



NEW DIRECTIONS

Spring 2014

Early Childhood Direction Center

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ECDC is a regional clearinghouse that provides free information, referral, technical assistance and support to families, professionals, and community agencies concerned with children birth to five with suspected or diagnosed delays or disabilities.

We provide ongoing community training programs for both parents and professionals.

ECDC is funded by the New York State Education Department, hosted by Women and Children's Hospital and provided in-kind support from People Inc.

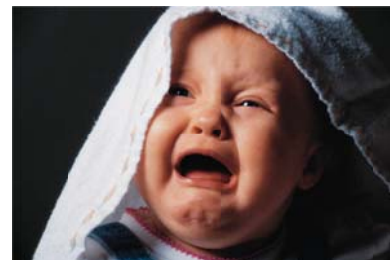
If you would like to be included on our listserve to receive the latest federal, state and local updates, please send an email to ecdc@kaleidahealth.org and indicate whether you are a parent or a professional.



www.facebook.com/ECDCWNY1

The Purple Period Explained

by Deborah Merrifield
Executive Director, Family Help Center



What is the "Purple Period" for infants? It is an acronym for the time period of "high crying" that up to 25% of all infants experience! The national push to help parents and professionals learn about the "Purple Period" is so they can understand that it is NORMAL and that they as the caregivers need support and strategies that can help them cope with the challenges of crying.

P=PEAKS... All babies tend to have a PEAK crying period between 2 weeks to 4 months of age

U=UNEXPECTED... Some crying starts UNEXPECTEDLY - there is no cause for concern and they stop UNEXPECTEDLY too

R=RESISTANT... Some babies are simply RESISTANT to soothing and will continue crying after it seems like everything has been tried

P=PAIN... The baby looks like they are in PAIN but they are not

L=LASTS LONG... The baby has LONG LASTING bouts of crying—35 minutes to 3 hours

E=EVENING... The baby tends to have their longest crying bouts in the late afternoon and into the EVENING

Dr. Ronald Barr, Developmental Pediatrician and world expert on infant crying, explains the "Period of PURPLE Crying" an evidence-based infant abuse prevention program which educates parents and caregivers about normal infant crying and the dangers of shaking an infant. You can listen to a full explanation by him on the website for the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome at www.dontshake.org (click on the "Purple Program" at the top). You can see the scientific research that has been done on the Purple Period.

Remember to check with your Pediatrician first to rule out any problems that may be causing the high crying, but if it turns out to only be the Purple Period, The Family Helpline will take your call to support you and coach you through strategies for you to relax and get some sleep. This can be a tough time period for caregivers and the Family Helpline takes calls for ANYTHING related to parenting, anytime, 24 hours a day, and 365 days a year. Also, give the Helpline number to anyone caring for your child such as babysitters, grandparents, etc.

The Family Helpline, at 716-892-2172, is a service of the Family Help Center, 60 Dingens St., Buffalo NY 14206; www.familyhelpcenter.net. The Helpline is funded by the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County.

26th Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day (DD DAY)

May 22, 2014

8:00AM- 4:00PM

The Conference Center Niagara Falls
101 Old Falls Street
Niagara Falls, NY

People with developmental disabilities and their families, experts from provider agencies, and local officials will convene to explore the latest issues in the field.

Speakers * Exhibits * Awards
Workshops * Live Entertainment
Parents' Corner

For more information visit

www.ddday.org

Or

call (716) 896-2180

*"Keep your face
to sun shine and
you cannot see
the shadow."*

Helen Keller



Connecting professionals and families of young children with special needs to services and resources in Western New York.



Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo
A Kaleida Health Facility

Meet Our New Staff Member

Lauren Savino recently joined the Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) as Special Needs Outreach Liaison.



She comes to ECDC with nine years of experience as a Special Education Teacher in various school districts throughout the WNY area. Lauren graduated from St. John Fisher College in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Childhood Education, Special Education and Spanish. She completed her Masters' in Exceptional Education from Buffalo State College in 2010. In addition, she is the parent of two children, one with special needs.

She is looking forward to using her background and experience to provide outreach to the six counties of the Western New York community as well as assist families and professionals. Please feel free to contact Lauren at any time at 716 880-3876 or lsavino@kaleidahealth.org



Websites to investigate:

The Yellow Dot Program is now recognized in all 50 states and can help first responders get critical health information in the event of a car accident. Referring to the "golden hour" safety program, the yellow dot program allows drivers in NY (and elsewhere) to alert first responders to look in the glove compartment for important health information on the occupants of the car by displaying a large yellow dot on your car's window. To request a kit follow the link below:

<http://www.nysheriffs.org/yellowdot>

7 Important Ways That Autism Can Impact Medical Care:

<http://www.snagglebox.com/2013/10/ways-autism-can-impact-medical-care.html?m=1>