

A day-long lesson in what  
parents should really know  
about the Individuals with  
Disabilities Education Act



# Working toward a better IDEA

Watch this space for session information and dates



# Working Toward A Better IDEA

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law which ensures services to children with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

Infants and toddlers with disabilities (birth-2) and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C. Children and youth (ages 3-21) receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B. (Please reference [www.idea.ed.gov](http://www.idea.ed.gov))

After many inquiries from parents who felt lost in the IEP process, the DD Network – comprised of the Disability Rights Center (DRC), Partners for Inclusive Communities and Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) – discussed how they could address some of the issues that would help parents and individuals in the education process.

The first session, conducted in Searcy, was a pilot presentation. About 22 people were on hand to learn about history, parental rights, mediation, communication between parent and school personnel, behavioral intervention and parents becoming more effective advocates were the related topics. This session was designed to get input from participants as to how they wanted the training to be presented. The participants completed an evaluation and indicated that state procedures for special education, resources, development of the IEP and mediation were important and/or critically important.

Future sessions were planned but have not come to fruition until now. Currently, plans are being made to conduct training in the Monticello area during the fall.