

Parent & Family Training 2025-2026



Birch Family Services is proud to offer free virtual training and informational sessions throughout the year for our staff, parents, families, and community members. These sessions explore a variety of topics and provide specialized strategies to support children, adolescents, and adults with autism and developmental disabilities.

Led by our Workplace Development Department, our robust training program equips participants with tools and resources designed to assist individuals at every stage of life. We invite you to join us in building a supportive and informed community. Together, we can empower families and create brighter futures for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities.

Meet Our Instructors



Margaret Chiara, Senior VP of Workforce Development & Training

Margaret has over 30 years in the field of disabilities. Over her career she has had the pleasure of supporting individuals, their families and staff. She began her career as a Special Education Teacher and then went on to join a training department where she pursued her BCBA, NYS LBA as well as her education administration certificates. Training is her passion where she has the opportunity to meet new staff, work with parents and families and directly impact the individuals Birch Family Services supports.



Lori Volpe, PhD., Autism Coordinator

Lori has 40 years experience working with adults and children with ASD and other developmental disabilities in educational, residential and vocational settings. In addition to her position with BTI, Lori has worked for agencies in the New York area developing and opening programs for individuals on the autism spectrum. Lori was trained in TEACCH at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She holds a BA in Psychology from SUNY at Albany, an MA in Developmental Psychology from Yeshiva University, an MA in School Psychology and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology both from Hofstra University.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR FULL
SCHEDULE AND REGISTER](#)

Parent & Family Training 2025

Workshop Series Details

October 2025

[Toilet Training*-October 30th at 10:00am](#)

Gain practical strategies for guiding your child through the toilet training process. Learn how to assess readiness, establish routines, use reinforcement, address sensory needs, and accommodate your child's unique needs.

November 2025

[Transitions in Life-November 5th through ADAPT Community Network at 10:00am](#)

This year's theme, "Stronger Together", consists of three informational sessions and a Q&A. These sessions will cover a variety of topics including Empowering Your Child Through Self-Advocacy, Navigating Transitions in Life, and Supporting Your Child's Path to Independence.

[Person-Centered Planning - November 20th at 7:00-8:30pm](#)

Person-Centered Planning (PCP) is a collaborative process that helps people plan their lives, identify their goals, and find their voice. PCP is based on the idea that everyone has the right to live, love, work, learn, play, and pursue their dreams.

[Person-Centered Planning - November 21st at 10:00-11:30am](#)

Person-Centered Planning (PCP) is a collaborative process that helps people plan their lives, identify their goals, and find their voice. PCP is based on the idea that everyone has the right to live, love, work, learn, play, and pursue their dreams.

[Cultivating a Holiday Routine*-November 24th at 10:00am](#)

Participants will engage in a discussion to help pinpoint what are the most important aspects of the Holiday Season for their Family. The workshop will then provide strategies and hands on tools in order to help make a very hectic time of year more manageable and enjoyable.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**Spanish Translation will be available.
All sessions are offered remotely on Zoom.*