

Dear Preschool Families,

My name is Michelle Frygier and I am the Parent Mentor for Geauga County. My goal is to assist you through the special education process and to provide support to families and their children in the five school districts consisting of Berkshire, Cardinal, Chardon, Kenston, and West Geauga.

A Parent Mentor is the parent of a child or children with a disability who is employed by the local Educational Service Center to help families and school districts by providing support, information, and training services. Since it is vital that districts and families work together in a positive and productive fashion to benefit all students that are served by an IEP, 504 Plan or with any special accommodation, the Parent Mentor is available to facilitate communication between families, teachers, and administrators, all the essential people of the child's planning team. Working together, as a unified team, can empower your child to succeed, not only in school, but in the years to come.

A unique aspect of this position is that Parent Mentors provide guidance based on a combination of training and personal first-hand experience. I am also a parent of a child with a disability. My children receive their services through the Kenston School District and my daughter is a student in the Geauga ACHIEVE program in the West Geauga High School. I have experienced how a child is assessed and receives services as well as the ETR and IEP process. I know it can be overwhelming and confusing at times and this is when the Parent Mentor can assist and offer some support and information. Additionally, there is no cost to families to utilize the services of a Parent Mentor. The Ohio Parent Mentor Project is funded through grants from the Ohio Department of Education.

Everyone's family situation is different, no matter what type of challenges your child may face in school or at home. There are various obstacles and many triumphs with each child with any type of disability or medical challenge. As a parent of a child with special needs, I understand first-hand the many challenges and concerns faced daily by parents of genuinely exceptional children.

I am confident that your child is under the care of excellent and caring teachers, therapists, and administrators, and as a unified team, we can work together to help your son or daughter be the best that they can be in school and beyond. My cell number is 440-635-6713 and my email address is mfrygier@escwr.org. I also have a webpage, <https://www.escwr.org/ParentMentor.aspx>, that contains links to valuable resources and information.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns and I look forward to assisting you in any way I can!

Sincerely,



Michelle Frygier
Parent Mentor for Geauga County

440-635-6713

mfrygier@escwr.org

www.escwr.org/ParentMentor.aspx