



Parent Infant Network for Educational Services
890 North Indian Creek Drive
Clarkston, Georgia 30021
800-522-8652 or 404-298-4880 www.gapines.info

March 15, 2010

Dear Prospective SKI-HI Parent Advisors,

Thank you for your interest in the 2010 Georgia PINES SKI-HI Parent Advisor Training. Georgia PINES Parent Advisors provide home-based parent education and technical assistance to families of children with sensory impairment from birth to five years of age, focusing on infants and toddlers through age three. SKI-HI Parent Advisors are primarily teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing children, audiologist, and Speech and Language Pathologists experienced with children with hearing loss. Parent advisors visit the home (or other natural environment setting) two to three times per month and are paid \$45.00 per visit and the state per mile rate for travel expenses. The number of families served is the parent advisor's decision but there is an expectation of serving at least one family.

Training to become a parent advisor this summer will be July 7-10 and July 19-22, 2010. All training days will meet from 8:30 - 4:30 daily. It is imperative that participants attend *both* training sessions.

Due to the interest in SKI-HI training, we will not be able to train everyone who completes a Registration Intent Form. There will be a selection process based on educational background, professional experience, location, current availability of 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 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 regarding your acceptance by May 17, 2010. 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 N. Indian Creek Drive
Clarkston, GA 30021

- Fees:** There will be a *non-refundable* registration fee of \$100.00 to cover lunch, snacks, and consumable materials.
- 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 reimbursed entirely if you share a room with another participant (not including personal charges). If you choose to book a single room, we will reimburse half the cost. Detailed information regarding lodging will be sent with your acceptance letter.
- Curriculum:** We will be training from the nationally validated 2005 SKI-HI curriculum as well as other supplementary texts/media. Resources and handouts will also be provided. Materials are the property of the Georgia Department of Education and are available for your use during your contracted period with Georgia PINES.
- PLU credit:** Each participant who attends all of training will receive five (5) Professional Learning Units (PLUs) after homework assignments have been reviewed and a series of home visits are completed.
- 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 \$400.00 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 training, participants are required to submit a criminal background check from the police department.

Registration Intent: The Register Intent Form is at www.gapines.info.

We would appreciate your assistance in helping us recruit qualified professionals for service to families of deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers 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 rural central Georgia.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me via 404-298-4880 or astanley@doe.k12.ga.us.

Sincerely,

Alice Stanley, Ed. D.
Georgia PINES Coordinator, SKI-HI