

When a parent visits PWSA (USA)'s website at www.pwsausa.org and clicks on "New Diagnosis", (or visits our New Diagnosis page directly at <http://www.pwsausa.org/new-diagnosis/>) and submits the New Diagnosis Form, they are contacted as quickly as possible by one of our New Parent Support staff members to provide immediate and necessary support.

To make sure our parents have the most up-to-date and accurate information possible, we can send (by mail), free of charge, a generous packet of printed materials called "*The Package of Hope*," which contains age specific information about nutrition, growth hormone, physical therapy, information for grandparents, and much more. It also includes two copies of the *Medical Alert* booklet, an essential resource for parents and professionals alike. With the parent's permission, we can also send, free of charge, a personalized professional information package to the child's pediatrician or primary care physician to make sure they are familiar with PWS and the intricacies of caring for a child with this complex condition.

Also theirs, at absolutely no cost, is a one-year sponsored membership in PWSA (USA) including all the benefits and privileges of a regular membership, such as discounts on products, publications and conference fees, and a subscription to *The Gathered View*, our bi-monthly newsletter filled with great information, research reports, and encouraging stories of what is happening in the world of PWS.

As a new parent, or a parent of a child newly diagnosed with PWS, they are eligible for our Parent Mentoring Program, which includes the opportunity to connect with a personal Parent Mentor who will walk this journey with them, giving information and support as needed as their child grows.

We also offer fellowship, support, and information in our age-specific Facebook groups. These are closed groups where parents can meet and interact with other parents, PWSA (USA) Parent Mentors, New Parent Support staff members, and trained medical counselors. These groups are moderated and monitored to assure that information shared is accurate and up-to-date, and questions are addressed promptly.

PWSA (USA) maintains the following age-specific, closed Facebook support groups for parents of children diagnosed with Prader-Willi syndrome:

Birth – 3 Years <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PWSAbirth.to.three/>

To join this group and be a part of the Parent Mentoring Program, please go to www.pwsausa.org, click on New Diagnosis, and fill out and submit the form, or call 800-926-4797.

PWSA (USA) Birth to Three is an invitation-only sharing and support group for parents of infants and toddlers from birth to three years old, who are part of the PWSA (USA) Parent Mentoring Program- We provide a safe, secure place for learning, sharing and connecting with other parents and parent mentors- a place for asking questions, sharing experiences, and fostering friendships with parents of children the same age as yours... all in a hopeful, supportive environment sponsored and moderated by PWSA USA staff.

3 years – 5 years <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PWSAThreeToFive/>

PWSA(USA) Three to Five is a sharing and support group for parents of children ages three through five years old, who are part of the PWSA (USA) Parent Mentoring Program, and/or were members of the PWSA 0-5 Yahoo group. PWSA(USA) Three to Five provides a safe, secure place for learning, sharing and connecting with other parents and parent mentors in real-time – a place for asking questions, sharing experiences, and fostering friendships with parents of children the same age as yours... all in a hopeful, supportive environment sponsored and moderated by PWSA USA staff. (To be a part of the Parent Mentoring Program please go to www.pwsausa.org, click on New Diagnosis and fill in the form, or call 800-926-4797)

6 years – 12 years <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PWSA.USA.SixToTwelve/>

PWSA(USA) Six to Twelve is a sharing and support group for parents of children ages six through twelve years old, who are (or would like to become) PWSA(USA) members and/or were members of the PWSA (USA) age specific Yahoo groups. PWSA (USA) Six to Twelve provides a safe, secure place for learning, sharing and connecting with other parents and parent mentors in real-time – a place for asking and answering questions, sharing experiences, and fostering friendships with parents of children the same age as yours... all in a hopeful, supportive environment sponsored and moderated by experienced PWSA(USA) staff. If you would like to become a member of PWSA (USA), please visit www.pwsausa.org/membership.. If membership is a hardship at this time, please email parentmentors@pwsausa.org. Scholarships are available.

And- introducing our newest group-

PWSA(USA) Grandparents <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1086913911330108/>

PWSA (USA) Grandparents is a sharing and support group for Grandparents of children (of any age) with Prader-Willi Syndrome. This group provides a safe, secure place to express your feelings, ask questions and make connections with other Grandparents in similar circumstances. PWSA (USA) Grandparents is staffed and moderated by PWSA (USA) support personnel, and other Grandparents, so you can rest assured that questions will be answered quickly, and the information shared will be as accurate and up-to-date as possible.