



Summer 2012

NEW DIRECTIONS

Early Childhood Direction Center

c/o Women and Children's Hospital
219 Bryant St.
Buffalo, NY 14222
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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.

New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Do you want to know about services, other than education, that may be available for your child?

If your child has a developmental disability they may be eligible for services through the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Developmental Disabilities include: Intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, familial dysautonomia or neurological impairment. Another criterion for eligibility is a 12- month delay in one or more functional areas such as: physical or movement, cognitive or thinking skills, language, social and adapting to change.

A specific diagnosis is NOT needed for children birth to seven years of age. A child can have temporary eligibility until age seven. Re-evaluation may occur after age seven to determine if he or she is still eligible. Services ARE NOT based on family income, your income is waived or ignored, and your child's needs are the determination of eligibility.

What kind of supports and services are available through OPWDD?

Below is a list of some potential services available along with a brief definition:

- **Medicaid Service Coordinator (MSC)** - helps connect your child to services and supports.
- **Respite**- provides relief to the caregiver
- **Plan of Care Supports**- Semi-Annual Service Coordination if you require less contact from a coordinator
- **Family Education and Training**- Classes offered to families to provide educational opportunities on services, supports, etc.
- **Adaptive Technology**- Provides funding to purchase equipment which may enhance independence
- **Family Support Services and Reimbursement**- Provides the possibility of purchasing services and goods that are not funded through any other sources
- **Behavioral Services**- for individuals who present substantial challenging behaviors that put someone at imminent risk of placement into a more restrictive living environment.
- **Environmental Modifications**- Funding available to modify the person's environment
- **Home and Community Based Waiver** - Services and supports to children and adults with long-term needs and their families to enable them to remain at home and in the community.

That was a lot of information! Fortunately you can click on one of the links on the next page, call ECDC at 716-880-3875 or email questions to ecdc@kaleidahealth.org for further details.



HELPFUL LINKS:

1. **Parent to Parent Guide to Understanding NYS OPWDD services -**
http://parenttoparentnys.org/healthcare/healthcare-details/guide_to_understanding_nys_opwdd_supports_services/
2. **OPWDD -**
http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/people_first_waiver/home
3. **Listing of DDSO in NYS**
<http://www.child-autism-parent-cafe.com/developmental-disabilities-services-office.html>
4. **Opening Doors**
<http://www.parentnetworkwny.org/Programs/OpeningDoors>

Save the Date!

Assistive Technology Expo & Conference



Communication, Mobility and Access

Thursday, October 4, 2012

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

Erie 1 BOCES

355 Harlem Road

West Seneca, NY 14224



Kaleida Health



Get Organized!



Accumulating paperwork can be overwhelming for parents of children with special needs.

Here are some tips to cut down on the clutter and get organized!

- Find and organize all of your papers. Whether you use a binder, an accordion-file folder, a box or a file cabinet, keep everything in a place that is easy to access. Find a filing method (by date, by topic, etc.) that works for you. (If you have a binder, try using dividers.)
- Keep a telephone log by your phone. This could be a notebook or printed log sheets. Write down the names of people you talk to, dates of all conversations and topics discussed.
- Use a calendar or a planner to map out your activities for the month.

ECDC and Parent Network of WNY provide a training to help you organize all of your paperwork, let us know if you would like to attend or host "Binder Training: what to do with all the paper".

sricioppo@Kaleidahealth.org

Websites to investigate:

Tots 'n Tech Helpdesk

<http://tnt.asu.edu/tnt-helpdesk>

The Tots 'n Tech Research Institute has updated its Helpdesk, which provides current information about adaptations and assistive technology (AT) for infants and toddlers.



National Resource Center on ADHD

www.help4adhd.org