

## About The Arc Of Snohomish County

The Arc of Snohomish County is an information hub for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families; The Arc offers monthly support groups, workshops, meetings and activities, and provides information on community resources and opportunities.

A family-driven organization which recognizes **each family is diverse** with unique needs, Arc programs are designed to foster self-advocacy and promote inclusion.

The Arc of Snohomish County is affiliated with The Arc of Washington State and The Arc of the United States.

### Mission Statement

*The Arc fosters respect and access for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, giving them the power to achieve a full and satisfying life.*

## Positive Outcomes

IEP Parent Partners provide support before, during, and after IEP meetings, helping empower parents to fully participate in the IEP.

*“What a gift for a family to have someone at the meeting to record and help them understand the IEP process.” – Teacher*

*“This year was our first IEP meeting and I was so nervous – I felt insecure facing a panel of professionals. My IEP Parent Partner helped me think through questions and prepare for the meeting. Thank you for this awesome resource – everyone should use it!” – Parent*

*“This was a very positive experience for the entire team. The parent partner took notes which freed the parents to focus on the meeting.” – Teacher*

## Parents Make a Difference

The most powerful force in changing outcomes for young people with significant disabilities is **parents’ expectations** for their sons and daughters.\*

Almost 30 years of research and experience has demonstrated that the **education of children** with disabilities can be made more effective by... **strengthening the role and responsibility of parents** and ensuring that families ... have meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children at school and at home.\*\*

\*Issue Brief: “What Matters Most: Research on Elevating Parent Expectations,” TASH Town Hall, December 2014 by Erik W. Carter, PhD, FAIDD. ]

\*\*Section 601(c)(5), Findings, Public Law 108-446, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004.]

Role of Partner vs Advocate	Partner	Advocate
1. Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A support person.</li> </ul>	“One who pleads another person’s case.” - <i>Websters</i>
2. Role prior to IEP meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goes through questions with parents.</li> <li>Helps parents list thoughts &amp; ideas for discussion at their IEP meeting.</li> </ul>	Gives advice on what services the child may receive from the school, and more.
3. During the IEP meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Takes notes.</li> <li>Makes sure the parents understand the process.</li> </ul>	Advocates/speaks out on behalf of the parent(s)/child.

## Program Overview

### What is the IEP Parent Partner Program?

Parents are essential members of the IEP team. The IEP Parent Partner program supports this role by matching parents with a trained IEP Partner who mentors them before, during, and after the IEP meeting, at no cost to families.

### What is the role of an IEP Parent Partner?

Partners are a neutral party whose overall goal is to support parent participation, and help foster a collaborative, positive and productive IEP process.

Partners help parents understand what to expect during IEP development, and use guided questions and tools so parents may more fully contribute to the development of their student's IEP. Additionally, Partners are available to attend the IEP meeting to take notes, allowing parents to fully engage in the meeting.

### Who are IEP Parent Partners?

IEP Partners are parents & others who have completed IEP Parent Partner Training. Trained volunteer Partners receive a stipend for each IEP meeting they attend on behalf of The Arc of Snohomish County.

**For additional information, call The Arc:**  
425.258.2459

## Become a Partner Volunteer

**IEP Parent Partner training** is a great opportunity to meet other parents, engage with the community, and learn and practice essential skills which promote collaboration.

### IEP Parent Partner Training Includes:

- Helping Parent Volunteer certification
- Principles of Communication
- Letting Go of "Stuck Stories"
- IDEA law overview
- IEP components including: Goals, Evaluations, Objectives, Behavior, Special Factors and many others
- Parent/Professional Partnership
- Section 504 accommodations
- Additional Transition IEP module available

**Contact The Arc of Snohomish County for additional information.**

2500 Hewitt Ave. Suite 300  
Everett, WA 98201  
**425.258.2459**

Erika Larimer, Special Ed. Coordinator x110  
[Erika@arcsno.org](mailto:Erika@arcsno.org)



### Become an Arc Member

The Arc's programs are made possible in part through membership and the support of our community.

[www.arcsno.org](http://www.arcsno.org)

**Achieve with us.**

## IEP Parent Partner Program



*Partners supporting parents in the IEP Process.*

*Achieve with us.*