

**Parent Infant Network for Educational Services**

890 North Indian Creek Drive

Clarkston, Georgia 30021

**Referrals: (404) 300-5905 – Fax: (404) 298-3610**

**Thank you so much for your interest in training to become a Georgia PINES Early Intervention Specialist (EIS) or Deaf Mentor (DM)!**

**Here is some basic information for learning more about the opportunities we have – and for getting started, if you are interested to proceed.**

***FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SPECIALISTS:***

Georgia PINES Early Intervention Specialists provide home-based parent education and technical assistance to families of children with hearing loss and/or vision loss, for infants and toddlers through age three.

Early Intervention Specialists visit the home\* (or other natural environment setting) each week, and are currently paid $47 per visit, plus the state “per-mile rate” for travel expenses. These visits are typically an hour long.

\*Due to the ongoing effects of COVID, we are also offering our service providers and families the option of virtual visits.

Some of our EIS’s work only for Georgia PINES and others are employed full time by a school system or other agency and make family visits after school hours or on weekends. EIS’s can decide how many families they wish to serve, but there is an expectation of serving at least one family as soon as one becomes available for them. We encourage our EIS’s to accept 3 or more families by the end of the fiscal year.

Georgia PINES trains EISs in each of three programs:

**SKI-HI PROGRAM:** Serves children whose primary area of need is hearing loss. SKI-HI EISs must be certified Teachers of the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing, licensed Speech and Language Pathologists and Educational Audiologists. Experience with *young* children with hearing loss is strongly recommended.

**INSITE PROGRAM:** Serves children who have hearing and/or vision loss, and possible additional special needs. INSITE EISs must be certified Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Teachers of the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing, special education teachers, orientation and mobility instructors, as well as other professionals in related fields of special education. Experience with young children with a vision and/or hearing loss is strongly recommended.

**VIISA PROGRAM:** Serves children whose primary area of need is vision loss. VIISAEISs must first be trained in INSITE. VIISA training is offered every other year in the fall.

Training to become a SKI-HI or INSITE Early Intervention Specialist takes place every summer, typically during the second and third weeks of June.

***This is an 8-day training and participants are required to attend all 8 days in order to be offered a contract to work with Georgia PINES as an Early Intervention Specialist.***

***Our Summer Training is intensive, so it’s important that participants who register are prepared to devote these 8 full days to just doing this training. The training is “live” via Zoom, not asynchronous.***

***(Think of this training as being similar to a condensed college-level course!)***

Due to high interest in EIS training, we are not always able to train everyone who completes a Registration Intent Form. There is a selection process based on educational background, professional experience, location, and willingness to serve families on an ongoing basis.

Individuals who are accepted and invited to participate in training are committing to contract with Georgia PINES. Therefore, if you know your schedule and other commitments will make it difficult for you to actively serve families, please do not apply at this time.

If you apply, you will be notified regarding your acceptance for summer training in the spring – at least a month prior to the training dates.

TRAINING INFORMATION/DETAILS:

Fees: There is a *non-refundable training* registration fee of $150.00. This will also cover the cost of your fingerprint/background check. Georgia PINES charges $40.00 for any checks that are returned for insufficient funds.

Registration Intent – SKI HI: Please submit a resume, a copy of your teaching certification or audiology license, and a list of three professional references to eparks@doe.k12.ga.us and complete the Registration Intent Form which can be found at this link: [Registration for Training](https://datatransport1.us:4051/trainingapplications/paging1.asp)

Registration Intent – INSITE or VIISA: Please submit a resume, a copy of your teaching certification or audiology license, and a list of three professional references to christine.spratling@doe.k12.ga.us and complete the Registration Intent Form which can be found at this link: [Registration for Training](https://datatransport1.us:4051/trainingapplications/paging1.asp)

Technology: In order to contract with Georgia PINES, you must have daily access to the following:

1. High speed internet
2. Access to printer/scanner
3. Google Chrome 86 or above, Edge 86 or above, or Firefox 82 or above.
4. Appropriate software such as Microsoft Office 2010 or above, Microsoft Office 365 (including Excel), or Libre Office 6
5. Web conferencing capability (Microsoft Teams, etc.)
6. Ability to read and create .pdf files
7. Working Virus Protective Plan

## We communicate with our service providers primarily via email. All contractors are expected to check email daily.

CURRICULUM: We will be training from the nationally validated SKIHI and INSITE/VIISA curricula as well as other supplementary texts/media. Extensive resources and handouts will also be provided. Materials are the property of the Georgia Department of Education and are available for your use during your contracted period with Georgia PINES.

In addition to the registration fee, there is a materials deposit of $100.00. You will receive further instructions about sending this deposit after we receive your application.  This will allow you to keep the materials to use during and after training. Your check will be deposited once you have successfully completed Summer training. Your deposit will be refunded when you leave Georgia PINES and return all materials checked out to you.

No fees will be requested from you until you have been accepted as a trainee. To make your banking easier, you may choose to write just one check/money order – for a total of $250. **Please make all checks/money orders out to: Atlanta Area School for the Deaf and put “PINES Training” on the memo line at the bottom.**

Contracts: Contracts will be issued following the training. The Department of Education is offering

the training for the purpose of providing services to Georgia PINES families, not as a supplemental

training or professional development opportunity.

Participants are required to complete a fingerprint record check and criminal records investigation

procedure through the GA Crime Information Center (GCIC) and the National Crime Information

Center (NCIC). The cost of this process is included in your registration fee.

*Participants are required to pass an on-line course on Mandated Reporting on Abused or Neglected Children by the end of the training period. More information will be available during the training.*

Please feel free to share this information with anyone you know who might also be interested. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Eva Parks (SKI-HI Coordinator) at 404-298-4881 or eparks@doe.k12.ga.us or Christine Spratling (INSITE/VIISA Coordinator) at 678-953-5378 or christine.spratling@doe.k12.ga.us

**Thank you!**

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***FOR DEAF MENTORS:***

Georgia PINES Deaf Mentors are Deaf adults with college degrees who have been trained using the Deaf Mentor curriculum and who have an interest in and love for young children. They serve as role models for children who are deaf/hard of hearing and introduce the family to the culture and history of Deaf individuals. Deaf Mentors serve as a bridge for the family to Deaf community activities and teach ASL to family members for the purpose of helping families to become visual language models/teachers for their children.

DM services take place in the home or via virtual conferencing platforms. DMs earn $47 per visit plus mileage.

Deaf Mentor training typically takes place each summer in July – and is a four to five-day training, based on the Deaf Mentor Curriculum developed by the SKI-HI Institute at Utah State University.

For specific information about training dates, costs, and other details, please contact Ellen Rolader, Georgia PINES’ Statewide Lead Deaf Mentor at ellen.rolader@doe.k12.ga.us , 404-655-4737 (cell -text only), or VP:678-390-3341. Thank you!