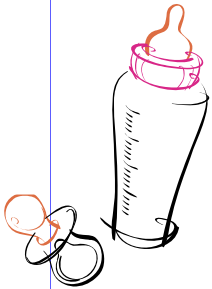




The Professional Center for Child Development

Top 10 ways to make an Early Intervention home visit even more successful!



1. **YOU ARE THE EXPERT WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR CHILD** ~ Don't hesitate to give your ideas and opinions.

2. **KEEP DISTRACTIONS TO A MINIMUM** ~ Dedicate this time to your child and family. Before your visit, please silence your cell phone, and turn off the TV, radio and computer.

3. **BE INVOLVED IN THE VISIT** ~ We like you to stay involved in the visit as much as possible. Join in the fun & learning.

4. **LOOK FORWARD TO THE HOME VISIT** ~ Set the stage for the EI home visit, (you will know what is appropriate for your child) talk to them about someone coming to "play" with them.

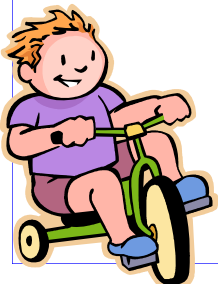


5. **REMEMBER YOUR EI HOME VISITOR IS IN MANY HOMES** ~ If there is a contagious illness in your home, call to reschedule. Don't be shy to ask if everyone has washed or disinfected their hands & toys.

6. **USE THE CHILD'S TOYS TO ELICIT MORE LANGUAGE AND PLAY** ~ Think about using your toys in different ways. Make up stories, introduce movement or sing a song, all to creatively use your existing toys.

7. **ASK QUESTIONS & KEEP AN EI NOTEBOOK/FILE** ~ Keep a list of questions to ask your Early Intervention Specialist. If concerns come up, please feel free to call or email Sandy Levine, PCCD EI Director or Ellen Waddill, Parent Liaison ~ It is also helpful to keep Early Intervention paperwork in a notebook that can be filed and referenced when needed. (SandyL@TheProfessionalCenter.org or Ellen@TheProfessionalCenter.org)

8. **KNOW A HOME VISIT DOES NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE IN THE HOME** ~ Any environment your family is in may be considered a home visit... Try the park or your back yard if your child is working on motor activities.



~ Please see #9 & #10 on page 2

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and
130 Parker Street,
Lawrence, MA 01843

Spring/Summer 2011
Volume 15, Issue 1

Programs at the PCCD

- ◆ Early Intervention
- ◆ Developmental Day School
- ◆ Two-by-Two & EI play groups
- ◆ Regional Consultation Program
- ◆ Private Therapy & PCCD Preschool

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From The Desk of The Executive Director

The spring season was beautiful here at the Center. Our playground, surrounded by flowering trees, was very pleasant to look at. We spent more time indoors this spring because of the damp and rainy weather. We are looking forward to spending more time playing outside during our summer sessions.

Our Swing into Spring Gala Event was well attended and a really great time for everyone. It was a beautiful spring evening, and the Andover Country Club was the perfect place to be. I want to thank our major sponsors and all the generous folks who donated auction items and others who purchased raffle tickets, baskets and made financial donations. We also had additional new sponsors and many volunteers who helped us meet our goal and make the event so successful. We are very grateful to all who donated and volunteered.

Our summer groups and programs have been expanded, and we are making plans to have a very happy and healthy summer. Stay tuned for more announcements as we move forward with the events we are planning for the coming months, and please save the date for our Trot for Special Tots, Sunday, October 2, 2011.



Veryl D. Anderson, RN
Executive Director

LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENTAL DAY SCHOOL

Children ages 3 to 8 who have health care needs—Call Today!

Our Developmental Day School offers educational, medical, therapeutic and social services to families whose children are experiencing severe developmental delays, complex health care needs, physical disabilities and communication or sensory disorders.

Continued from page 1...

Top 10 ways to make an Early Intervention home visit even more successful!

9. PLEASE UNDERSTAND YOUR HOME VISITOR OR EVALUATION TEAM HAS SCHEDULED THIS TIME FOR YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY ~ Please block off the time and mark Early Intervention as *important* in your calendar. If you need to cancel please call as soon as possible.

10. FOLLOW-UP WITH SUGGESTED STRATEGIES ~ The Early Intervention home visitor may only be with your child for an hour or so, your family is in it for a lifetime. Strategies that can be incorporated into every day activities are the most successful. You have the ability to turn play time, dinner time, bed time, or anytime into a learning experience.

And one to grow on!

11. KEEP THE FUN IN THE EARLY INTERVENTION PLAY-BASED APPROACH TO CHILD DEVELOPMENT



AWARDS GIVEN OUT AT THE 2011 PCCD "SWING INTO SPRING" GALA

2011 Children First Awards The Professional Center for Child Development's Children First Award is presented to an individual or organization that enhances the lives of children through hard work and dedication. Recipients are chosen through PCCD staff nominations and voting.

