



September 2009

NEW DIRECTIONS

Early Childhood Direction Center

c/o Women and Children's
Hospital
219 Bryant St.
Buffalo, NY 14222
PHONE (716) 880-3875 or
1 800 462-7653
FAX (716) 836-1252

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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 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.

Healthy Hygiene Tips for Families of Preschoolers

By: Jilliana Craig, RN, ICP and Susan Michalec, RN, ICP

Some Tips on Staying Healthy during the upcoming Flu season:



Children need to get plenty of sleep and physical activity, drink water, practice hand hygiene often, and eat good food to help them stay healthy in the winter and all year.

- Remind children to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue or cough and sneeze into their sleeve. If a tissue is used, have them throw it away immediately after use, then wash their hands.
- Remind them to wash their hands often with soap and water. Have your child sing the "happy birthday" song two times, which is about the right amount of time that is normally recommended when washing (15-20 seconds). Alcohol based hand gels and wipes work too when sanitizing hands. When you apply a dime size amount of gel on your hands rub the gel over all surfaces and allow the gel to dry completely. .
- Remind children not to touch their eyes, nose, or mouth because germs may spread this way.
- Have your kids enjoy practicing healthy habits by logging on to www.scrubclub.org. Kids can learn about health and hygiene and become members of the Scrub Club. The website offers seven "soaper -heroes" who battle nasty germs and bacteria!
- Remember there is a Seasonal Flu vaccine and hopefully coming soon will be the H1N1 "Swine Flu" vaccine. Check with your child's physician about any needed vaccines.
- And remember, hand washing is the first, and the best line of defense you can use for fighting not just the flu but other germs too!
- Any other questions please visit www.cdc.gov for other useful information and helpful tips.



Websites to investigate:

www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com
<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/resources.html>
<http://www.nysfamilyresources.org/>



UPCOMING EVENT

The 3rd Annual Northtowns Family Agency Fair and Parent Conference (NFAFPC)

Want to know more about the services, supports, and community resources that are available for your child or student? If you answered yes, then we hope you will join us at the NFAFPC!

Agencies from across WNY who provide services, recreational activities, educational opportunities, transition supports, and much more will be on-hand with information and to answer your questions.

This year the NFAFPC will feature a FREE keynote speaker, Eustacia Cutler! Ms. Cutler is the mother of one of the most successful autistic persons in the world, Dr. Temple Grandin. Ms. Cutler will share her story and discuss the joys and struggles that she experienced in order to give her daughter every opportunity to succeed.

**WHEN: Saturday, November 21st, 2009
9am – 3pm**

**WHERE: Kenmore West Senior High School,
33 Highland Pkwy, Buffalo, NY 14223**

QUESTIONS: For more information on the NFAFPC, please contact Aimee at 876-3019, visit www.kentonsepts.com or email kentonsepts@gmail.com.

Dear ECDC:

I am concerned about my daughter's development and at a recent pediatrician's appointment she referred me to Early Intervention and also to you. What is the difference between EI and ECDC and what services do you provide?
Tara-Buffalo

Ask ECDC

Ruth Malinowski replies:

Thanks for your question. Many parents are confused about the difference between the two programs.

The Early Intervention Program (EI) is a statewide program that provides many different types of early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Early intervention services are provided to help your child grow and develop, and to help you support and promote your child's development. These services include evaluation services (including hearing and vision screening); home visits; speech, physical and other therapies; child development groups; family counseling; and, sometimes, even help with transportation. These services are provided at no out-of-pocket cost to you.

The Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) is also a free service whose primary purpose is to help families understand the complicated systems and provide tools to make decisions about their child's services and programs. ECDC works with professionals and families of children birth to five who have a suspected or diagnosed delay or disability. We offer many workshops to help you through the process – please call us for details. We also offer a Lending Library, information and referral.

So what is the difference between the two programs? If your child shows a delay in their development or behavior or there is a concern that your child is at risk for a delay, if eligible, EI will provide the therapy and/ or educational services and support. ECDC can provide your family information on the supports and services available in the community and provide training to help you maximize your child's potential.

If you would like to register for the following training please call 880-3875.

Upcoming Parent Member Training

This workshop will enable participants to learn how to become an effective parent member of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). Those who attend this workshop will gain a better understanding of the special education system, learn how to develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and also learn what to expect at a Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) meeting in their school district.
Note: This workshop is not limited to those interested in becoming a Parent Member. This workshop is open to all interested in learning an overview of special education and how to develop an IEP.

Date: September 15, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Location: Orleans-Niagara BOCES Center
4124 Saunders Settlement Rd.
Sanborn, NY 14132**

Date: October 15, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Location: Erie 2 BOCES LoGuidice Center
9520 Fredonia-Stockton Road
Fredonia, NY 14063**

Date: November 6, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Location: Erie 1 BOCES Education Center
355 Harlem Road
West Seneca, NY 14224**

Date: December 15, 2009

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Location: Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES
1825 Windfall Road
Olean, NY 14760**