PATHWAYS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Early Childhood Development & Parenting: Supporting Children with Disabilities

Helping parents and caregivers nurture each child’s strengths, build supportive family relationships, and plan for a safer, more accessible future.

A program designed for families

Every child develops in their own way. This educational program helps parents, guardians, and caregivers understand developmental differences, support communication and learning, advocate for services, and encourage age-appropriate independence. We recognize the abilities, individuality, and dignity of children with disabilities.

Who can participate?

Parents, legal guardians, and caregivers of children with disabilities, including families seeking guidance on communication, development, school support, accessibility, daily routines, safety, and long-term planning.

Your three-semester learning journey

SEMESTER I | Foundation

Understanding your child and strengthening everyday connections.

- Child development and individual strengths
- Behavior as communication, sensory needs, and accessibility
- Emotional connection, positive discipline, and supportive relationships
- Communication tools and family routines

SEMESTER II | Advocacy & Alignment

Building confidence in navigating services and coordinating family support.

- Working with schools: IEPs and Section 504 plans
- Healthcare coordination and organizing essential records
- Community inclusion, benefits, and helpful resources
- Caregiver well-being, boundaries, and family teamwork

SEMESTER III | Independence & Safety

Preparing practical, personalized plans for growing independence.

- Daily living skills and supported decision-making
- Home, community, and emergency safety planning
- Self-advocacy and age-appropriate transitions
- Future planning and your Family Blueprint

Create your family’s personalized blueprint

Throughout the program, families develop practical learning projects:

- My Child’s Elemental Blueprint: A strengths-based picture of communication preferences, needs, and supportive environments.
- My Child’s Alignment Grid: A guide to accessible routines, trusted helpers, and coordination between home and school.
- My Child’s Path to Independence: Realistic goals, selected supports, and future planning.

These projects come together in a personalized Family Blueprint that families can continue using beyond class.

Safety matters: Project Blueprint

The companion Pathways Project Blueprint introduces individualized safety planning, including home and school safety, transportation, emergency communication, prevention of abuse and neglect, and caregiver contingency planning. Safety strategies are adapted to each child’s circumstances rather than assuming all children face the same risks.

How families learn

Instructor-led virtual education combines accessible handouts, guided discussions, real-life scenarios, optional visual activities, and practical assignments. Human-centered, AI-supported educational tools may assist with learning materials while instructors guide the program.

What you can take away

- Greater confidence supporting your child’s communication and development.
- Practical strategies for school advocacy, family routines, and community inclusion.
- An individualized safety plan and a realistic next-steps schedule.
- A Family Blueprint to support ongoing learning, growth, and independence.

Program information

Enrollment dates, class length, attendance expectations, and any tuition will be announced by Pathways. This program provides education and resource guidance; it is not a substitute for medical

care, therapy, legal representation, or individualized professional evaluation. Any family reunification or contact arrangements must remain consistent with applicable court and child welfare requirements.