

Parents Are Powerful When Given the Right Tools



Raising Special Kids helped me develop my toolbox.

Jill remembers being in the recovery room the day her son Jon was born. When her husband returned to her side after checking on the baby, she described him as “changed.” The doctor explained to her what he had already shared with her husband; he had identified a few markers for Down syndrome. Jill’s limited understanding and experience provided her with a not-so-optimistic vision for her son’s future.

It did not take her long to adjust to what she refers to as “the new normal” which included weekly visits from an early interventionist and various therapists. When Jon

was in first grade, Jill reached out to Raising Special Kids for help with school. She recalls, “One of the most important things I’ve learned from Raising Special Kids is that parents are valuable members of any team decision-making process and their participation is required by law. Parents are powerful when given the right tools and Raising Special Kids helped me develop my toolbox. I regularly refer parents to Raising Special Kids and I tell them how much the organization helped me. And, most importantly, Raising Special Kids never turns anyone away.”

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- Jill Nico

Our Mission

Raising Special Kids exists to improve the lives of children with disabilities, from birth to 26, by providing families with training, information, and individual assistance to help parents become effective advocates.

Services are provided at no charge in Spanish and other languages.

Programs and services for parents and families

10,589 Families received information, training, and individual assistance

93% Parents gained useful knowledge about how to work with schools

379 Parent to Parent Matches

86% Parents reported improved ability to advocate for child’s needs, services, and care

Programs and Services for families

- Accurate, authoritative information related to your child’s disability or special health condition.
- Individual problem-solving support to understand and access the programs, health plans, and services your child may need.
- Special education consultations, training, and problem-resolution services
- Parent coaching and mentoring programs
- Workshops and training to increase advocacy skills and improve ability to work with professionals.
- Referrals to agencies, organizations, and community resources with expertise to meet your family’s needs.



Programs and Services for Professionals

Programs for physicians, educators, and social service professionals offer training and information about the family perspective on disability.

“The services you provide are invaluable for parents and children and are above and beyond what our clinic can offer. This information will help me provide higher quality care to my patients.”

Lauren Drake, M.D.

2,292 Professionals attended training

96% Education professionals reported being better prepared to work with families

51 Pediatric and family practice physicians completed training and home visits

98% Physicians reported improved ability to communicate with families



“This is honestly what I’ve been looking for – a comprehensive resource for families regardless of the diagnosis. I love that the organization is parent run, that it connects families going through similar experiences, and empowers communities.”

Abimbola Oduguwe, M.D.,

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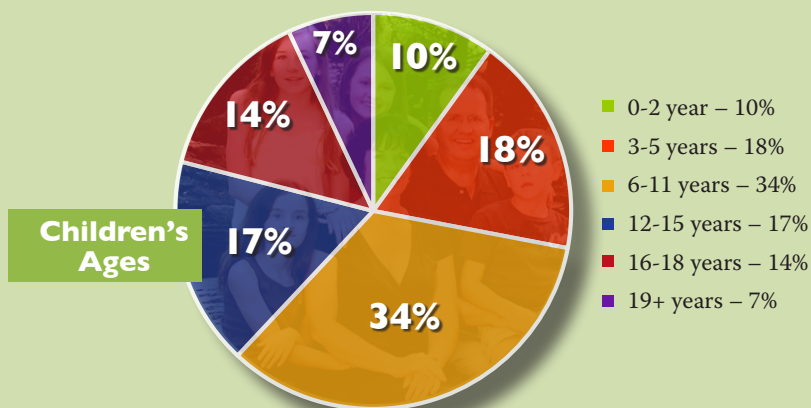
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Raising Special Kids



Questions About Special Education?

Raising Special Kids Can Help

Find appropriate education and services for children with disabilities

- Individualized Education Programs and 504 Plans
- Transition services for young adults
- Eligibility & Evaluations
- Early Intervention (birth to 3)
- Pre-school to Kindergarten
- Inclusion & Placement
- Dispute Resolution
- Behavior Plans
- Assistive Technology
- Transportation

Programs & Services

Offered at no cost to families

- Information & Resources Resolve Problems with Schools
- Training
- IEP Consultations
- IEP Partners

Parent Training and Information Center

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) are established under the IDEA to assist parents in understanding their rights in special education. As the PTI for Arizona, Raising Special Kids serves families statewide to assist their children and young adults from birth to age 26 with all types of disability, including: physical, intellectual, behavioral, emotional, and learning disabilities.



