



Spring 2012

# 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.

## Developmental Disabilities

### Awareness Day

By Vickie Rubin

The first time I experienced Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day (DD Day) I was amazed at all the supports and information that were available for individuals with disabilities, their families and professionals. The exhibit room held over 100 providers of service, equipment, support and recreation who were available to talk to families, professionals and self-advocates. The workshops had so many topics I didn't know how to choose. Jessica, my daughter, was born with severe developmental disabilities and she was my initial reason for entering the special education field. I went to DD Day 1998 wearing my Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) professional hat, but I left wearing two hats: parent and professional.

Fast-forward to 2012 and the 24th Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day. This year the event has moved from its former location to The Conference Center Niagara Falls, 101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls, NY. It still has many workshops and providers of service available to talk to families.

The keynote speaker is Zach Anner a comedian and cultural satirist born in Buffalo, New York. He has a condition known as cerebral palsy. After graduating from high school with honors and a GED, Zach attended college at the University of Texas at Austin. There he worked on the sketch comedy show "That's Awesome," the documentary show "The Wingmen," and the documentary "Forgotten Lives." Through his website: [therealzachanner.com](http://therealzachanner.com), Zach has released several witty online videos causing him to become an Internet phenomenon. Zach gained worldwide attention with his submission of a video to "Your OWN Show: Oprah's Search for the Next TV Star" competition. After participating in the competition Zach won his own travel show on OWN. Singer-musician John Mayer endorsed Zach from the beginning and wrote an original theme song for Zach's new show. On "Rollin' With Zach," he travels the country, pushing his limits as he tries everything from surfing to rock climbing. And when things don't go as planned, Zach embraces the problem with his sharp sense of humor and a positive attitude, because he believes life is an adventure and sometimes you just have to "roll with it."

Western New York is fortunate to have this annual event. This year DD Day will be held **Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 2012**, from 8:00am-4:00 pm. Do yourself, the families you work with and/or your own family member a favor and attend this wonderful local event. For more information please contact ECDC at [ecdc@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:ecdc@kaleidahealth.org) or 716-880-3875. If you want to register for DD Day please go to this link <http://www.ddday.org/>



## Coming soon to Women and Children's Hospital – Family Resource Center (FRC)!



ECDC is thrilled to be part of the planning team for The Family Resource Center (FRC) which is expected to open Spring, 2012.

The FRC will be a place for families to learn about different childhood health conditions, specific diagnosis and disability information, support group information, special education, parenting, safety, behavior, hospital services, community resources and more. Our resources will be in a variety of formats including: print, audio, and electronic. The Center will have experienced and caring staff to answer your questions and help locate information and resources; ECDC plans to provide support and information once the center opens. Our friends and colleagues at Parent Network are also part of the planning group and will provide additional resources.

The FRC is not only a place for learning and resources, it is also a comfortable family friendly area where you can take a break and perhaps read a magazine or find a recipe. Children are always welcome and we will have children's books and toys. All services are always free.

When your child is staying at Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo, you can visit the FRC to find information, ask a question or just unwind. If your child is no longer a patient at Women and Children's Hospital you can still visit the Family Resource Center; a community resource!

If you have suggestions for the FRC please contact us at [ecdc@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:ecdc@kaleidahealth.org) with your ideas.



**Kaleida Health**



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Here are 3 Great Reasons to "Like"  
Our Early Childhood Direction Center  
WNY Facebook Page

1. To get up-to-date information directly to your page
2. To hear about local events
3. Postings every week of special education information and inspiration

And if that's not enough then help us reach our goal of 500 fans this year!

Please click here to join



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## Websites to investigate:

Julia's Butterfly Foundation provides grants in the tri-state area to support the needs of terminally or chronically ill children and their families. In addition to treatments, equipment, and supplies, they accept requests for emergency heat, electricity and phone needs:

<http://juliabutterflyfoundation.org>



*Live and work but do not forget to play, to have fun in life and really enjoy it.*

*-Eileen Caddy*