



About the Trees Network

The RMU Trees Network provides services and training to enhance supports for children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities and their families through professional preparation of teachers, continued professional development of teachers and service providers, and direct services to children and families. As part of our outreach to families, we host a parent support group, informational workshops, and other educational opportunities. In addition, family members are encouraged to contact the Trees Network for information, advocacy, referrals, and resources. We welcome partnerships with other educational institutions, nonprofits and community service organizations!

Virtual Parent Support Group

We host a virtual parent support group the **first Monday of each month**. The group connects parents to others who are facing/faced similar experiences. It also provides resources to support parents. Parents can attend individual sessions or attend every month. It is held through Google Meets. Our next parent support group will be **Monday, November 7th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm**. The topic for this month will be Engaging Families and Schools as Partners in Reading. We'll share resources and introduce a winter book club for middle and high school students. Parents can join the meeting by contacting Vicki Donne at donne@rmu.edu , 412-397-5465 or by registering at <https://forms.gle/YCRPxieH7MGNuJHy9>

WORKSHOP

Join the RMU Trees Network and consultants from PaTTAN for an informative session for parents on **Collaborative and Proactive Solutions**. Confused about ABA, BIP, CPS? Join us on **Monday, December 5th at 7:00 pm**. To register, contact Vicki Donne or complete this form: <https://forms.gle/3NDCx31krTpGo7r89>

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

A sincere thank you to all the presenters at the October 10th RMU Trees Virtual Special Education Conference. Laurie VanderPloeg, Associate Executive Director for Professional Affairs at the Council for Exceptional Children explored the opportunities we have to positively impact our special education systems ability to attract, prepare, and retain an effective and diverse workforce pipeline. Dr. Alison DuBois shared strategies for teachers to develop resilience skills. Consultants at PaTTAN shared information on the PA alternate assessments and developing IEPs for English learners. Expert teachers throughout the Pittsburgh area shared high leverage practices in behavior management, math instruction,

co-teaching, structured literacy, and successful online practices. RMU's Trees Scholars also presented on assistive technology. The attendees of the conference were also able to share their experiences throughout the virtual conference. Thanks to everyone for making the conference a success. See you next year!

Resources for Parents and Educators

The Network also provides resources for parents and teachers. We do these in several ways. First, we created a web site with various resources and this can be accessed at: <https://sites.google.com/a/rmu.edu/rmu-trees-network/home> Secondly, we created a Padlet of resources to support online activities with students and that can be accessed at: <https://www.rmu.edu/academics/rmu-recommends-k12> Thirdly, in each newsletter we provide links to resources created by others and some of those for this month are listed below.

- The following web sites provide searchable lists of apps or software applications for students with disabilities: [SPEDApps](#) (Kent State University) and [DyslexiaHelp](#) (University of Michigan), and [Bridging Apps](#) (division of Easter Seals)
- If you like podcasts, try Notes from the Backpack from the National PTA <https://www.pta.org/the-center-for-family-engagement/podcast/notes-from-the-backpack> The National PTA site also includes a Special Education Toolkit providing information for families on special education services and organizations.
- Trying to get your child interested in math, explore Math Before Bed at <https://mathbeforebed.com/> . This site is a collection of prompts or ideas that you and your child can talk about math before bed or at dinner.
- The Schneider Family Book Award honors authors whose book or illustration expresses the disability experience. For a list of winning books, go to <https://www.ala.org/>
- There is a proposal, [Words Matter Act](#), in Congress to remove the wording 'mentally retarded' from all federal laws. Read about it in [Disability Scoop](#).

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