



NEW DIRECTIONS

Summer 2015

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 listserve 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.



www.facebook.com/ECDCWNY1

Children on the Autism Spectrum bring me JOY & HOPE

By Bridget Palmer

I am a speech-language pathologist in the Buffalo Niagara region. For the past 18 years I have had the extraordinary opportunity to find joy and hope in my interactions with children on the autism spectrum.

Always
Unique
Totally
Interesting
Sometimes
Mysterious
graphipieces.com

I provide speech-language therapy for children with their parents, caregivers, and friends in their homes, daycare centers, and preschools. These children have taught me far more than I have taught them. They have taught me to go for the gleam in the eye, the gleam that shows me they are engaged and learning. They have taught me that nothing feels better than being understood. They have taught me that I can challenge them because we are in the learning process together. They have taught me that we can have a beautiful and meaningful conversation with words (in verbal communication) AND without words (in nonverbal communication). They have taught me that all behavior is communication, and so I must ask myself what a child's actions are telling me. They have taught me that affect and emotion are the keys to relating and communicating, and that learning builds from a strong emotional relationship. They have taught me that I have good ideas, but when given the chance, they have *great* ideas. They have taught me that children on the autism spectrum are warm, loving, fun, creative kids - *great kids*.

Their parents have taught me much as well. They have taught me that I may be an expert on communication development, but that they are the experts on their children. They have taught me that they, too, go for the gleam in the eye. They have taught me that we are in the learning process together, too, and that we can also challenge each other. They have taught me that they are insightful, creative, compassionate, caring, and resilient. They have taught me that we make an amazing team.

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Every day, children on the autism spectrum and their families bring me joy and hope as we go for the gleam in the eye and build educational and therapeutic relationships. Thank you, each of you.

To learn more about autism spectrum disorder please visit icdl.com and profectum.org.

About the Author: Bridget Palmer is a Speech-Language Pathologist who specializes in intervention for children with communication, regulatory, and sensory challenges, including children on the Autism Spectrum. She is the Autism Team Leader at Liberty POST and the DIR Floortime Mentor at Buffalo Hearing & Speech Center. She is a DIR Floortime Training Leader and lectures on DIR Floortime and its role in ASD treatment. Contact Bridget at bridget.a.palmer@gmail.com.



Autism Support groups provide a welcoming environment for parents & other caregivers to meet, share experiences, ask questions & receive support.



Erie County -Children's Guild Parent Support Group
Contact- Jana Mertz (716) 878-7600
jmertz@kaleidahealth.org

Niagara County Parent Group for Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
Contact- ECDC (716) 880-3875
ecdc@kaleidahealth.org

Cattaraugus County Parent Group for Parents of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
Contact- Peg Toll free: 1- 866-277-4762 or e-mail: cjc.1967@yahoo.com

There is
FUN
to be done!
~ Dr. Sless

Looking to have some fun??

Check out the Summer Fun for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

http://parentnetworkwny.org/files/documents/Directories/2015_A-List_Summer_Fun_for_families_with_ASDs.pdf