

If you are a parent of a child with disabilities, perhaps you have felt **lost** and **wished** you knew someone in a **similar** situation you could turn to for **support**. If you have felt this way, **you are not alone.**

PHOTO OF PARENTS TALKING TOGETHER/ SHARING/MORE EMOTIONAL VS PURE HAPPY... BUT NOT MISERABLE.



“To the world, you may just be somebody. But to somebody, you may be the world.”

-author unknown

Achieve with us.

130 S. Sheldon, #302
Ames, IA 50014



Pilot Parents

Information and Support Network for Parents of Children with Disabilities



www.thearcstory.org

Who are Pilot Parents?

Pilot Parents are available to support other parents who have a child with a disability.

They are parents who:

- Have experienced the sense of overwhelm often associated with a new diagnosis
- Know what it is like to have more questions and concerns than answers
- Have gained some solid ground and insight to share

Pilot Parents understand.

Mentor parents in the **Pilot Parents** program are carefully matched with new parents to the program. Whenever possible, parents are matched with a Pilot Parent whose child has the same or a similar disability, and who lives nearby.

Pilot Parents can also be matched with parents of older children with developmental disabilities, since the need for information and support can be on-going.

Once a match is made, each relationship evolves individually depending on the needs of the parents. For some, the match is short term and involves just information exchange, for others it is a friendship that lasts forever.

Download a participation form at:

www.thearcstory.org

What is Pilot Parents?

- The Arc of Story County started **Pilot Parents** based on the belief that parents need emotional support and factual information about their child's disability and the disability system, and having this helps secure the best possible future for their child.
- Sharing experiences with others in similar circumstances is an important source of social support.
- Supporting parents know the challenges and joys that come with parenting a son or daughter with a disability. They are able to offer informational and emotional support.
- Opportunities for connecting with other parents occur naturally and spontaneously for most families. Finding a family with similar experiences related to disabilities can be more difficult. **Pilot Parents** helps create meaningful connections for families.

Volunteers are needed.

If you are a parent interested in mentoring other parents of children with developmental disabilities, please contact the Pilot Parents program. Training is provided. Every effort will be made to match you with a family who has a child with similar disabilities, or who has experienced similar issues, and/or who lives nearby.

Applications forms are available at:

www.thearcstory.org

For More Information:

- More information is available. Please complete and detach this section, and send to:
The Arc of Story County
130 S. Sheldon, #302, Ames, IA 50014

You can also reach us immediately by emailing or calling: 515-232-9330 / arcdirector@thearcstory.org

I am a:

- Parent of a child with developmental disabilities
- Professional in a disability-related field
- Person with a disability
- Interested Citizen

I would like more information on the **Pilot Parent** Program:

- Receiving support from a Pilot Parent
- Becoming a Pilot Parent
- Referring a parent to the program

I would like more information on:

- Learning about The Arc of Story County
- Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

