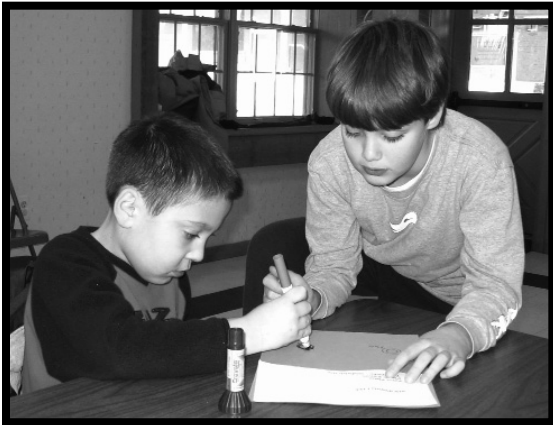




What a child needs to be exceptional.

The Pathways Mentor Program



Dear Parents,

Thank you for encouraging your child to help support our community by becoming involved in Pathways for Exceptional Children's **Mentor Program**.

Pathways provides a variety of programs and activities that offers children in Montville Township the opportunity to perform community service and gain the invaluable experience of mentoring another child. We do our best to match up children having special needs with appropriate trained mentors based on many factors, including their schedules, interests, and requests by mentors and parents of children with special needs.

After having completed their training, mentors will start receiving a monthly newsletter listing all current programs and activities that Pathways is running. If your child would like to mentor in a specific program listed, he/she will sign up by contacting Tracey Hanna by email, tracey.hanna@verizon.net or phone, **201-401-9746**. All the information you need is in the newsletter and available on our website at www.montvillepec.org.

We want to be sure that you, as the parent of a mentor, understand the mechanics of the programs your child participates in. Attached to this letter, we have provided a description of each of the program options, along with a permission slip. Please review them with your child and check the boxes of all programs of interest. Complete the bottom section, including your signature, and send it back to us so that your child can begin mentoring.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tracey Hanna. Pathways is dedicated to making all of our programs enjoyable experiences that benefit everyone involved. We welcome your comments and suggestions and look forward to seeing you soon!

***Please Note:** Pathways for Exceptional Children works in conjunction with the Montville Recreation Department to help develop the special needs recreation and mentoring programs. As with all other programs provided by the Montville Recreation Department, the special needs recreation and mentoring program DOES NOT provide accident insurance.*



Pathways for Exceptional Children Mentor Program

Recreation Programs run for specific time periods (4-6 weeks), requiring a commitment of once or twice a week during that time. Mentoring for these programs is on an as-needed basis and mentors may not always be assigned to the same child every week. This program is a good option for mentors who want to be involved in a particular activity. Adult supervision is always provided at the programs, either by individuals employed and/or contracted by Montville Township Recreation Department to run the programs or by private entities where programs take place.

Home-Based Buddies Program allows mentors an opportunity to work with a child over a period of time. The program allows for flexibility for a mentor with a busy schedule. The special needs parent is required to sign a written agreement that they understand that the Home-Based Buddies Program is NOT for purposes of babysitting. The mentor spends time with their child at their home on a volunteer basis. This agreement also requires the special needs parent to remain on the premises to train the mentor involved with their child, and to supervise all activities to make it an enjoyable and successful experience for both children. At any time, if the parent of the special needs child fails to follow this agreement, they will forfeit their use of the program. As parent of the mentor, you are welcome to call the parent of the special needs child at any time and to meet with the family and/or accompany your child to their home until you feel comfortable with your child staying there

alone. The parent of the special needs child takes full responsibility for the supervision of your child during this time. The Montville Recreation Department and Pathways for Exceptional Children cannot provide direct supervision of your child during the Home-Based Buddies Program and cannot assume legal responsibility of any kind during this time. As the children become friends, the families may choose to spend time together outside of the home. While Pathways is encouraged to see these friendships evolve, we cannot assume any responsibility for monitoring or supervising these activities, which are up to the full discretion, supervision, and responsibility of the parents of the children involved.

Life Skills Programs usually run once a month. These programs include a field trip designed to assist special needs children in learning daily living skills. These programs are attended by special needs parents, Pathways representatives, and/or Township Recreation-employed chaperones. If mentors are attending a field trip requiring bus transportation outside of Montville, parents will be asked to sign individual permission slips as per the event taking place. These permission slips will be attached to the monthly newsletter.

Certificates are awarded to mentors at the end of each event that detail the number of hours of community service they have volunteered for that program.



Please cut and send bottom portion to: Pathways, c/o Tracey Hanna, 16 John St., Pine Brook, NJ 07058. Questions? Call 201-401-9746 or visit www.montvillepec.org

Pathways 2008-2009 Mentor Program Permission Slip

Check all programs of interest:

- Recreation Home-Based Buddies
- Life Skills No longer wish to participate
- Other (please write comments)

Mentor's name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____

School _____ Grade _____

PHOTO RELEASE: Pathways takes photos at events that we sponsor to use in our flyers, newsletters, website, brochures, presentations, and articles published in other newspapers and magazines about our programs. Please tell us how we may use your child's photo and name by checking the appropriate boxes below and signing your name. You may notify Pathways in writing at anytime if you wish to make changes.

I give Pathways for Exceptional Children permission to print my child's photo, name in conjunction with Pathways-sponsored events in: Pathways' Newsletter, Website, Brochures & Presentations; Township Publications; Newspapers; Local Weeklies
 I would like to receive the mentor newsletter via email at _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: I have read and fully understand the details of the mentor program as written on the front and back pages of this form. I, _____, give my child permission to participate in the programs checked.

PRINT NAME

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ Date _____