

# **How Families Can Participate in the Education of Future Healthcare Providers in the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics**

## **An Introduction to the Leadership in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program:**

The LEND Program is an interdisciplinary leadership training program federally funded through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The purpose of the LEND training program is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents with disabilities by preparing future healthcare providers from diverse professional disciplines as leaders in their respective fields. Each year, the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics recruits graduate and post-graduate students as trainees for this unique leadership program. Over the years, these trainees have represented diverse disciplines such as pediatrics, nursing, speech pathology, occupational and physical therapies, psychology, health administration, genetics, and audiology,.

To advance the philosophy of family-centered care, the LEND program strives to include families in its education of trainees. Here are three ways you as a parent or caregiver of a child with a disability can participate in the program:

1. Mentor a trainee through the Family Mentoring Experience by spending one-on-one time with him/her over the course of the academic year, sharing your unique experiences as a parent of a child with special needs.
2. Participate on a parent panel by sharing your experiences with the trainees at a lecture on a specific topic pertaining to children with special needs.
3. Apply to be a trainee. By undertaking this rigorous graduate level program, family members develop the skills necessary to advocate for positive change in programs and policies affecting children with special needs and their families at the local, state and national levels.

If you are interested in participating in any of these LEND program activities, please contact Sheryl Feuer, LEND Family Faculty, at 513-636-4626 or [sheryl.feuer@cchmc.org](mailto:sheryl.feuer@cchmc.org).