



**F**amily Voices of Tennessee is a program in partnership with the Department of Health, Vanderbilt University, and other agencies. The purpose of the program is to help families navigate insurance plans and public and private health systems, to educate families on how to access resources and services for their children, to listen to families as they describe their experiences with health systems, to work with stakeholders to promote family-centered care and better medical care for children with special needs, and finally to promote a discussion on how to better serve children and families in Tennessee who are affected by a disability.

### **What services or resources does this agency provide?**

Family Voices offers different types of programs for families impacted by disabilities. The Tennessee Parent to Parent program is a statewide program established to provide support, information, services, and training and leadership opportunities for families of youth and children with special health care needs. Sibshops is a series of workshops designed for children ages 8-13 who have a sibling with a disability. The workshops allow siblings to share experiences regarding life with a sibling with a disability by participating in fun activities and games. Family Voices also has online learning modules that cover a variety of



topics from healthcare to disability advocacy and more. In addition, they have a transition planning booklet which is available as a free download from their website. This resource outlines the different steps in the transition process and helps families determine where they currently are and where they need to go next in the planning process.

### **What areas of Tennessee do they serve?**

Family Voices of TN serves all three regions of the state.

### **Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?**

Although most opportunities are available for no charge, there may be some costs associated with different services.

### **For which students might this agency be appropriate?**

Family Voices of TN primarily offers programs



that serve parents and siblings of an individual with a disability. Students might find the transition booklet particularly helpful as they begin the transition planning process.

### **Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?**

This is a resource specifically designed for families. They can receive these supports and services if they have a child with a disability.

### **What is the family's responsibility?**

The family is responsible for seeking out information about the various services and programs that are applicable to their family's needs.

### **What is the responsibility of an educator?**

The educator can share information with the family about the different programs offered by Family Voices of TN.

### **How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?**

- The teacher and/or family members can use the transition booklet that is provided on the Family Voices website as they begin to navigate the transition planning process.
- For families with multiple children, the teacher can provide information about how Family Voices can serve them and the siblings of the student.
- Invite a representative from Family Voices to speak to the family about the ways in which they can support them.

### **Where can I learn more?**

Visit their website at:

[www.familyvoicestn.org](http://www.familyvoicestn.org)

### **What questions should I ask of Family Voices of TN?**

- Do you offer programming for individuals with disabilities?
- Sibshops is intended for kids ages 8-13. Is there programming for kids between ages 14-18?
- Do the different programs that are offered have associated costs?

### **Additional contact information:**

- Give them a call at: 1-888-643-7811