toward this ultimate goal: that parents and school district personnel work together as a collaborative (and friendly!) team to provide each child with the best and most appropriate educational plan.

Opportunities for Peer-to-Peer Support.

One of our organization's core philosophies is that parents get their best information and support from other parents. We provide a number of opportunities for parents to meet up with other parents (and students to interact with other students).

Information & Resources.

We have a digital database of research-based materials and national, state, and local resources. We also host seven different list-servs, so participants can receive specific information of interest to them. We regularly send out packets of information by both email and regular mail.

A User-Friendly Website.

Our website (www.CFLparents.org) includes hundreds of pages of information and links, as well as online presentations and opportunities for parents to connect with us – and with each other.