



NEW DIRECTIONS

November 2009 Professional Edition



Early Childhood Direction Center

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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 Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center [RSE-TASC] 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 Celebrates 30 Years of Service

The Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) is celebrating its 30th year of service to families and professionals in our community. ECDC was originally founded by Sandy Smith as an organization called Special Help for Special Children because she needed to find resources for her son, Jason. At about the same time New York State was forming the Early Childhood Direction Centers and Sandy who was known for her leadership of Special Help For Special Children was asked to head the first "parent run" direction center in our region. ECDC has developed and changed as our population has evolved. Initially, we received the grant to provide Early Intervention (EI) Services in our area with the county. Once EI grew, our role with families changed from mainly providing service coordination to providing support, information and referral for families and professionals. Since its inception, ECDC has helped tens of thousands of families and professionals with linkage to many programs and services. As we celebrate this milestone, we are grateful to the many individuals and collaborative agencies that have supported ECDC. Particularly, we want to thank the New York State Education Department, Kaleida Health, Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and People Inc. for their generous support of this important program.



CPSE/CSE Parent Member Training

The Early Childhood Direction Center has collaborated with Parent Network of WNY and the Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Center to develop a workshop for parents and parent members. We would like to ask school districts to encourage parents who are interested in becoming a parent member to attend one of the upcoming workshops. This workshop teaches participants the steps to the special education process and helps them understand a child's special education rights. They learn what to expect at a CSE/CPSE meeting and how to advocate for their child. Participants receive tips and tools to become more involved in the planning of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to insure it is truly individualized to fit a student's needs. This workshop is open to everyone interested in the Special Education process. At the end of the workshop, participants receive a certificate of attendance which they can then take to their school district as proof of receiving the knowledge necessary to be an effective parent member on the CPSE/CSE. To register for these upcoming workshops or for more information call toll free: 1-866-277-4762

Special Education: What's it all about?

Date: December 5, 2009

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Parent Network of WNY
1000 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Date: December 15, 2009

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

Location:

Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES Center
1825 Windfall Road
Olean, NY 14760

Websites to investigate:

Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Centers
<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/rsetasc/home.html>

Accessible Toy Guide For Children.
<http://trus.imageg.net/graphics/corp/diff-abled-guide-2009.pdf>

Talking to Parents About Autism Action Kit
<http://autismearlyeducatorskit.com>



Move Kids Bodies to Grow Their Brains

By Tracey Banks



UPCOMING MEETINGS SAVE THE DATES



Meetings 2009-2010	Erie 1 BOCES 355 Harlem Rd. West Seneca	Erie 2 BOCES LoGuidice Center 9520 Fredonia Stockton Rd. Fredonia	O/N BOCES 4124 Saunders Settlement Rd. Sanborn	C/A BOCES 1825 Windfall Rd. Olean
CPSE Chairperson RoundTable	Time: 1:00-3:00 Dates: Jan 28 March 11	Time: 9:30-11:30 Dates: Jan 22 March 26	Time: 1:00-3:00 Dates: Jan 11 March 15	Time: 9:30-11:30 Dates: Dec 16 Jan 26 April 29
CPSE Taskforce: Districts, Providers and County Reps	Time: 1:00-3:00 Dates: Nov 6 Feb 5 May 7	Time: 9:30-11:30 Dates: Nov 13 Feb 26 May 7	Time: 1:00-3:00 Dates: Nov 16 Feb 8 May 10	Time: 9:30-11:30 Dates: Nov 12 March 10 June 8

Sharron Krull, a nationally recognized author, teacher, trainer and play guru had over 100 early childhood professionals moving, marching and dancing at the annual Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) of WNY conference. All of the music and movement demonstrated the importance of having young children involved in physical activity, not just to promote fitness, but also to get children's brains ready to learn. Sharron's message is that what children do physically in the first few years of life plays a major part in how well they will develop all other abilities, including reading, writing, mathematics and creativity.

The body and the brain should not be seen as separate entities, but rather as totally integrated and dependent on each other. The brain needs to be stimulated with movement to lead to cognitive and intellectual abilities. Sharron encouraged everyone working with young children to let children do the things that come naturally as they grow and develop – creep, crawl, spin around, and hang upside down – in order to promote brain development.

Children are growing into their brains. Help them grow through swinging, jumping, rolling, tumbling, dancing and providing lots of time for movement and physical activity throughout the day.