Becoming an Advocate for Your Child

Having a child with a rare, undiagnosed genetic condition is a challenging journey. We faced so many unknowns with medical issues and developmental stages. It was very hard to find resources and help.

My first contact with Raising Special Kids was five years ago, when I had some difficulty with Taryn's preschool services. I called to explain about my daughter's situation and requested assistance. Raising Special Kids helped me understand Taryn's educational services and offered great suggestions on how to work with the school to resolve problems and issues.

For the first time I felt like I had someone to connect with. I have now had the benefit of this insight over the last five years. Thanks to the assistance provided by Raising Special Kids, I feel confident in knowing how to advocate for Taryn. That empowerment is priceless!

Raising Special Kids 2017

- 10,589** Families received information, training, and individual assistance
- 92%** Received information to address a critical need related to their child's education
- 93%** Reported training improved ability to work with schools

RAISING SPECIAL KIDS

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Ser dirigido por el camino correcto en Arizona



Teníamos miedo, y no sabíamos qué esperar.

Paulina y su esposo se habían acostumbrado a la idea de que su próxima adición a la familia iba a ser no una sino en realidad dos-- iban a tener ¡gemelos! Y fue entonces cuando recibieron la noticia de que uno de los gemelos venía con espina bífida. “Teníamos miedo, y no sabíamos qué esperar. No estábamos preparados para escuchar esa noticia,” reflexionó Paulina. Fue difícil traer a casa sólo a uno de los gemelos después del nacimiento. “Debíamos haber traído a los dos niños juntos, y esto hizo la situación aún más difícil.” Cuando la familia comenzó a lidiar con las realidades médicas del diagnóstico de su hijo, Paulina sintió

alivio al informarse sobre Raising Special Kids. “Aprendí acerca de tantos recursos que no sabía que existían,” comentó ella. Descubrimos un preescolar al cual podían asistir ambos gemelos, y aprendí acerca de los programas de educación individual (IEPs). Luis calificó para los servicios de educación especial, y su hermanita gemela quien no tiene ninguna discapacidad es una compañera modelo. Todos en Raising Special Kids tienen niños con discapacidades y saben por lo que uno está pasando,” agregó Paulina. “La primera vez que los llamé, parecía que me decían ‘Te entendemos--¡REALMENTE te entendemos!’”

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- Paulina Serna

Programas y servicios para los padres y familias

8,593

Familias recibieron información, capacitación y asistencia individual

96%

Padres que obtuvieron conocimientos acerca de cómo trabajar con las escuelas

352

Pareamientos de padres en el Programa Parent to Parent

92%

Padres que han reportado mejorías en su capacidad de abogar por las necesidades de sus hijos, servicios y cuidados

Nuestra Misión

Raising Special Kids existe para mejorar la vida de niños con discapacidades, desde su nacimiento hasta los 26 años, proveyendo a las familias la capacitación, información y asistencia individual necesaria, para ayudar a los padres a que se conviertan en abogados efectivos de sus hijos.

Los servicios se proveen en español y en otros idiomas sin costo alguno.

Programas y Servicios para familias

- Información precisa y acreditada relacionada con la discapacidad de su hijo o su condición de salud especial.
- Apoyo con la resolución de problemas individuales, para entender y tener acceso a los programas, a los planes de salud, y servicios que su hijo pueda necesitar.
- Consultoría de educación especial, capacitación y servicios de resolución de problemas.
- Conexión con un mentor de padres cualificado, y dotado para proveer información y apoyo.
- Talleres y capacitación para aumentar destrezas para abogar y mejorar la habilidad de trabajar con profesionales.
- Derivación a agencias, organizaciones y recursos comunitarios con la pericia para cubrir las necesidades de su familia.



Programas y Servicios para Profesionales

Programas para médicos, educadores y profesionales de servicio social ofrecen capacitación e información acerca de la perspectiva de la familia sobre la discapacidad.

“Soy un gran entusiasta y apoyo a Raising Special Kids. De veras creo que ustedes, más que nadie, hacen una diferencia en las familias de niños con necesidades especiales.”

