

Screening Criteria for Parent Mentors

Consider selecting parent mentors who:

- ARE GOOD LISTENERS...Able to listen without passing judgment on others
- Are the parent of a child with a disability
- Have a child that is the same or close to the ages of the target audience
- Have the time and energy in their life to commit to the role of parent mentor
- Are personally well adjusted with a positive outlook, realistic, yet hopeful
- Live within reasonable geographic proximity (this may not always be possible depending on population density and low incidence disabilities)
- Have successfully integrated a child into their family and community. This will mean different things to different people.
- Have a comfort with and an understanding of their own grief
- Are proactive and creative problem solvers
- Share the belief that every child is valuable
- Are sensitive to ethnic and cultural differences
- Are open and comfortable offering emotional support and encouragement on a personal level
- Are able to adapt to referred families' environments
- Are prepared to get emotionally and personally involved with another family
- Are competent and able to follow through on their commitments and responsibilities
- Are mature:
 - Able to accept rejection without being personally offended
 - Able to work without a lot of praise or affirmation
 - Able to give to others without expectations

