

## PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE CURRICULUM

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

Discuss issues affecting children and milestones in child and family development.

GOAL: To develop a parent group and 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**

Look at change within our own experience, focusing on the tools we can use to change our 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.

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

What are forms of communication, and why do they matter? Focus on 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 television, radio and print media. Parents as messengers for children.
- GOAL: To increase understanding of print and electronic media, how it works and how to access it.
- 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: To attain 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. A look at the life cycle of the child and the functions of the family. What are the assets and needs of children and families in our region?
- GOAL: To understand the social, economic and demographic factors affecting 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: To understand public policy as a vehicle for democracy, citizen input, and change for children.

- Class 14: How the State Works**  
A look at state government – structure, communications, resources, policy impact, and governance.
- GOAL: To understand how government can be utilized by citizens to affect dialogue and change for the public good.
- Class 15: How a City Works**  
A look at town and city structures, policies, and resources.
- GOAL: To understand how parents can interact with elected officials, city departments, and school boards to communicate and affect change for the public good.
- Class 16: How 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: To demystify 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: To increase comfort level with fiscal analysis of children’s policy and programs.
- Class 18: Evaluation, Outcomes and Accountability**  
An overview of goals in policy and a program to improve outcomes and public accountability. What is an outcome measure, a benchmark, a social health index?
- GOAL: To gain a beginning understanding of benchmarks and evaluative longitudinal tools.
- Class 19: The Magic of the Unexpected: Forming New Alliances**  
Forging new alliances and expanding partnerships to create substantive, broad impact for children.
- GOAL: To increase 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: To improve understanding of media and language and its impact; and to recognize the connection between language and clarity of goal and constituency.