



# NEW DIRECTIONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTION CENTER C/O Women and Children's Hospital 219 Bryant Street Buffalo, NY 14222 PHONE 716-880-3875 1-800-462-7653 FAX (716) 836-1252 [www.wchob.org/ecdc](http://www.wchob.org/ecdc) Any questions? [rmalinowski@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:rmalinowski@kaleidahealth.org)

## February 2009 Professional Edition

### Early Childhood Direction Center

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](mailto:vrubin@kaleidahealth.org)

### Upcoming Conferences



### Discipline with Dignity: Effective strategies to manage difficult behavior

A full day conference for professionals and parents

Featuring distinguished speaker

**Allen N. Mendler, Ph. D.**

**April 30, 2009**

At

Lucarelli's Banquet Center

1830 Abbott Road

Lackawanna, NY

For more information:

Please call (716) 817-7484 or go to the People Inc. website under latest news to register. [www.people-inc.org](http://www.people-inc.org)

**All kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them.** Magic Johnson

### DIR/Floortime With: Jake Greenspan & Tim Bleecker March 12 & 13 2009

University at Buffalo, Amherst Campus

For more information and to register please visit:

[www.ubevents.org/event/floortime](http://www.ubevents.org/event/floortime)

### What if Today Was Their Only Day?



By Tracey Banks,  
Child  
Development/Inclusion Specialist

Lisa Murphy, also known as the "Ooey Gooley Lady," challenged over 170 early childhood professionals to stay connected to the passion that drew them to this field by asking the question, "What if today was their only day?" Through humor, stories and hands-on ooey gooley activities, her message was clear: All of us need to be committed to creating an exciting, relevant and meaningful environment for children – every day.

Many of us can remember that moment from our childhood, when a teacher, parent, neighbor or family member said or did something that made such an impact on our life that it became a formative piece of who we are. Maybe it was the grandmother who sang all those fabulous songs and read you nursery rhymes that inspired you to be a teacher, or the gym teacher who gave you the time to keep trying to climb that rope that inspired you to become a physical therapist. Lisa Murphy refers to these as "Crystallizing Moments." As adults working with young children we have to be aware that at any given moment we can have a life changing impact on a child – you won't know when it is and you can't plan for it, that is why we remind ourselves to act as if today is their only day.

Key to creating an environment prepared for crystallizing moments is TIME.

Children need time to explore and use materials when they want and for as long as they want. Lisa reminded us that play is the foundation of all future learning. Without adequate time to move, observe, sing, read, create, discuss and play, children will not have the foundation they need for reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. We often feel the pressure of making sure children are "ready" for school. By creating an environment that engages children in meaningful play experiences and giving them time to fully participate and explore, we are getting them ready for school.

There are many joys to working with young children, as well as many challenges. If we remind ourselves to start every day with our children as if this was their only day we can keep that passion and commitment that lead us to working in this field.

For more on Lisa Murphy visit her website –

[www.ooeygooley.com](http://www.ooeygooley.com)

### A Fond Farewell



ECDC would like to say good-bye to Diane Salverson, a member of our staff and a frequent contributor to this newsletter. Diane has relocated to Ohio to pursue other career opportunities and be closer to her grandchildren. We will all miss her and her contributions to New Directions and the Early Childhood Direction Center.