



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

MARCH 2009

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.

Upcoming Conference
Discipline with Dignity: Effective Strategies To Manage Difficult Behavior
A full day conference for professionals and parents

Featuring distinguished speaker

Allen N. Mendler, Ph. D.

April 30, 2009

Please call (716) 817-7484 for additional information or go to the People Inc. website under latest news to register.

www.people-inc.org

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Are you a mother with a child, 2 ½ to 3 years old, enrolled in early interventions services? If so, we would like to invite you to participate in a study to help us learn how to help families and their children as they move from early intervention services to preschool special services. If your child is currently in early intervention and you have not had your formal transition meeting with the Committee for Preschool Special Education, you are eligible for the study.

Each interview will take about 1 hour. Participants will receive a \$25 gift card to Target for each interview. To find out more about the study please contact: Linda Caley PhD, RN School of Nursing, University at Buffalo Phone 716-829-3340 or Email Nurse-TPSSStudv@buffalo.edu
Webpage: www.buffalo.edu/~lcaley



Dear ECDC,

Ask ECDC

My child

Mia is 18 months old and recently had her well baby visit, they did a questionnaire called the M-CHAT. I don't know why they tested Mia. Is what I heard true, could this mean that she has Autism?
Maggie

Vickie Rubin responds:

Thank you for asking your question. Many parents are puzzled about this screening of their toddlers. In 2008, Governor Patterson signed a law requiring that the Department of Health set up a system for early screening of Autism. The M-CHAT and follow-up parent interview is the tool that was chosen and it is typically given to toddlers at their 18 and 24-month-old pediatrician well visits. The M-CHAT consists of 23 yes/ no questions that parents answer about their child's behavior and development. Parents of children who score at-risk (there is some concern) on the screening will be given a follow-up interview by their child's health care provider. Please remember that this is a screening tool and is not used to make a formal diagnosis. Your doctor can discuss further testing with you. Not all children who are shown to be at-risk will be diagnosed with Autism. The power of this tool is that children who are at-risk for Autism or other developmental concerns will be identified at an early age so that they can get needed services.

To answer your question, your pediatrician is following Department of Health standard procedures by administering the M-CHAT to Mia and all other toddlers who are Mia's age. Please feel free to call the Early Childhood Direction Center if you have concerns about Mia's development.

ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A DIVORCE OR SEPARATION?



The New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program (PEAP) is a program designed to educate divorcing or separating parents about the impact of their breakup on their children. Parent education is offered by certified providers to help separating or divorcing parents better understand the effects of their breakup on their children and to give them information and ideas about how to make the new family situation easier and more livable for themselves and their children. You do not have to know someone who is undergoing a separation, divorce or other child-centered litigation, and you do not have to experience it yourself, to recognize that putting children in the middle of the adult conflict can be detrimental to their health and well-being.

The program currently has 50 certified providers with a presence in all 62 Counties in New York State. Experience and research have shown that parent education does make a positive difference for children and their parents who are experiencing divorce or separation and it can help bring about a reduced need for court intervention. To learn more about the program or to contact PEAP please check the website at www.nycourts.gov/parented, call 888-809-2798, or by mail at the New York State Parent Education and Awareness Program, 140 Grand Street, Suite 701, White Plains, New York 10601.

Rivers know this: there is no hurry.
We shall get there some day.
Winnie the Pooh