



## PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE CURRICULUM

*Helping parents who care, become parents who lead*

### **Retreat: Creating a Caring Community for Children**

Issues affecting children. Milestones in child and family development.

GOAL: Development of a parent group, begin understanding of when and how a community cares for children.

### **Class 1: Thriving with Diversity in the Group Process**

What do we look like now? What will Americans look like in the future? What are the strengths of separateness and integration?

GOAL: To acquire knowledge regarding diversity, ethnic, class and race differences.

### **Class 2: The Change Process**

A look at change within our own experience. The tools we can use to change the environment.

GOAL: To understand what creates change within self, family and community.

### **Class 3: Parents as Change Agents:**

How do our own experiences in family life influence our notion of the right to be a parent leader? What is our own self-image?

GOAL: To help parents perceive themselves as change agents and to understand obstacles to leadership.

### **Class 4: How to Define a Problem and Work Toward a Solution**

A look at community needs from the parent perspective.

GOAL: To begin working through problems with developed strategy and conflict resolution skills.



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**Class 5: The Intentional Use of Language**

What are forms of communication and why do they matter? Active Listening and constructive ways to make a point.

GOAL: To understand the importance of using language to create a framework and express viewpoints.

**Class 6: Learning How a Community Works**

How to use and maximize community resources. Who has the resource information?

How do community meetings work?

GOAL: To begin mapping communities with increased understanding of assets, resources and communication flow.

**Class 7: How Local Systems Work and How to Interact With Them**

Who makes the decisions in the city, in the schools, at the library?

How do policies develop?

GOAL: To increase awareness of the structure of local institutions and systems through attention to budget, policy and communication.

**Class 8: Networks**

How to think about who should become part of the change effort. How to expand your partners.

GOAL: To further access goals for children and enable partners to reach goals.

**Class 9: The Power of the Media and How to Use it**

How to use social media and traditional media. Parents as messengers for children.

GOAL: To increase understanding of all forms of media, how they work



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and how to access them.

### **Class 10: Using Your Voice**

How to speak publicly. How to present public statements with success.

GOAL: To bolster confidence, self awareness and the impact of self presentation.

### **Class 11: The Life Cycle of the Child and the Functions of the Family**

How does the life cycle of the child intersect with the life cycle of the family and family functions?

GOAL: A beginning understanding of family function, family structure and child development.

### **Class 12: Social and Economic Trends Affecting Children and Families**

How to understand the demographic, economic and social trends. What are the assets and needs of children and families in our region?

GOAL: An understanding of social, economic and demographic factors impacting child health, learning, safety and care-giving.

### **Class 13: What is Public Policy?**

A look at the role of government in democracy, the meaning of policy, types of policy and how policy happens.

GOAL: An understanding of public policy as a vehicle for democracy, citizen input and change for children.



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### **Class 14: How the State Works**

A look at state government – structure, communications, resources, policy impact and governance.

GOAL: An understanding of how government can be utilized by citizens to effect dialogue and change for the public good.

### **Class 15: How a City Works**

A look at town and city structures, policies and resources.

GOAL: An understanding of how parents can interface with elected officials, city departments and school boards to communicate and effect change for children.

### **Class 16: How do we Understand the Law**

An overview of children's law to assess the impact of state and federal code in protecting and enhancing the lives of children.

GOAL: Demystification of law, with increased comfort reading children's law.

### **Class 17: Budgets – From Wallets to State – It's all Money and Priorities**

An introduction to budget design and analysis within state, city and schools.

GOAL: Increased comfort level with fiscal analysis of children's policy and programs.



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**Class 18: Evaluation, Outcomes and Accountability**

An overview of goals in policy and program to improve outcomes and public accountability. What is an outcome measure, a benchmark, a result?

GOAL: A beginning understanding of benchmarks and longitudinal tools.

**Class 19: The Magic of the Unexpected: Forming New Alliances**

Forging new alliances and expanding partnerships to create broad impact for children.

GOAL: An increased understanding of the dynamics of policy change, coalition-building and social climate.

**Class 20: Language: Packaging and Moving Agendas**

How to design initiatives: how to clarify goal, purpose, outcomes with vigor, art and impact.

GOAL: Improved understanding of media and language and its impact; and the connection between language and clarity of goal and constituency.