



Fall 2012

# NEW DIRECTIONS

## Early Childhood Direction Center

c/o Women and Children's Hospital  
219 Bryant St.  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
PHONE (716) 880-3875 or  
1 800 462-7653  
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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.

## Supporting Engagement and Learning using DIR®/Floortime™

By Lori Ciesielski and Bridget Palmer



Many parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders or other developmental challenges find it difficult to relate to and interact with their child in meaningful ways that support learning. The DIR®/Floortime™ model is helping to change this by supporting parents and their children by meeting them where they are and building from that point. DIR®/Floortime™ is a developmental, relationship based approach to treatment that was developed by Stanley Greenspan, MD and Serena Wieder, PhD. This interdisciplinary model includes the “D” which is made up of six core capacities of Functional Emotional Development, the “I” which describes the individual differences of the child, and the “R” which focuses on relationships, the vehicle for creating learning interactions. Floortime describes the specific technique which often includes getting down on the floor to interact with the child, while focusing on the child's interests to maximize opportunities for interactions.

The approach follows a prescribed treatment plan that is developed for each individual child based on his or her own developmental profile and assists the child to: learn how to attend and remain calm, form relationships with others with engagement, initiate and respond to all types of communication, engage in shared social problem-solving that involves many interactions in a row, use ideas to communicate needs and emotions, and bridge ideas together to think logically, enjoy peer relations and master academic skills.

In addition, the plan pays close attention to the child's individual differences, which include the sensory processing continuum, attention, praxis (motor planning and sequencing), auditory/verbal and visual processing as well as the child's interaction with people and objects.

Parents play an integral role in treatment because DIR recognizes that you are your child's first and most important play partner. This relationship supports your child's learning and development. With guidance and support, parents learn strategies that increase their child's attention and interaction. The goal is to enhance social interaction by recognizing when and how to use affect as an important strategy to engage a child. Parents will find the child's “comfort zone” in play and be able to know when and how to use sensory input, physical activity, and language to engage the child and help them problem solve and elaborate on ideas.

With supportive strategies and guidance, you CAN connect with your child!

For more information on DIR/Floortime go to [www.icdl.com](http://www.icdl.com)



## Relating to your child through DIR

Learn more about DIR/Floortime first hand from two experienced and certified local DIR therapists. This interactive session will include videos and personal stories from parents on how you can start using these techniques with your child today.

Thursday November 15, 2012

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: The Early Childhood Direction Center

3131 Sheridan Drive, People Inc Building  
(Northtown Plaza near Bailey)

Amherst NY 14226

RSVP and directions 716-880-3875

**Parent Network of Western New York  
Early Childhood Direction Center  
People Inc.  
Present**

## The Assistive Technology (AT) Expo



**Thursday, October 4, 2012**

**8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Lucarelli's Banquet Center**

**1830 Abbott Road**

**Lackawanna, New York 14218**

For additional information go to

[www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org)

Or

Call 716.817.7484

**PLAY!**

*We do not quit playing because  
we grow old. We grow old  
because we quit playing.*  
-Oliver Wendell Holmes

## Websites to investigate:

[http://www.pacer.org/stc/pubs/  
EZ-AT-book-2011-final.pdf](http://www.pacer.org/stc/pubs/EZ-AT-book-2011-final.pdf)



A guide for increasing young children's participation in daily activities and routines.

Looking for child  
care?

Give ECDC a call



716 880-3875

We have a list of inclusion friendly  
child care centers in the area



**Kaleida Health**