



NEW DIRECTIONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTION CENTER C/O Women and Children's Hospital 219 Bryant Street Buffalo, NY 14222 PHONE 716-880-3875 1-800-462-7653
FAX (716) 836-1252 www.wchob.org/ecdc Any questions? rmalinowski@Kaleidahealth.org

August 2007

The Early Childhood Direction Center

The 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.

The ECDC is funded by New York State Education Department and hosted by Women and Children's Hospital.

Ask ECDC

Dear ECDC,

You have helped our family deal with our child's diagnosis and the journey of finding the appropriate supports. I recently heard that ECDC has a new focus and you will not be helping families anymore, is this true? -Maggie, from Amherst

Dear Maggie,

ECDC is proud that we were able to assist your family and countless other families to find appropriate supports for their child. The answer to your question is we will **continue to support families** but our procedures will be changing. ECDC receives its funding from the New York State Education Department as a technical assistance center (TAC). Last year NY State asked all 15 statewide ECDC's to provide technical assistance to school districts to help support them with the State Performance Plan (SPP). The SPP monitors school district performance and will improve outcomes for students with disabilities. We will be spending time assisting our regional professionals so that they can better assist your children.

In the past, ECDC periodically called families to see how they were coping. Starting July 1, 2007 ECDC will stop making unsolicited calls

instead we will send your child a birthday letter, each year, to remind your family of our services and encourage you to call us if you need assistance. We believe this will be a more effective way to reach families and that we will be able to target our calls towards families who need assistance. We encourage and will be available for families to call our office at 880-3875 whenever they have questions or concerns. In addition, if you have not already done so, please consider joining the ECDC information distribution list – our confidential information resource for federal, state and local updates. You can email Vickie at vrubin@kaleidahealth.org and enter parent or professional in the subject line.

We look forward to continuing our work with families and increasing our work with regional professionals. When we make a difference to one professional, it impacts MANY children!

Vickie Rubin, M.S. Ed.
Director
Early Childhood Direction Center

BACK TO SCHOOL

By Tracey Banks



The lazy summer days of sleeping in, relaxed routines, and staying up late are coming to an end for many families. Whether your child is returning to the preschool they attended last year or starting kindergarten, things are going to be changing. Start now to help make a successful transition back to school.

School Time Schedule:

Begin to get your family back to a school time schedule with bath, bed and wake up time. Plan plenty of time for dressing, fixing lunches, getting supplies together and the sure to happen unplanned events. Have your child help you with the schedule and in deciding what responsibilities will be hers. Check with the school to see

what time lunch is served, if they will be having a snack and if there is a rest period and start aligning your schedule to the new school schedule.

Bus and School Routines:

Visit the school, the bus and the bus stop. Some children are comfortable after one visit, but others may need several visits to allay fears and learn the routines. Practice the "drop-off" and "pick-up" routines either at the bus stop or at the school. Tour the school to see the cafeteria, gym, bathrooms and the classroom your child will attend. Try to meet the teacher and as many of the other school personnel as possible.

Safety Rules:

As your child gains more independence safety becomes more important. Make sure your child understands and obeys safety rules such as walking on sidewalks, refusing gifts and rides from strangers, crossing the street at crosswalks and listening to teachers, principals, crossing guards and bus drivers. Role-playing safety situations may help children feel more comfortable with their responses.

Communication:

Establishing a partnership with your child's teacher is the most effective means of ensuring a successful school year for your child. Take time to introduce yourself to the teacher, share information about your family and your child, and discuss information that you would like from the teacher and ways that this will be done. Let the teacher know the best ways and times to contact you. Find out the same information for contacting the teacher. The more contact and communication you have with the school the better it will be for you and your child.

Start now to help with a smooth transition back to school, but still take time to enjoy the summer.

For more transition tips visit www.terrifictransitions.org



FAMILY INVOLVEMENT:

Creating partnerships with your child's teachers and service providers

HOW TO TALK THE TALK

Wednesday November 14, 2007 from 7:00-9:00 pm

Lucarelli's Banquet Center, 1830 Abbott Road, Lackawanna

- **Do you feel like your child's teacher or therapist is not listening to you?**
 - **Are you frustrated that your knowledge and expertise about your child is not valued by some professionals?**
 - **Would you like to communicate more effectively with your child's teachers and service providers?**
- Dr Epstein can give you the tools!**



Dr. Joyce Epstein is the Director of the National Network of Partnership Schools and the Center on School, Family, and Community Partnerships. Dr. Epstein is the research professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. She has written over 100 publications on parent involvement. In 1996, Dr. Epstein established the National Network of Partnership Schools to connect research policy and practice for school improvement. Dr. Epstein was a recipient of the Academy for Educational Department's Alvin C. Eurich Education Award and also received an award in 1997 from Working Mother magazine for her work on school-family partnerships.

Hosted by: Early Childhood Direction Center, EPIC-Every Person Influences Children, Parent Network of WNY, and People Inc.

This event is sponsored by Kaleida Health, Buffalo Public Schools, Childpro, Families Can, Baker Victory Services, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Buffalo Hearing and Speech, Buffalo Urban League, Summit Educational Resources, Gateway-Longview, Autistic Services Inc., Crisis Services, New York State Disabilities Advocacy Association & Network, and The Children's Mental Health Coalition of WNY Inc.

The cost for this event is \$5.00 per person

Call: 716 817-7484 to RSVP by November 2, 2007

Please make check payable to People Inc. and mail the registration to:
People Inc. 1219 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number _____

Please circle one: Parent Professional Payment Amount _____



ATTENTION PARENTS and PROFESSIONALS!



Are you are interested in learning more about the special education system?

Do you want to be a **Parent Member** of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) for your school district?

Then you should attend one of these **FREE**
Overview of Special Education workshops!

- Gain a better understanding of the special education system.
- Know what to expect at a CSE/CPSE meeting.
- Understand the roles of the CSE/CPSE members.
- Learn how to help develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Walk away with tips on being an effective **parent member** of the CSE/CPSE.

The more you know the better you can advocate for students with a disability.

When: August 7, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Where: Parent Network of WNY, 1000 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202

When: September 19, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Where: Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES Center, 1825 Windfall Rd., Olean, NY 14760

When: September 20, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Where: Erie 1 BOCES Ed. Center, Room A-4, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

When: September 26, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Where: Orleans-Niagara BOCES, Room 9, 4124 Saunders Settlement Rd., Sanborn, NY14132

When: October 23, 2007 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where: Erie 1 BOCES Ed. Center, A-1, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

***NOTE: This course is for current Parent Members to refine their skills. Participants MUST have attended a previous Overview of Special Education/Parent Member training.**

When: November 6, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Where: Erie 2 BOCES, LoGuidice Center, 9520 Fredonia Stockton Rd., Fredonia, NY 14063

When: December 7, 2007 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Where: Belmont BOCES Center, 5536 County Route 48, Belmont, NY 14813

Lunch will be provided for all full-day (5 hour) sessions!

Call (716) 332-4170 or 1-866-277-4762 toll free to register.

Please let us know if you need assistance with childcare or transportation when you register.

Brought to you by:



Funded by: New York State Commission on Quality of Care (CQC)

To download this flyer and others go to: www.parentnetworkwny.org