



**SPECIAL NEEDS ADVOCACY FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS (SNAPP) ©
 DESCRIPTIONS FOR ACS AND FOSTER CARE AGENCY STAFF**

Below are the titles and descriptions of the trainings currently offered through the Children’s Services Education Unit. Any of the following programs may be adapted and customized to meet the needs of specific audiences and disciplines.

Every training is in lecture format, approximately 60 minutes in length and will include practical tips on developing advocacy skills and how to effectively navigate the NYC Department of Education’s special education system.

You may contact any of the following individuals at the Children’s Services Education Unit for training requests:

- Regina Schaefer**, Director, at 212-442-3030
- Roberto Romero**, Education Advocate Supervisor, 212-341-9669
- Maya Cooper**, Staff Attorney, at 212-442-5134
- Donald Lash**, Staff Attorney, at 212-676-9161

Program Title	Ages	Program Description
SNAPP 1 – Early Intervention	Birth to 3	SNAPP 1 will cover the Early Intervention (EI) system, including referral, evaluation, determination of eligibility, development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), and service options.
SNAPP 2 – Preschool Special Education	Ages 3-5	SNAPP 2 will cover services provided through the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE), including referral, evaluation, determination of eligibility, development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), and the “continuum of services.”
SNAPP 3 – School-Aged Special Education	Ages 5-21	SNAPP 3 will cover services provided through the Committee on Special Education (CSE), including referral, evaluation, determination of eligibility, development of an Individualized Education Program (IEP), and the “continuum of services.”
SNAPP – Advanced Special Education Placement Issues	Adolescents	Since many cases in family court involve students that are living or returning from residential settings, ACS and foster care agency staff should be aware of effective educational planning for students returning from these settings. There will be detailed discussion of legal requirements for the provision of “comparable services” for returning students, and the specialized placements often deemed appropriate.
SNAPP – Securing Day Treatment Placement through the NYC Department of Education	Adolescents	Since many cases in family court involve students who may have psychiatric or mental health needs, ACS and foster care agency staff should be aware of the educational settings available for these students. The training will cover the definition and entry criteria for “Day Treatment” programs which offer on-site psychiatric services as well as educational programs.

SNAPP – Transition to Adulthood Planning in the Special Education System	Adolescents	There will be an emphasis on planning for adult outcomes (employment, independent living, etc.) for students receiving special education services, beginning at age 14. There will also be discussion of transition services, and how they can be accessed.
SNAPP – Special Ed & Early Intervention in NYC: An Introduction for ACS & Foster Care Agency Staff	Birth to Age 21	The presentation is designed as an introduction to the special education and early intervention programs in NYC. It will include a brief overview of all 3 systems (including Early Intervention, the Committee on Pre-School Special Education and the Committee on Special Education). The referral process, evaluation, eligibility standards, and the “continuum of services” for all 3 systems will be discussed.
SNAPP – Special Ed & Early Intervention in NYC: What Clinicians in the Child Welfare System Need to Know	Birth to Age 21	This training is designed for clinicians (i.e. psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, and nursing staff) that work within foster care agencies in NYC. The presentation includes a brief overview of all 3 systems (including Early Intervention, the Committee on Pre-School Special Education and the Committee on Special Education), covering ages birth to age 21. Clinical staff will be given an explanation of the scope of services, procedures and eligibility standards for all 3 systems. The course is designed to assist clinical staff in making focused recommendations and effectively participate in multi-disciplinary service planning.
SNAPP – Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQ)	Birth to Age 21	<p>This training is designed to assist ACS and foster care agency staff with educational concerns and questions on a variety of school-related issues.</p> <p>This training will cover the following educational topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compulsory Education • EI, CPSE and CSE (Special Education) Basics • Consent Issues • Home Schooling/Instruction • Discipline/ Suspension • McKinney-Vento • School Transfers • No Child Left Behind • Alternative Programs • Educational Stability and the Fostering Connections Act • ATS Access
SNAPP – Special Education Decision-Making for Children of Incarcerated Parents	Birth to Age 21	This training is designed for staff working with children of incarcerated parents. The training will explain how child welfare staff should involve incarcerated parents in special education decision making and the practical issues surrounding this sensitive topic. An explanation of how to locate and contact incarcerated parents at NYC, NYS and federal correctional facilities will also be incorporated.