

Rhode Island College

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities

Supported Parenting Program

The Sherlock Center's Supported Parenting program develops long-term relationships with parents and builds on a family's strengths to promote competence and sustain independence. The model is based on:

- Engaging parents as active partners in service planning and as equals in choices and decisions affecting their family.
- Respecting families and the strong emotional bond between parents and children.
- Viewing parents as a resource and part of the solution.
- Working with the family as a whole rather than as individual members.
- Helping parents to feel in control and experience competency.
- Supporting families in the context of their own extended families, neighborhoods, and communities.

Family Support Specialist

Central to the Sherlock Center's Supported Parenting Program is the work with a Family Support Specialist. Through regular meetings, the Family Support Specialist assists parents and families to:

- Develop a service plan in coordination with any other plans to identify strategies to achieve their goals.
- Develop a network of long-term natural supports.
- Identify and connect with community resources and more formalized services as needed.

Contact Information

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Family Support Coordinator

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Family Support Coordinator

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Supported Parenting is a culturally sensitive approach to helping families headed by parents with cognitive challenges.

The Family Support Specialist provides guidance and coaching in the following areas:

- ▶ Conflict resolution and family relationships
- ▶ Developing and maintaining a social support network
- ▶ Low literacy challenges
- ▶ Children's medical and educational supports
- ▶ Housing and household management
- ▶ Financial management
- ▶ Transportation and related resources
- ▶ Employment and related resources
- ▶ Basic parenting skills

Family Support Specialists are available to provide technical assistance and offer professional development workshops to agencies supporting parents with cognitive challenges. Fees may apply. Contact the Sherlock Center for information.