



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
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Dear ECDC:

Ask ECDC

I am not sure that my child is ready for kindergarten, will he still receive services if I don't send him to school next year? Tammy

Stacie Ricioppo replies:

Sending a child to kindergarten is an exciting and sometimes scary time for any parent. When your child has special needs, it can be even more overwhelming. A question we often hear is "are they ready?" In every kindergarten classroom, there are children of varying levels. For example, some five year olds can read, others are learning the alphabet and can write their name, and still others are learning how to hold a pencil. Some children may have spent all of their day at home with a family member and others have been in preschool for a couple of years. All of these differences create the exciting first year of learning for many children. Children are not developmentally the same and every child will experience many new "firsts" in Kindergarten.

When a child becomes age eligible for kindergarten and needs special education services they will be referred to the Committee on Special Education (CSE). Kindergarten at age 5 is not mandatory and you do not have to send your child to school. The CSE, of which you are a member, will determine the services your child will receive and how the services will be provided. The CSE will provide services regardless if you choose to send your child to school or wait an additional year. The committee is not required to provide services outside of the district when a child becomes school age. You may need to take your child to school to receive related services.

Talk to the school and consider all your options when making this decision. What changes do you expect to see if you decide to wait the additional year? Can your child be successful in Kindergarten with the

appropriate supports? Tell the CSE about your concerns and ask what can be done to help your child make this transition to kindergarten a smooth one. Remember, you can always call ECDC and talk this over with us.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

By Vickie Rubin



I'm BORED! I remember hearing that from my kids usually the first Monday after school ended. I would reply, "What do you mean, bored? You just told me you couldn't wait for summer break to start." So, as an assist for your summer we decided to give you some ideas of what to do.

When I decided to write this article I gathered three friends who also happen to be experts in the disability and "what to do" field. The result of our discussion is below.

1. DDAWNY (Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York) has a link to recreation activities for individuals with disabilities: (I hope you are receiving this online because that is ONE LONG link!) http://www.siteground153.com/~ddawny2/index.php?option=com_remository&Itemid=65&func=fileinfo&id=286
2. Albright Knox Art Gallery - Free admission on Fridays from 3 to 10 pm. <http://albrightknox.org/>
3. The Hatch- "sit by the lake and watch the world go by" - The Hatch, Foot of Erie St, Buffalo - 716-851-5389
4. WNY Adaptive Water Sports <http://www.wnyadaptivewatersports.org/>
5. ACCESS Pass to parks provides free use of the parks, historic sites, and

recreational facilities operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

<http://www.nysparks.com/info/accesspass.asp>

6. Check out ArtVoice www.artvoice.com
7. Buffalo News Gusto <http://www.buffalonews.com/entertainment/gusto/>
8. Local Bee newspapers <http://www.beenews.com/>
9. How about a Farmer's Market? Just do a Google search for your county and many sites will pop-up!
10. Don't forget your local libraries!

Also check out the list of accessible activities on our website which was developed by parents and students in an Erie County school district:

<http://www.wchob.org/ecdc/>

If you have additional ideas to share drop me a note and I will share it with the email list.

vrubin@kaleidahealth.org.

As for me, my husband is dragging me to a remote cabin somewhere in NYS for 1 week - NO computer and NO cell phone...I'm Bored! =0)

Early Childhood Direction Center

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 New York State Education Department and hosted by Women and Children's Hospital.

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