

Caregiver advocacy support and resources:

- **SAFE Resources**

All Kids Safe Digital Resource Guide: A smart phone app for law enforcement, child protective services personnel, and anyone working with kids with disabilities. This guide provides tips on working with children with autism spectrum disorder, communication disabilities, intellectual disabilities, mental health disabilities, and children who are Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled, or hard of hearing (DDBDDHH).

Visit: allkidssafe.org

Promoting Justice Website: Developed for criminal justice and child protective services staff, child advocates, disability service providers, educators, and families. It provides information about responding to abuse of children with disabilities, communicating and working with children with specific disabilities, investigating abuse, and much more.

Visit: Childabuseanddisabilities.safeaustin.org

- **Disability Rights Texas-** The mission of DRT is to help people with disabilities understand and exercise their rights under the law, ensuring their full and equal participation in society. DRT informs people with disabilities and family members of their rights and can provide direct legal assistance to people with disabilities whose rights are violated.

Contact: (512) 454-4816 visit: disabilityrightstx.org

- **Autism Society of Texas-** The Autism Society of Texas changes lives by connecting families and individuals to community resources and support throughout Texas. Offerings include advocacy, education events, Information & Referrals, support meetings; on-line networking opportunities; Sensory Friendly films; and fun family activities.

Contact: (512) 479-4199 Ext 1 visit: <https://www.texasautismsociety.org>

- **Vela-** VELA is a nonprofit that empowers families of children with special needs through hands-on courses, support and community building. Vela provides supportive case management to help parents and families with insurance, school services, and therapy places.

Contact: (512) 850-8281 visit: velafamilies.org

- **PATH Project-** PATH Project is a federally funded parent training and information center. PATH provides individual assistance over the phone and in person to help parents their rights and responsibilities under IDEA.

Contact: Regional Coordinator Veronica Alvarez:
(512) 969-1848 visit: prntexas.org/texas-ptis/path-project/
- **Texas Parent to Parent-** Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) is committed to improving the lives of Texas children who have disabilities, chronic illness, and/or special health care needs. TxP2P empowers families to be strong advocates through parent-to-parent support, resource referral, and education.

Contact: (512) 458-8600 visit: <http://www.txp2p.org>
- **The Arc of the Capital Area-** (The Arc) empowers Central Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families through compassionate case management and innovative programs. The Arc offers services including mentoring and advocacy, special education assistance, transition supports during critical life stages, basic needs and crisis assistance, and guardianship. The Arc provides works to help parents develop and strengthen their caregiving skills, reduce their isolation, and decrease their stress levels.

Contact: (512) 476-7044 visit: arcaustin.org
- **UT Project Skills-** The Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders at UT Austin, has launched a free on-demand webinar series for families and caregivers of children with autism in Texas that might be of interest to the families you serve. The **Project PLUS Webinar Series** will offer a total of 12 recorded webinars on different autism-related topics that can be viewed from your home computer or smartphone whenever is convenient. Families may register for as many of the webinars as they would like to attend/watch. Some of the webinars will offer the option to watch an initial live broadcast featuring open-submission question and answer sessions with our experts.

Webinar topics include:

 - Taking care of yourself as a caregiver
 - An introduction to using AAC to improve communication in children with ASD
 - Addressing problem behaviors displayed by children with ASD
 - Understanding parent-mediated interventions for children with ASD

Families and caregivers can register to access the on-demand webinar catalog using this link: https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4UuvFmabaM6P9Zz

Contact: utprojectskills@gmail.com
visit: <https://moody.utexas.edu/news/project-skills>

- **The Texas Sibling Network-** (TSN) creates a community *for* adult siblings of people with disabilities *by* adult siblings of people with disabilities. The Network provides support, resources, leadership, and advocacy skill building opportunities for siblings. It is recognized that siblings have very different experiences and visions and the aim is to provide a community to welcome and honor those experiences.

Visit: <https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu/TSN>

- **Parents of children with Down syndrome-** A safe place to discuss most anything DS related – without fear of judgement - just support! We are known for being one of the largest but most secure support groups for caregivers of someone special with DS. Most members are parents of a child with Down syndrome, however, there are members who do not have a Down syndrome child, but are still involved in supporting our community.

Visit: [Parents of Children with Down Syndrome Facebook Group](#)

- **To learn more about bullying visit:** Stopbullying.gov
Abilitypath.org
Stompoutbullying.org