



NEW DIRECTIONS

Spring 2013

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 and indicate whether you are a parent or a professional.



Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day By Vickie Rubin

Jessica, my daughter, was born with a severe developmental disability and was my initial reason for entering the special education field. So often, as the Director of the Early Childhood Direction

Center, I realize that the information I am researching for our ECDC families is also useful to my family; this happened the first time I went to Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day (DD Day). It was 1998 and I entered the convention center not knowing what to expect and was amazed by all the supports, workshops and information that were available for individuals with disabilities, their families and professionals. The exhibit room featured over 100 providers of service, equipment, support and recreation options. Experts were available to talk to families, professionals and self-advocates on a variety of subjects related to disability services. The workshops had so many topics I didn't know how to choose. I went to DD Day 1998 wearing my Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) professional hat, but I left wearing two hats: parent and professional.

This year is the 25th Annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day. Numerous workshops and providers of service will be available to talk to families for this Silver Anniversary. DD DAY is not just for families of older children, there are workshops, information and support for **families of young children** who receive services as well as families of children who are school age and older. My daughter is now 30 and I still learn something new each year! Western New York is fortunate to have this annual event.

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. or 716-880-3875. If you want to register for DD Day please go to this link <http://www.ddday.org/>

DATE: Thursday, May 23, 2013

TIME: 8:00am-4:00 pm.

LOCATION: The Conference Center Niagara Falls, 101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls, NY.



www.facebook.com/ECDCWNY1

The Family Resource Center of Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo is now open!

This new resource for families of patients will be available to access health education, hospital and community resources and other helpful information.

The Family Resource Center is located on the first floor just off the main lobby and near the 118 Hodge Avenue entrance. This new multi-purpose Family Resource Center offers comfortable space for families that includes the following:

- Information on community resources, agencies, and services accessible via websites and hard copies
- Approved information, books and websites specific to condition and diagnosis
- Recreational books and videos, in a lending library setting, for patients and families
- Computers for family use (to check email, research, pay bills, etc.)
- Copy/Fax machines
- Space for support groups to meet

Overall, the Family Resource Center is a place for family members of patients to get away for a little while to research, re-charge and relax throughout your child's hospital stay.

Staff from ECDC will be available on most Tuesdays. If your child is in Children's Hospital or you just want a face-to-face meeting at the Resource Center, call ECDC (880-3875) for an appointment or just stop by to chat!

DON'T WORRY THAT CHILDREN NEVER LISTEN TO YOU. WORRY THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS WATCHING YOU.
-ROBERT FULGHUM

Mental Health Issues in Young Children



Mental health problems in children below age 5 are both more prevalent than commonly thought and very often go untreated.

Relationships are the key for good mental health development in young children and they matter as early as infancy. Healthy development depends on the quality and reliability of a young child's relationships with the important people in his or her life, both within and outside the family. Few things are as important to mental health development for young children as having at least one secure attachment to a nurturing parent or caregiver who consistently responds in a caring way to children's needs.

Read more about mental health of infants, toddlers, preschoolers and recommendations to improve outcomes for young children at http://www.nyccd.org/pdfs/pdf_promoting_Health_june2011.pdf

Families

If your child is receiving CPSE services and you move please remember to advise both your old and new school district of your new address.