

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MARYLAND INFANTS AND TODDLERS PROGRAM/PRESCHOOL
SERVICES BRANCH
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES
~FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES~
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Family Support Network

The Family Support Network (FSN) helps to meet the needs of families with children, birth to 3, with developmental delays or disabilities in Maryland. Each local FSN provides information to families regarding community services; refers families to local support groups, workshops, and advocacy groups; provides opportunities for families to network and share ideas and experiences; and helps to link “experienced” parents to parents of newly identified children with similar special needs.

Preschool Partners

To help support families when children transition from the Infants and Toddlers Program (ITP) to the local school system (LSS) preschool special education program or other community-based early childhood setting, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has made funding available to local ITPs to expand services provided through the local Family Support Network (FSN). Preschool Partners provide ongoing support to families of children ages 3 through 5, maintaining the connection with the local ITP, as well as fostering new connections among families, preschool programs, and community services.

Partners for Success

Partners for Success Centers, established as part of each local school system in Maryland, have as their goal the provision of knowledge and the development of essential skills fundamental to parents and professionals working together as equal partners in the educational decision making process. Specifically, Partners for Success Centers seek to: increase parental involvement in the special education decision making process; provide information and resources about disabilities

and community services; assist families in resolving concerns and to make informed decisions regarding their child's education; and increase collaborative relationships through information and training.