



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 Any questions? rmalinowski@Kaleidahealth.org

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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

SAVE THE DATE 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:

Call (716) 332-4170 or Email

info@parentnetworkwny.org

DIR/Floortime

Developmental Level, Individual Differences, and Interactive Relationships

**Speakers: Jake Greenspan & Tim
Bleeker**

March 12 & 13 2009

University at Buffalo, Amherst
Campus

For more information and to register
please visit:

www.ubevents.org/event/floortime

What's New with the State Education Department! By Stacie



Ricioppo

Have you visited the State Education Department website recently? There is some new information that you might find interesting.

On October 20, 2008 the Regents approved, through emergency action, an amendment to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education to extend the date by which school districts will be required to use the State's forms for individualized education programs (IEP), meeting notices, and prior written notices from January 1, 2009 to September 1, 2009. You can view the drafts of the proposed IEP form and notices on line, and view the schedule of public hearing for comments on the proposed State mandated forms.

The Annual Performance Report (APR) for 2006-07 has been updated with data and an explanation of progress/slippage relating to the graduation and drop-out rates for students with disabilities based on the 2003 total cohort of students with disabilities.

The Board of Regents has approved, for permanent adoption, regulations to conform the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education to New York State (NYS) Education Law, as amended by Chapter 378 of the Laws of 2007, IDEA 2004, and 34 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300. (OK, now say that three times fast!) The effective date of the amendment to regulations was August 21, 2008. We expect to see these changes incorporated in the State regulations in the near future. We will keep you posted.

Check it out.

www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/timely.htm



ECDC NEWS

By Vickie Rubin

The Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) was recently awarded a grant from the *Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York* to administer the **Early Childhood Connections (ECC)** Pilot Project, a collaboration of six pediatric practices and physician champions. The ECDC is keenly aware of the necessity of early identification and referral of children at risk for developmental and behavioral problems to existing services. Serving primarily children under the age of five, their families and supports, ECDC WNY uniquely has the in-depth knowledge of the services available in our community. ECC's goal is to link children at risk for developmental and behavior problems to existing community services

We are currently searching for an individual to fill the linkage coordinator position that will manage the day-to-day tasks of the ECC and collaborate with physicians, families and community supports. The coordinator will provide outreach to the community about our program as well as search for existing community supports. The children who will be served in the pilot project are under five years of age in Niagara and Erie Counties and are at risk for developmental, behavioral, social-emotional, and/or mental health issues, and who are not eligible for existing programs such as Early Intervention or Preschool Special Education services.

This is a unique opportunity to collaborate with referring physicians to help connect families of children with developmental/behavioral concerns to services. If you have additional questions about our new grant, please contact Vickie at vrubin@kaleidahealth.org