



Winter 2012-2013

NEW DIRECTIONS

Early Childhood Direction Center

c/o Women and Children's
Hospital
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Buffalo, NY 14222
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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 and indicate whether you are a parent or a professional.



Annual Reviews: Suggestions for Parents

By: Stacie Ricioppo and Vickie Rubin

One of the most important things you can do for your child is to be an active participant at your child's Annual Review.

What is an Annual Review?

Your child's Individual Education Program (IEP) needs to be reviewed from time to time but not less than once per year to determine if your child's annual goals are being met.

Annual reviews consider the following:

1. Strengths of the student
2. Concerns of the parent for improving the education of their child
3. Results of the initial or most recent evaluations of the student (this does not mean formal testing results, it can be a checklist, observation or other appropriate assessments)
4. If appropriate, review of student performance on any general State or district-wide assessments.
5. Any special factors such as: behavior, limited English proficiency, student who is blind or visually impaired, communication needs, assistive technology needs, any device, intervention, accommodation, or modification needed to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (200.4 (d) (3))

For more information on annual reviews please see 200.4 (f) and for special factors please see (200.4 (d) (3)) both can be found on this website:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/lawsregs/sect2004.htm>

Here's how you can get ready for your child's Annual Review.

Before the meeting:

- Get copies and review your child's current progress reports and/or evaluations
- If you don't understand it ASK!
- Talk to your child's teachers and/or therapist
- Find out what is working well and what isn't
- Write down your questions (There are no stupid questions)

At the meeting:

- Bring a list of questions, and ASK them
- Bring a friend or spouse to help take notes, and keep you focused
- Have a positive attitude
- If a problem arises, think WE (How can we solve this?)
- If you don't understand ASK

After the meeting:

- Communicate with your child's teachers and/or therapist through notebooks, phone calls, email or meetings.
- Continue to evaluate: if something is not working talk to the team.
- Keep informed. Be an educated parent. Attend workshops and parent meetings.

Top 10 Reasons to Contact ECDC



10. You have a question about how your child plays, speaks, learns or behaves
9. You have a question about your child's disability or what services are available
8. You want to learn more about Early Intervention, Committee on Preschool Special Education- CPSE (ages 3-5) or transition to the Committee on Special Education- CSE (school age)
7. You are having challenges with your child care center or need help finding child care
6. You would like information on funding and/or the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)/Medicaid Service process
5. You are looking for support groups and other family resources in YOUR community
4. You have questions about special education laws, your rights, regulations and policy relating to children birth to five
3. You have a question about an ECDC workshop or a community workshop
2. You would like to receive our popular and informative emails

And the number one reason to call ECDC.....

1. It's FREE and you can talk with our friendly, caring and understanding staff who will help you navigate the multiple and oftentimes confusing systems.

When it comes to your child, no question is too silly or too small. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

PHONE: 716-880-3875
Or
1-800-462-7653

ecdc@kaleidahealth.org
www.wchob.org/ecdc
www.facebook.com/ECDCWNY1

Websites to investigate:



The Darrell Gwynn Foundation donates brand new, highly customized manual and power wheelchairs to children and adults who have been denied by Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance companies, or those lacking insurance coverage. More information can be found here:

<http://darrellgwynnfoundation.org/wheelchair-donation-program.htm>



Save the Date

**The 25th Annual
DDDay
Thursday
May 23rd, 2013**



Visit www.DDday.org for
more information



Dare To Dream: The Time is
Now!

A FREE event about the journey from
birth to adulthood!

**Saturday
March 2, 2013
at**

Millennium Hotel

Watch www.parentnetworkwny.org for
more information