



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

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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

ECDC WEBSITE: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

By Ruth Malinowski



If you haven't visited our website recently then now is the time. We have updated the pages to show a more accurate picture of the ways ECDC can help. The home page and services page list the ways we can help and gives information on how you can join our email distribution list. If you are looking to schedule or attend a workshop there is a complete list of the workshops that are available on the workshops and parent education page. The helpline and inclusion pages are the places to go if you are a provider of child care and have concerns about the children in your care. Our newly added tools page has documents that may help all professionals along with a list of the books and videos that can be borrowed from our inclusion lending library. The final page includes both the current and past ECDC newsletters. Please take the time to visit us soon!

www.wchob.org/ecdc



HOT OFF THE PRESSES: THE RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

By Diane Salverson

The Resource Directory for Child Care Providers, 2nd edition, provides directions and information to assist child care providers in accessing services for children under their care who may have special needs. The information contained in this directory gives some basic facts such as whom to call and what to expect from the referral process, evaluation, and possible service delivery for both Early Intervention (Birth to Three) and Preschool Special Education (Three to Five). There is also a glossary of terms, a checklist of indicators that a child may need help, phone numbers and addresses of service providers, samples of frequently used forms, and internet resources.

The Resource Directory gives child care providers the tools to address concerns regarding the children they serve. If you would like a free resource directory please call Diane Salverson at (716) 880-3876

HEALTHY FACT

Keep your colleagues, family, and friends germ free.

Bring your bent arm to your face, with your mouth touching your sleeve.

Don't cover your cough with your hand, as you were always told.

Cough and sneeze into your arm to stop spreading your flu and cold.

WHAT IS THE LOCAL PRESCHOOL TASK FORCE?

By Vickie Rubin

If you are involved with your Committee on Preschool Special Education, a provider of service for preschool students with disabilities, an approved preschool special education provider, a child care or Head Start provider, County representative or other interested party, the Preschool Taskforce is the committee to attend. ECDC is currently the chair of both the Erie Preschool Taskforce and the Niagara-Orleans Preschool Taskforce.

In attendance, along with your colleagues, are representatives from the county, Special Education Quality Assurance (SEQA), Regional Special Education Training and Resource Center (SETRC) and the Early Childhood Direction Center.

The taskforce is an opportunity where all professionals who are involved in providing services to preschool children with disabilities gather to discuss common concerns, formulate decisions, and learn about New York State special education updates.

A typical agenda includes: updates from representatives of VESID, field memos, information on SPPs, IEP Direct or Clear Track, collaboration strategies, workgroups that are developed around a common regional concern, discussions about elimination of duplicative forms and procedures and most importantly brainstorming. The task force is a unique opportunity where you can get questions answered and facilitate discussion with your fellow providers of services. We only meet four times per year and it is worth the effort.

If you would like additional information on joining your local preschool taskforce or creating a taskforce in your county, with support from the Early Childhood Direction Center, please contact Vickie Rubin @ vrubin@kaleidahealth.org or 716-880-3880.