



## RMU Trees Network November 2022 Newsletter

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### About the Trees Network

The RMU Trees Network provides services and training to enhance the support for children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities and their families through professional preparation of teachers, continued professional development of teachers and service providers, and direct services to children and families. As part of our outreach to families, we host a parent support group, informational workshops, and other educational opportunities. In addition, family members are encouraged to contact the Trees Network for information, advocacy, referrals, and resources. We welcome partnerships with other educational institutions, nonprofits, and community service organizations.

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### Virtual Parent Support Group/Workshop

We host a virtual parent support group the **first Monday of each month**. The group connects parents to others who are facing similar experiences. It also provides resources to support parents. Parents can attend individual sessions or attend every month. It is held through Google Meets. Our next parent support group will be **Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 - 8:00 pm**. This month, the support group meeting is in the format of a workshop. Consultants from PaTTAN will be providing an informative session for parents on **Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS)**. The schools have a variety of approaches to address behaviors in the school and the terminology can be confusing. Come and learn about CPS and how it compares to ABA, BIP, and FBA. Parents can join the meeting by contacting Vicki Donne at [donne@rmu.edu](mailto:donne@rmu.edu) or Deanna Hiltz at [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu), 412-397-5465, or by registering at <https://forms.gle/3NDCx31krTpGo7r89>

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### Book Club for Families

The Trees Network will be hosting a book club for students and their families beginning January 17<sup>th</sup> and meeting virtually every Tuesday until March 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be reading the book *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling. Students registering by December 20<sup>th</sup> will receive a free copy of the book. Online text read alouds will be available through YouTube. To register, contact [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu) or complete the registration form at [Trees Network Book Club](#).

## Welcome to Our New Outreach Specialist!

Mrs. Deanna Hiltz joins us this month as the RMU Trees Network Outreach Specialist. She has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Communication Sciences and Disorders and a Master's degree in Special Education from Robert Morris University. She is certified to teach elementary and special education students in Pennsylvania. Deanna was an Elementary Special Education teacher for several years, worked with early childhood kids and families, and recently tutored children qualifying for Title I Reading. Deanna lives in Beaver County and is the mother of one daughter, Danica, who was adopted from Poland 10 years ago. She is also an avid runner. She says that she "has always loved special education. My passion grew exponentially not only teaching students with various disabilities and needs, but living everyday life having to meet those needs. I am excited to share my experiences and resources with as many parents and caregivers as possible in order to provide as much information to develop our youth." Deanna can be reached at [hiltzd@rmu.edu](mailto:hiltzd@rmu.edu).

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## Resources for Parents and Educators

The Network also provides resources for parents and teachers. We do these in several ways. First, we created a web site with various resources and this can be accessed at: [RMU Trees Network Resources](#) . Secondly, we created a Padlet of resources to support online activities with students and that can be accessed at: [RMU Recommends](#). Thirdly, in each newsletter we provide links to resources. This month, we are including resources shared at our November parent support group on partnering with schools to promote reading.

- [ABC of Rtl in Elementary School: A Guide for Families](#) (from the National Center on Response to Intervention)
- [ABC of Rtl in Middle School: A Guide for Parents](#) (from the National Center on Response to Intervention)
- [Response to Intervention \(Rtl\): A Tiered Approach to Instructing All Students](#) video
- [Ask the Expert: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support \(MTSS\) vs Response to Intervention \(Rtl\)](#) video
- [What is a Student Assistance Program?](#) Video
- [What is DIBELS/ Acadience?](#) Video

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## RMU Trees Network

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