



# NEW DIRECTIONS

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## August 2007 Professional Edition

### The Early Childhood Direction Center

The ECDC is a free resource for professionals and families with children birth to five with suspected or diagnosed delays or disabilities. ECDC works collaboratively with the local Special Education Resource Training Center (SETRC) and Special Education Quality Assurance (SEQA) networks to provide technical support and professional development to regional school districts, preschool providers and child care providers. The ECDC is funded by New York State Education Department and hosted by Women and Children's Hospital.

If you would like to be included on our list serve for this newsletter, please send an email with prof. newsletter and the county you're from on the subject line to [vrubin@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:vrubin@kaleidahealth.org)

### LOOKING AHEAD

By Vickie Rubin,  
M.S. Ed.



The Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) is excited to share our new work plan with you. As you may already know, ECDC is funded by VESID (Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities) and is a Technical Assistance Center. Our goal is that one hundred percent of ECDC activities will support the State Education Department/VESID initiatives in meeting State Performance Plan Preschool Indicators numbers 6, 7, 8, 11, 12. The ECDC network will collaborate with other VESID technical assistance networks to provide support to our six-county Western New York region.

Our broad goals to address each of the preschool indicators are as follows:

**SPP 6 (Least Restrictive Environment)** – ECDC will identify and promote typical early childhood settings for preschool students with

disabilities to meet and/or exceed the state target work plan for each year.

**SPP 7 (Preschool Outcomes)** -

ECDC, in coordination and collaboration with our regional SETRC (Special Education Training and Resource Centers), will provide regional forums to identify improvement activities and learning opportunities for school districts, preschool providers and families.

**SPP 8 (Parental Involvement)** –

ECDC will provide training and technical assistance to families and the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) to increase parent and district partnering for the success of preschool students with disabilities.

**SPP 11 (Child Find)** - ECDC will identify and promote processes that ensure that preschool children suspected of having a disability are referred, evaluated, and have eligibility determined by the CPSE within 30 school days of receipt of the parental request for evaluation.

**SPP 12 (Early Childhood**

**Transition)** - ECDC will identify and promote processes that ensure children transition from early intervention to preschool special education services with a developed IEP prior to their third birthday.

We will **continue to support families** however our procedures will be changing. In the past, ECDC periodically called families to see how they were coping. Starting July 1, 2007 ECDC will stop making unsolicited calls; instead we will send our families an annual letter as a reminder of our services and encourage them to call us if they need assistance. We believe this will be a more effective way to reach families.

If you have not already done so, please consider joining the ECDC information email distribution list – our confidential information resource for federal, state and local updates. You can email Vickie at [vrubin@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:vrubin@kaleidahealth.org) and enter professional on the subject line. We look forward to continuing our work with families and increasing our work with regional professionals.

### NATIONAL MAGAZINE PUBLISHES ECDC ARTICLE



The New York State Developmental Planning Council (DDPC), Albany, New York will include the article "The Early Childhood Helpline and Inclusion Project: Creating Partnerships to Include All Children" in the Inclusive Child Care Publication, summer edition. Tracey Banks, Child Development/Inclusion Specialist, took the leadership for the writing of this article and Diane Salverson, Inclusion Specialist and Vickie Rubin, Manager assisted with the writing.

The New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council is a federally funded state agency working under the direction of Governor Eliot L. Spitzer. The agency is responsible for developing new ways to improve the delivery of services and supports New Yorkers with developmental disabilities and their families.

Congratulations to Tracey, Vickie and Diane for having their article accepted in this prestigious publication!

### UPCOMING TRAININGS CPSE PROCESS & PROCEDURES

10/11/07 9:30-2:30  
Orleans-Niagara BOCES  
11/7/07 9:30-2:30  
Erie 1 BOCES Ed. Center  
11/8/07 9:30-2:30  
Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES Center  
11/29/07 9:30-2:30  
Erie 2 BOCES, LoGuidice Center

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

10/15/07  
Erie 1 BOCES Ed. Center  
10/22/07  
Orleans/Niagara BOCES  
10/24/07  
TBA  
10/29/07  
TBA  
For more information please contact  
Stacie Ricioppo 716 880-3878

*Professionals, do you want to learn strategies to effectively work with parents?*

*Parents, do you want to learn strategies to effectively work with professionals?*

Learn how to build successful partnerships between school, family, community and peers. State Performance Plans and No Child Left Behind are requesting Parent Involvement; let's learn how to do it right!

We are proud to host Dr. Joyce Epstein, Award winning, national speaker with over 100 publications on the alliances between school-family-community partnerships and the Director of the National Network of Partnership Schools at

*A Full Day Workshop for Professionals & Parents*

**Thursday, November 15, 2007**

8:00 am – 3:30 pm

Lucarelli's Banquet Center

1830 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218

For additional information call (716) 817-7484 or visit our websites:

[www.people-inc.org](http://www.people-inc.org)

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

[www.wchob.org/ecdc](http://www.wchob.org/ecdc)

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



**ATTENTION PARENTS and PROFESSIONALS!**



Are you are interested in learning more about the special education system?

Do you want to be a **Parent Member** of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) for your school district?

Then you should attend one of these **FREE**

- Gain a better understanding of the special education system.
- Know what to expect at a CSE/CPSE meeting.
- Understand the roles of the CSE/CPSE members.
- Learn how to help develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Walk away with tips on being an effective **parent member** of the CSE/CPSE.

*The more you know the better you can advocate for students with a disability.*

When: August 7, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Where: Parent Network of WNY, 1000 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202

When: September 19, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Where: Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES Center, 1825 Windfall Rd., Olean, NY 14760

When: September 20, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Where: Erie 1 BOCES Ed. Center, Room A-4, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

When: September 26, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Where: Orleans-Niagara BOCES, Room 9, 4124 Saunders Settlement Rd., Sanborn, NY 14132

When: October 23, 2007 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Where: Erie 1 BOCES Ed. Center, A-1, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

**\*NOTE: This course is for current Parent Members to refine their skills. Participants MUST have attended a previous Overview of Special Education/Parent Member training.**

When: November 6, 2007 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Where: Erie 2 BOCES, LoGuidice Center, 9520 Fredonia Stockton Rd., Fredonia, NY 14063

When: December 7, 2007 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Where: Belmont BOCES Center, 5536 County Route 48, Belmont, NY 14813

***Lunch will be provided for all full-day (5 hour) sessions!***

**Call (716) 332-4170 or 1-866-277-4762 toll free to register.**

Please let us know if you need assistance with childcare or transportation when you register.

Brought to you by:



Funded by: New York State Commission on Quality of Care (CQC)

To download this flyer and others go to: [www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org)