



NEW DIRECTIONS

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EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTION CENTER

ECDC is a free resource for professionals and families with children birth to five with suspected or diagnosed delays or disabilities. ECDC works collaboratively with the local Special Education Resource Training Center (SETRC) and Special Education Quality Assurance (SEQA) networks to provide technical support and professional development to regional school districts; preschool providers and child care providers. ECDC is funded by the New York State Education Department and hosted by Women and Children's Hospital. If you would like to be included on our list serve for this newsletter, please send an email with prof. newsletter and the county you're from on the subject line to vrubin@kaleidahealth.org

"TO WORK WITH YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TAKES A SPECIAL PERSON"

By Diane Salverson



For teachers and service providers a new school year is beginning along with their many responsibilities. There are seemingly endless meetings, planning, paperwork, parent and professional communications. All of these responsibilities are part of establishing the best outcomes for young children with special needs. With much of our energy put into our professional efforts of persistence, consistency, teamwork, ingenuity, flexibility, endless hope, concern and compassion, the reward still comes when the child attempts or accomplishes a new skill. We are making a difference for the child's future. We celebrate and give much needed praise and positive feedback to the child! Can you recall one or many of these moments? Think about them for a minute. Besides the parents whom else would understand our excitement? As we strive to enhance the abilities of the child, the child draws out of us creativity, abilities and ingenuity that we may or may not have had before, alone or as a team. It is a win-win situation.

For parents, there is no doubt that they need the support and skills of professionals to help their child succeed. We are interdependent upon each other. A child's life is in all of our hands and it is up to all of us to strive for the best life possible for them. With creativity and focus on the child and their needs, they can have the education they need. It cannot however, be accomplished one without the other. There must be common understanding of the desired outcome. Our priority is the child first!

At least once we have heard someone say, "To work with young children with special needs takes a special person." We are special people because we first see a child, a child with abilities and interests, and a child that needs us to be our professional compassionate best, to work together with their families and always keep them first.

TWO AWARD WINNERS AT ECDC!

We are proud to announce that Stacie Ricioppo won the Developmental Disabilities Day SERVICE PROVIDER Award, which honors an employee, volunteer, or other professional service provider who has actively and successfully worked to develop or access programs or services that help individuals with special needs move forward in their lives. Stacie's award was presented at the 20th annual Developmental Disabilities Day on May 22, 2008 at the Buffalo Convention Center.



We also would like to congratulate Diane Salverson. Diane was selected as the first recipient of the Judith Bondurant-Utz Early Childhood Award from Buffalo State College! Her name will be listed in the 2009 commencement program and she will receive a tuition award. The Judith Bondurant-Utz Early Childhood Award is given annually to an outstanding graduate student in the Early Childhood Special Education Master's Program at Buffalo State College.

ECDC has a FABULOUS TEAM!

HEALTHY FACT

RECOMMENDED HEALTH SCREENINGS				
Service	18-39 years	40-49 years	50-64 years	65 years and older
Routine Health Exam	Every 5 years	Every 3 years	Every 2 years	Every one to 2 years
Lipid Screening-Cholesterol	Men and Women age 20 years and older every 5 years			
Chlamydia	All sexually active women every year			
Clinical Breast Exam	Every 3 years	Annually		
Pap Smear	Every 3 years			
Skin Cancer Screening	Every 3 years	Annually		
Mammogram		Every 1-2 years		
Influenza vaccine		Yearly		
Vision Screening		Every 3-5 years	Every 1-2 years	
Tetanus-diphtheria vaccine	Every 10 years from age 18			
Prostate Cancer Screening			Beginning at age 50, discuss screening options with your physician	
Colon Cancer Screening			Begin screening at age 50	
Osteoporosis Screening			Bone density testing starting at age 65	
Pneumococcal Vaccine			Once at age 65	