



SPRING 2010

NEW DIRECTIONS

Early Childhood Direction Center

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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 the New York State Education Department, hosted by Women and Children's Hospital and provided in-kind support from People Inc.

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.



Annual Reviews: Suggestions for Parents and Professionals

By Kathy Coe, MA, SDA
Pediatric, Educational and Diagnostic Services-ECMCC

Parents

Annual review time is a time to discuss your child's progress and to agree on the level of continued services for the next school year and to determine if summer services are warranted. Know what is developmentally appropriate for a typical child at your child's chronological age before you go into the meeting. This will help keep your expectations realistic.

Annual review time is your opportunity to get answers or share your concerns on progress.

If you have a change in address or location for service provision, this is important information to share with your School District.

Professionals

Annual review is your opportunity to help the School District and parents know what you are seeing and understand what you have been focusing on and where you plan on proceeding with therapy. Be sure to use parent friendly language. It is easy to get caught up in our discipline specific jargon but take the time to clarify what the goals mean.



Websites to investigate:

www.aackids.psu.edu - Resource on early intervention with children with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and other disabilities.

<http://www.includingallkids.org/getting-program-planning-tools.php> -A wealth of resources on inclusion and inclusive practice is presented here.

www.niagaracc.suny.edu/wfcd/lp - Spring 2010 Personal & Professional Development Series Learning Pathways Program. Workshops for parents and professional on Special Education and Disability topics.

www.NYACTS.org -A website designed to provide current information on New York State services and supports for individuals with autism.

Dear ECDC,

Ask ECDC

My daughter Emily is having her first annual review this spring. How do I get ready for this meeting?
Joanne, Cheektowaga

Stacie Ricioppo replies:

One of the most important things you can do for your child is to be an active participant at your child's Annual Review. Here's how to get ready:



Before the meeting:

- Get copies and review your child's current progress reports and/or evaluations
- If you don't understand it ASK!
- Talk to your child's teachers and/or therapist
- Find out what is working well and what isn't
- Write down your questions (There are no stupid questions)

At the meeting:

- Bring a list of questions, and ASK them
- Bring a friend or spouse to help take notes, and keep you focused
- Have a positive attitude
- If a problem arises, think WE (How can we solve this?)
- If you don't understand ASK

After the meeting:

- Communicate with your child's teachers and/or therapist through notebooks, phone calls, email or meetings.
- Continue to evaluate: if something is not working talk to the team.
- Keep informed. Be an educated parent. Attend workshops and parent meetings.

Ideas For Summer Recreation Activities: It's Not Too Early To Start Planning!



While you are on summer break, take part in the free developmentally appropriate activities that WNY offers. Most towns have a Department of Recreation/Youth. Call them to obtain a list of their programs. It will probably be more cost effective than private recreation opportunities.

Each Thursday, the Buffalo News lists the "Best Bets" for weekend activities. They are usually free and family friendly. Wegman's is also a wonderful resource for things to do all year round. Don't forget the WNY Family Magazine which is free for distribution at all libraries.

Farmer's Markets are great for kids and run all summer long in most towns.

Whatever you choose for your child's recreation, focus on how your child can succeed and have fun!

Kathy Coe, MA, SDA
Pediatric, Educational and Diagnostic
Services-ECMCC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECREATION EXPO



Highlighting
Programs for People with Disabilities

Date: Saturday April 24, 2010
Where: Hamburg Town Arena
2982 Lakeview Road, Hamburg

Time: 10AM-4PM
(Hours subject to change)
Includes: Service providers
Program demonstrations
Product displays
Food
Entertainment
Prizes
and more!
Call (716) 646-5145 for further info

CONFERENCE ON SPECIAL NEEDS

June 7 – 9, 2010

*Niagara County Community College
Sanborn Campus
Guest Speaker: William Stillman
For more details, visit our website at
www.niagaracc.suny.edu/wfcd/lp*

Save the Date

No More Meltdowns:
Handling Challenging
Behaviors
and
Teaching Social Skills



A conference for professionals and parents
Featuring distinguished speaker

Jed Baker Ph D

May 12, 2010
At

Lucarelli's Banquet Center
1830 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, NY

For more information or to register call Tracey at
(716) 817-7484

22nd Annual DD awareness day

May 27, 2010

Buffalo Niagara Convention Center
Largest conference of its kind in the USA

People with developmental disabilities and
their families, experts from provider agencies
and local officials will convene to explore the
latest issues in the field.

Speakers*Exhibits*Awards* Workshops*
Live entertainment* Parents' Room

For information call 896-2180