



August 2009 Professional Edition

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
FAX (716) 836-1252

Vickie Rubin
Director

vrubin@kaleidahealth.org

Stacie Riccioppo
Education Coordinator
sricioppo@kaleidahealth.org

Tracey Banks
Inclusion Specialist
tbanks@kaleidahealth.org

Ruth Malinowski
Intake Coordinator
rmalinowski@kaleidahealth.org

Tanice Pendergrass
Early Childhood Connections
tpendergrass@kaleidahealth.org

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. ECDC is funded by the 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

Partnerships Between Special Education Service Providers and Early Childhood Teachers – Working Together for the Child's Success

By Tracey Banks, Child Development/Inclusion Specialist



A speech therapist working with two-year-old Mia arrives at a child care center at 1:00 pm to provide speech services. The child care teacher thinks to herself, "Why does this therapist have to come in the middle of nap time, doesn't she know Mia needs her rest?"

An occupational therapist drives 25 minutes to provide therapy to three-year-old Donte at a child care center only to find out that the class (including Donte) is out on a fieldtrip. The therapist thinks to herself, "Is it really so difficult to call and let me know that the class is going to be gone on a fieldtrip?"

These scenarios highlight some of the common challenges to establishing successful partnerships between early childhood teachers and special education service providers. Coordination of services for young children with disabilities takes more than a policy or list of services. It requires a commitment to communication, collaboration and creative problem solving.

Like any relationship, starting off on the right foot is key to establishing a working partnership. When a child will be receiving special education services in a community child care program, the teacher and therapist should talk with the parents about completing a permission form to enable information to be shared between the early childhood program and the special education service providers. This provides the opportunity for both parties to discuss progress, goals, activities, challenges and strategies.

Start off on the right foot by making introductions and sharing contact information for both the special education service provider and the child care program. Having phone numbers and/or email addresses can help to easily avoid scheduling issues in the future. This is also a good time to establish when and where services will be provided and to agree on a method for on-going communication between the teacher and therapist.

Other issues early childhood teachers and special education service providers should consider reviewing before they begin to work with children are:

- Visitor sign in procedures
- Classroom schedule and routines
- How to handle child and therapist absences
- If services will be "push-in" or "pull-out" and what space/materials will be needed
- Teacher observation of child progress and areas of need
- Modifications and/or activity suggestions from the therapist to assist classroom teachers in accommodating the child
- Best times for communicating for both the teacher and the therapist

The most important thing to remember in establishing and maintaining partnerships is that everyone has the same goal – the success of the child.

For information and assistance with including children with special needs in your program contact the Early Childhood Direction Center.

Websites to investigate:



www.oneplaceforspecialneeds.com

www.uhccf.org

www.inclusion.com

www.circleofinclusion.com

www.fpg.unc.edu (Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at University of North Carolina)

UPCOMING MEETINGS SAVE THE DATES



Meetings 2009-2010	Erie 1 BOCES 355 Harlem Rd. West Seneca	Erie 2 BOCES LoGuidice Center 9520 Fredonia Stockton Rd. Fredonia	O/N BOCES 4124 Saunders Settlement Rd. Sanborn	C/A BOCES 1825 Windfall Rd. Olean
CPSE Chairperson RoundTable	Time: 1:00-3:00 Dates: September 24 January 28 March 11	Time: 9:30 -11:30 Dates: September 25 January 22 March 26	Time: 1:00-3:00 Dates: October 19 January 11 March 15	Time: 9:30-11:30 Dates: October 1 December 16 January 26 April 29
CPSE Taskforce: Districts, Providers and County Representatives	Time: 1:00-3:00 Dates: August 7 November 6 February 5 May 7	Time: 9:30-11:30 Dates: November 13 (tentative) February 26 May 7	Time: 1:00-3:00 Dates: September 14 November 16 February 8 May 10	Time: 9:30-11:30 Dates: November 12 March 10 June 8