



Parent Infant Network for Educational Services
Department of Education
890 North Indian Creek Drive
Clarkston, Georgia 30021
800-522-8652 or 404-298-4882 www.gapines.info

March 15, 2010

Dear Prospective INSITE Parent Advisors,

Thank you for your interest in the 2010 Georgia PINES INSITE Parent Advisor Training. Georgia PINES Parent Advisors provide home-based technical assistance to families of children with sensory impairment from birth to five years of age, focusing on infants and toddlers through age three. Parent advisors visit the home (or other natural environment setting), on average, two to three times per month and are paid \$45.00 per visit and the state per mile rate for travel expenses. Some of our parent advisors work only for Georgia PINES. However, parent advisors who are employed full time by a school system make home visits after school hours or on weekends. The number of families served is the parent advisor's decision but there is an expectation of serving at least one family.

INSITE parent advisors must hold a degree/certification in Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, Deafblindness, Pre-school Special Education, Orientation and Mobility, or other related special education fields. It is strongly recommended that trainees have experience with children with visual impairment as the majority of those served through INSITE are visually impaired with multiple disabilities.

The training to become an INSITE parent advisor this summer will be June 14-17 and July 12-15, 2010. Training is 8:30 - 4:30, daily. It is imperative that participants attend *both* sessions of training.

Due to the interest in INSITE training, we will not be able to train everyone who completes the Registration Intent Form. There will be a selection process based on educational background, professional experience, location, current availability of current parent advisors in your area and willingness to serve families on an ongoing basis. Individuals who are accepted for training are committing to contract with Georgia PINES. Therefore, if you know that your schedule and other commitments will make it difficult for you to actively serve families; please do not apply at this time.

You will be notified by May 17, 2010 regarding your acceptance. The class is limited to 25 participants as the hands-on activities and discussions are more effective in small groups. If we are unable to train you this year, perhaps you will be interested next year.

Details about the training are as follows:

Location: Atlanta Area School for the Deaf
890 North Indian Creek Drive
Clarkston, GA 30021

Fees: There will be a *non-refundable* registration fee of \$100 to cover consumable materials, lunches and snacks.

Technology: Technology requirements to contract with Georgia PINES include a working printer, high speed internet, Internet Explorer 6 or above or Firefox 3 and above. All contractors are expected to check email daily.

Lodging: Lodging for those traveling more than 50 miles outside of their county will be available at a nearby hotel. Detailed information regarding lodging will be sent with your acceptance letter. Shared rooms will be no cost to participants.

Curriculum: We will be training from the nationally validated INSITE curriculum as well as several other supplementary texts/media. Extensive resources will be provided. Materials are the property of the Department of Education and are available for your use during your contracted period with Georgia PINES.

PLU credit: Each participant who attends all days of training will receive five (5) Professional Learning Units (PLUs) after completing homework assignments and a series of home visits.

Registration Intent: Registration intent is online at www.gapines.info.

Contracts: Contracts will be issued following the training. If an applicant participates in the training and then decides not to accept any referrals, the participant will be required to reimburse the fee of \$400- for the training. *The Department of Education is offering the training for the purpose of providing services to families, not for the purpose of providing PLU credit or supplemental training for professionals.* This charge is at the discretion of the Program Manager of Georgia PINES.

In order to attend, participants are required to submit a criminal background check from the police department.

We would appreciate your assistance in helping us train qualified professionals for service to families of infants and toddlers with sensory impairment in Georgia, so please share this information with other professionals whom you think might be interested in our program. Although we have more prospective Parent Advisors than we do space available, we are still in need in specific areas of the state.

Current critical areas of need are in greater metropolitan Atlanta, Central and South Georgia. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me via 404-558-3858 or kmeaders@doe.k12.ga.us.

Sincerely,
Kit Meaders, Ed.S
Georgia PINES Program Coordinator INSITE/VIISA