



The Watson Institute Friendship Academy

Friendship Academy operates an approved private elementary, middle and high school program which integrates a school based partial day hospital program licensed by the PA Departments of Education and Welfare. Recognized as experts in the area of special education and mental health, Friendship Academy staff also provide training and consulting services to area agencies and school districts. In addition, Friendship Academy is a training site for university programs in special education, social work, psychology, counseling, pediatrics and nursing.

For more information on Friendship Academy and other programs and services Watson offers for children with special needs and their families, contact:

The Watson Institute Friendship Academy

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Speakers Bureau Guide

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The Watson Institute Friendship Academy Speakers Bureau

The Watson Institute Friendship Academy has created a Speakers Bureau to offer the following 1 hour workshops to parent and community groups free of charge. These workshops are presented by our experienced consultants in the fields of education, mental and behavioral health, psychology and counseling. Any of these topics can be customized to your audience.

Guidance for Every Age

As children develop from infants to teens to adults, they go through a series of developmental stages . Every child is unique, and every family deals with different concerns. This workshop will help parents understand typical behaviors for each age and stage of development and what to expect from their child.

Home Routines That Enhance Successful Learning

Children of all ages need structure and routine for successful learning. This workshop is designed to offer guidance and tips for parents, grandparents and caretakers in establishing these essential routines. Topics will include: healthy eating habits, mealtime, homework and study skills, bedtime and sleep, and positive use of social media and “screen time”.

The ABCs of Effective Parenting

One of the biggest challenges parents face is managing difficult or defiant behavior from children. This workshop will give parents tools to maximize positive behavior, using well-tested techniques to make parents confident, calm, consistent and successful in their interactions with children.

You Are Not Alone—Parenting a Child With Special Needs

Parenthood is fulfilling but can be stressful. Parents of special needs children have the typical stressors associated with raising children but also face some unique challenges that, over time, can test the emotional resources of the entire family. This workshop is designed to help parents through this very personal journey. It is important to recognize and understand some common reactions that occur in order to develop strategies to maintain a positive outlook.

Is It a Phase or Something More? Why Is My Child Acting Like This?

Children go through many behavioral changes between infancy and adulthood. From the high energy preschooler to the moody teenager, sometimes it’s hard to know what is typical behavior and when a parent should be concerned. This workshop will describe typical and atypical behaviors and warning signs to look for.

Top 10 Ways to Collaborate with Your School

Communication between parents and teachers creates a partnership where everyone is working toward the same goal of helping children to achieve success. This eliminates frustration, such as helplessness in the face of problems. This workshop will provide guidelines for building a collaborative home-school relationship that is ongoing, reciprocal, mutually respectful and student centered.

Taking Control of the “Panic Button” - A Guide to Childhood Anxiety

What happens when fear begins to stop your child or teen from going to school, making friends, or even leaving the house? This workshop is designed to help parents develop an understanding of the impact that anxiety can have on their child’s social, emotional and academic functioning. Parents will learn how to help their child successfully cope with anxiety at home and when to seek help from a professional.

Self Injurious Behavior—Facts And Myths—Warning Signs for Parents and Educators

Self injury is a disturbing and difficult trend to understand; however, it is on the rise with adolescents and teens. This workshop will give parents and educators and understanding of self injurious behaviors, including causes and warning signs . We will also discuss the difference between self injury and suicide.