

About Parent to Parent Classes

Who is this P2P Teacher?

Quite often, we have a CHADD member who has not been active in the local chapter/satellite, but is very interested in becoming a Parent to Parent Teacher. This development has been counter intuitive and not what we expected when the program was first designed. We thought all the teachers would come from the CHADD chapters/satellites/branches.

But over the last two years we have learned that most coordinators and CHADD volunteers have such full plates, they are unlikely to become a Parent to Parent Teacher. Even when a coordinator becomes a teacher, it is often very difficult to add the class to other CHADD activities locally. The teachers who do not have a history with your local group actually have more time to devote to Parent to Parent. There has been a higher rate of classes offered by these newer groups of teachers. What we do know is there is a high rate of personal commitment and knowledge and a willingness to get involved locally.

Should I Trust this Teacher?

Certified Parent to Parent Teachers go through a rigorous process before being certified that includes:

- a. A significant personal investment of time and money to come to 3 day training. Each teacher pays \$250 for the training, hotel, and travel costs. It is not unusual for an applicant to spend \$1,000 to become certified.
- b. An interview by CHADD staff for ½ hour before being accepted into the training. The questions addressed cover all the sensitive areas and include:
 1. Conflict of interest with any practice or service
 2. Teaching is a volunteer activity and will not lead to any income.
 3. There is a serious time commitment.
 4. All teachers must work closely with any local CHADD group.

Through each round, a number of applicants remove themselves from the class after the interview.

- c. Each applicant reads every "What We Know" Sheet developed by the National Resource Center on AD/HD. These documents cover all the basic information on AD/HD we want every teacher to understand.
- d. The applicants then complete a take home exam on the material before arriving at the training.
- e. In the training, each applicant must do a presentation to the trainers and class peers.
- f. If at any time there are concerns about the knowledge base or quality of teaching, it is addressed directly with the teacher and certification is not given without additional work.

Because of all of this, you should know that this new volunteer has already gone through a very stringent screening and training process. You should assume he or she would be a valued new volunteer to your group who can concentrate exclusively on adding Parent to Parent classes as a local service. If any problems do arise, please remember the CHADD national staff will help address any issues, and we already have knowledge of the teacher.

What is the Role of the Local CHADD CHAPTER?

The Parent to Parent teachers is looking for support in the following areas:

- a. If you are a chapter, we prefer all funds and expenses should go through the chapter's bank account. That means the fees would come to the chapter and we would ask you to either pay all expenses directly or reimburse the teacher for any expenses.
- b. If you are a chapter, we know you do not have a bank account and we are working to come up with a good way to handle this that will not be overly burdensome.
- c. As a local coordinator, you can help the teacher promote the class effectively. Ironically, CHADD members are not the likely people to sign up for a class, rather families that are new to AD/HD. You know how to reach out to your local community. Please share this knowledge with your Parent to Parent Teacher.

What if No-One Signs Up for the Class?

A small number of teachers, particularly those trained in the early days of the program, have had difficulty recruiting participants for the classes. We have learned a lot about who comes and how to reach potential students. Those who are currently active with your chapter are not the best audience. We can help you market the program more effectively and we now address this challenge with all new teachers in the training.

Can the Local CHADD Affiliate Make Money from Parent to Parent Classes?

Like many new initiatives, Parent to Parent does not usually generate any income for the local affiliate until it is established. The first class or two have a smaller number of students and higher expenses. However, once word gets out in your community and the class becomes a staple, then the local group may generate some revenue. Understand that it will take some time to reach this point.

If you have specific concerns, be sure to contact Ruth Hughes at the national office at ruth_hughes@chadd.org or (301) 306-7070 ext 133. Ruth oversees both Chapter Services and Parent to Parent. She is committed to moving to a close collaboration between these programs at the local and national levels.