

Dear Family,

As the 2017 fall semester is approaching, we are writing to ask you if you would be willing to participate in the LSU Health Science Center- Human Development Center (HDC) Family Mentor program.

The Family Mentor Experience (FME) is a program in which families like yours help train professionals who work with children and youth with disabilities and their families. Our trainees represent various disciplines, such as pediatrics, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nutrition, audiology, and speech pathology. The trainees chosen for this program are being prepared to be leaders in their fields.

The FME is a part of the LA Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Program (LA LEND). The LA LEND Program trains professionals to work in interdisciplinary, family-centered ways.

Each FME family has a trainee assigned to them. This experience provides trainees with opportunities to learn directly from you, the family! Trainees will learn through interactions and their relationships with your child and family in your home and community settings/activities. You will serve as the mentor to the trainee. Trainees will participate in typical experiences with your family monthly that will enhance their sensitivity to the strengths, concerns, joys, and challenges of raising a child with special needs. Your job will be to show the trainee what it is like, by sharing your own personal experiences. We are fortunate to be able to offer participating families a stipend for the 2017-2018 academic year.

We understand that not everyone is interested or able to be a mentor family. However, if you are willing to participate, we would love to have you! Please complete the form attached and forward to Brittney Wright, at bwrig1@lsuhsc.edu, Maria Blanco, at mblanc@lsuhsc.edu, or by fax at 504-556-7574.

If you indicate your interest in serving as a family mentor, our FME coordinator will contact you in April.

Sincerely,

Brittney and all the staff at the
Human Development Center LA LEND

The Family Mentor Program

Human Development Center Interdisciplinary Training/ LEND

_____ YES, I am willing to be in your Family Mentor Program. I understand that as a Family Mentor, I am committing to:

- Attend a social event on Saturday, August 12th (11:45AM at Human Development Center)
- Schedule at least 8 typical experiences with my LEND trainee (Monthly interactions, approximately 60min each, August through May, additional interactions as needed for student to complete assignments)
- Experiences must include participating in home life experiences (e.g. helping with homework), community experiences (e.g. going to the grocery), and place where services are provided experiences (e.g. school or therapy)

___ I would like more information before deciding whether to participate.

___ Thanks, but we're not able to at this time.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

A good time to reach me is _____

Thank you!

(Do you have questions? Please email Brittney Wright at bwig1@lsuhsc.edu or call 504-556-7589 or Maria Blanco at mblanc@lsuhsc.edu)