-M. Wade Shrader, MD, FAAP

2,672

Profesionales que asistieron a capacitaciones

98%

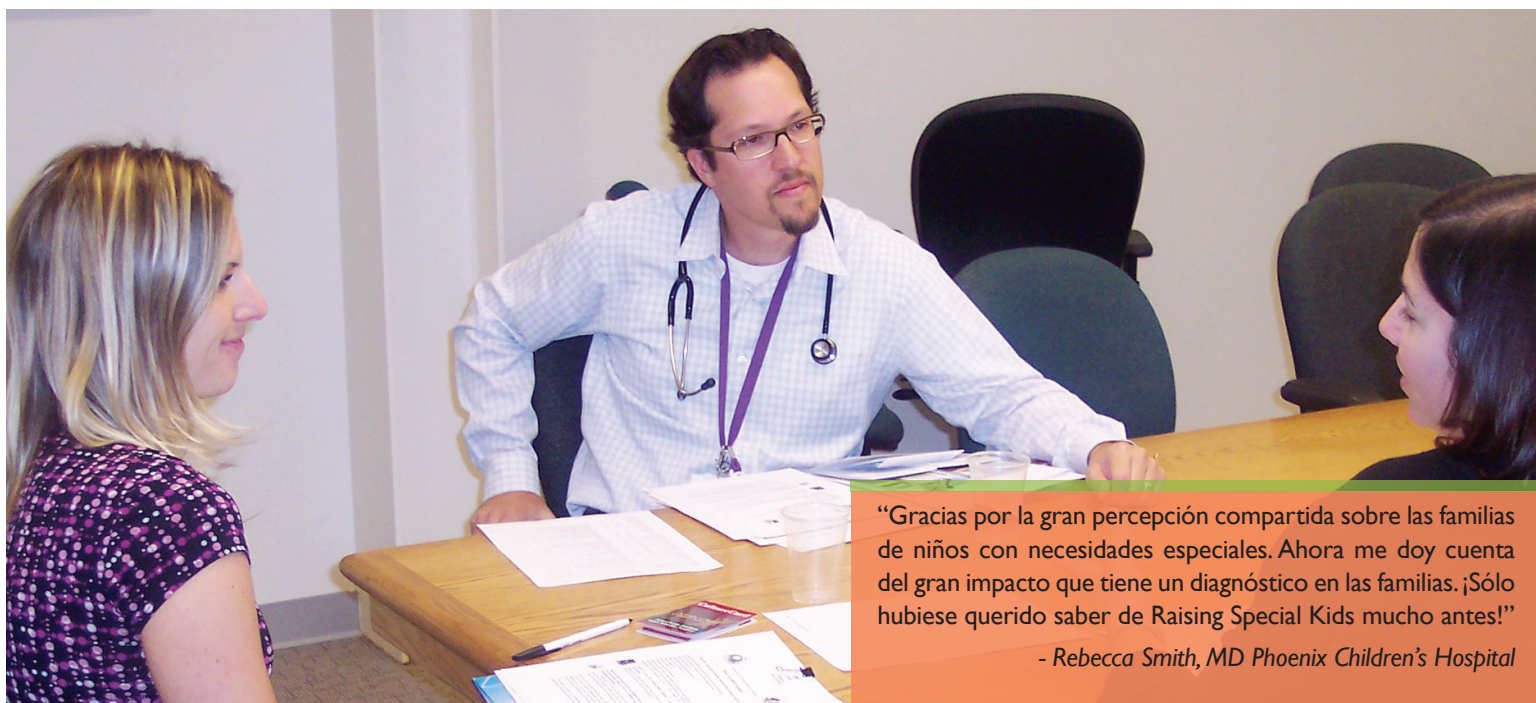
Profesionales educadores que reportaron estar mejor preparados para trabajar con familias

57

Pediatras y médicos de familia que completaron capacitación y visitas al hogar

98%

Médicos que reportaron mejoría en su habilidad para comunicarse con las familias



“Gracias por la gran percepción compartida sobre las familias de niños con necesidades especiales. Ahora me doy cuenta del gran impacto que tiene un diagnóstico en las familias. ¡Sólo hubiese querido saber de Raising Special Kids mucho antes!”

- Rebecca Smith, MD Phoenix Children's Hospital

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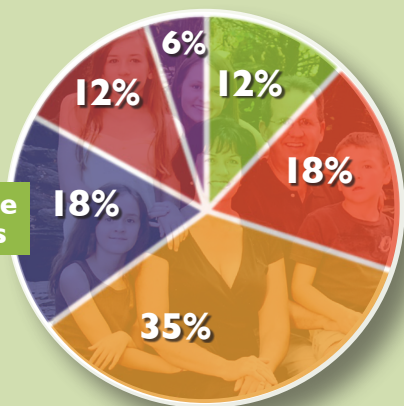
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0-2 años – 12%
3-5 años – 18%
6-11 años – 35%
12-15 años – 18%
16-18 años – 12%
19+ años – 5%

