



SPRING 2011

# NEW DIRECTIONS

## Early Childhood Direction Center

c/o Women and Children's Hospital  
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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 [ecdc@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:ecdc@kaleidahealth.org) and indicate whether you are a parent or a professional.

## NO MORE SERVICES: YIKES OR YIPPEE!

By Vickie Rubin



What do you mean my child no longer needs preschool special education services? Is this a good thing? Yes, it is a good thing; no longer needing services is a cause for celebration! Your child went through the preschool special education system, they received services and programs that addressed their unique needs, reached their goals and now they are ready to move on to the next step.

The intention of receiving preschool special education for most children is to help them catch up to their peers. When a child accomplishes their goals you can celebrate that the services worked! Preschool special education or school age special education is not a permanent support for most students.

Who decides that my child no longer needs services and how do I know if they are correct? Declassification means that your child no longer needs special education programs and services. The decision is made by your committee on preschool special education (CPSE), only after reevaluation has taken place. In other words, documentation must support that your child no longer needs services. Parents are members of their child's CPSE team and have input into the decisions that are made at the meeting. The decision to declassify is not taken lightly. Once the decision is made, you will receive a letter from your district (prior written notice) explaining the outcome of the meeting. You will also receive a copy of the evaluation report.

If your child is going to Kindergarten they may receive declassification support services to help the transition from special education to school-age general education. Declassification services can be provided directly to your child and/or your child's teacher and can last for up to one year after declassification. School districts have Academic Intervention Services (AIS) which may include assistance with math and reading as well as other supports. Call your district to see what AIS supports they provide. Declassification does not mean that your child used up their opportunity for special education services. If you notice that your child is struggling without services, you can ask for another evaluation to see if they still need support. If you have questions about your child's programs, declassification or any other information about the CPSE process please contact ECDC by phone or email.

YIKES- Declassification can be scary but it is also a cause for celebration- YIPPEE! All the hard work has paid off! You and your district gave your child the supports they needed to succeed! Congratulations!

Dear ECDC,

**Ask ECDC**

My 3 year old child may have a speech delay and I was told to send a request for an evaluation to my school district. I just received a packet from my district that talks about preschool special education? Special education is not what my daughter needs; she only has a speech delay.  
Taylor

Vickie Rubin responds:

Thank you for writing. We often receive this question; in fact, parents sometimes hesitate to complete the forms in the packet because they believe they are signing up for the wrong service! I hope we can give helpful information to you and other families whose child may need one service whether it is speech, occupational or physical therapy.

The quick definition of special education is "specially designed individualized or group instruction or special services or programs..."  
(<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/lawsregs/sect2001.htm>)

Special education is NOT a location, it is NOT a classroom and it is NOT a diagnosis. So what is it? Special education is a service that is meant to meet the unique needs of your child. It is the range of services provided, which may include therapies and/or special instruction.

Nobody knows your child as well as you and your concerns about your daughter's speech should be addressed. Please fill out the forms and return the packet to your district as soon as possible. If your child needs speech services, she can start services before entering Kindergarten.

Feel free to call or email ECDC at anytime to get more information on preschool special education and/or early intervention services.

## Websites to investigate:

### **Parent-child early literacy website**

<http://www.walearning.com/articles/take-advantage-of-our-free-parent-child-literacy-activities/>

### **What is ECDC?**

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/ecdc/qa.htm>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

23rd Annual  
**DD AWARENESS DAY**

**May 26, 2011**

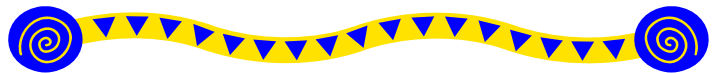
**Buffalo Niagara Convention Center**

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**

**Or visit [www.DDAWNY.org](http://www.DDAWNY.org)**



## **Transitions: What's Next?**

**Date:** August 10, 2011

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Daemen College - Wick Social Room

4380 Main St.

Amherst, NY

At this Free event, individuals with disabilities and their families will learn about the various transitions of life: birth to preschool; preschool to elementary school, elementary to middle school; middle to high school; high school to adult.

Call or go online to register today!  
[www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org)

**(716) 332-4170**