Barbara L'Italien Director of Government Relations, State Treasurer's office

As State Representative for the 18th Essex District from 2003 to 2010, Barbara was a strong advocate for education and human services, and is a longtime supporter of The Professional Center for Child Development. A champion of Early Intervention (EI), her efforts to support families who have children with autism have also been remarkable.

Morning Travelers Providing encouragement & support to families of children with Down syndrome

In early 2003, three mothers with infants born with Down syndrome met at The Professional Center's parent support group on a Wednesday evening. Although Maura Fitzpatrick, Charlotte Gray and Sharon Randall found the adult conversation to be helpful, they decided to schedule a playdate so that they could get together with their children. Almost 100 playdates later, Morning Travelers now serves more than 100 families in the Merrimack Valley. Meetings are focused on friendship - creating an environment where children, siblings, parents, grandparents and friends can gather monthly to have fun. The group meets the third Saturday of the month at First Calvary Baptist Church in North Andover.

Past Children First Award Honorees... Dr. & Mrs. T. Berry Brazelton, Mr. Jack Williams, Mr. Matt Haymer, Dr. Serena Dee, Ms. Marylou Connors, The Mother Connection, Ms. Priscilla Bartle, Community Giving Tree, Ms. Gene Landis, Ms. Roxann Nickerson.

2011 Community Service Award

Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Andover

The Professional Center's wonderful Sensory Garden was designed and planted by the Spade & Trowel Garden Club in 2008. The club dedicated the garden to all of the children at The PCCD, and it is a valuable teaching tool beloved by all the students.

PCCD



Preschool

As the school year winds down The Preschool is gearing up for "The Great Summer Adventure" Preschool program. The Summer Preschool is planning lots of fun summertime activities for our children. The children will get to experience many different themes in our Snoopy, Charlie Brown and Woodstock classrooms.

The PCCD Preschool still has openings for the Fall 2011 school year. Our classes run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 11:45am.

Private Therapy sessions for Speech-language, Occupational and Physical therapies are available throughout the summer.

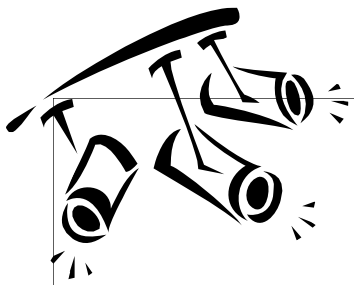
Watch for notices for Saturday Play Pals, speech/language social skills group which meets on Saturdays in the Fall.

Please contact Kim with any questions about the PCCD Preschool & Private Therapy.

Kim Briggs, MS CCC/SLP, Private Therapy Program Director

(ext. 226 or PTP@TheProfessionalCenter.org)

Staff Spotlight



Name:

Jeanne Colwell, RN LICSW CEIS

Education: State University of NY
Upstate Medical Center at Syracuse
& Boston University

Position: Team Leader— Early Intervention

Years at the PCCD: 17 years

Thoughts about working at the PCCD:

Jeanne has worked at the PCCD longer than any other place in her working career. She said "it is because this agency puts meeting the needs of children and families first while also providing a very supportive environment for staff. Even in the more difficult fiscal environment present today these priorities have not changed. There are very few other places to work where this is true and I hope to be able to continue here until I am ready to move on to the next step in my life." Jeanne loves being able to work with young children and enjoys doing it. She goes on to say... "It's always challenging, never boring and usually fun".

Name: Cecile Duane

Education: Tyngsboro High School

Position: Bookkeeper

Years at the PCCD: 9 years

Thoughts about working at the PCCD:

Cecile enjoys working with the wonderful staff and says "I love working at the PCCD because I get to see the children learning and growing, even though I am not part of the classroom staff I look forward to seeing them walking down the hallways, on the playground and out on fire drills. The way the staff interacts with the children brings me joy!"



Name:

Andrea Zenga, LICSW

Education: Ithaca College
& Boston University

Position: Licensed Independent
Clinical Social Worker in EI

Years at the PCCD: 5 years

Thoughts about working at the PCCD:

Andrea works with families and children weekly (many of them Hispanic because she speaks Spanish), she leads two teams in doing evaluations for EI eligibility, and she assists in leading a Toddler Group on Tuesday mornings. Andrea enjoys all of her work at The Professional Center, and especially the groups of which she has been fortunate enough to be a part. Andrea has worked in a variety of settings, all dealing with children and families. Working at The Professional Center has been the most rewarding in terms of working with clients and collaborating with experienced and engaging co-workers. She looks forward to many more years at PCCD.

Our Retirees stay involved....

We at the Professional Center are fortunate to have a team of retired, former staff coming to The Center to fill in as substitutes in the 2x2 groups, 2x3 Preschool classes and in the Developmental Day School. It is wonderful to see them working with the children and staying connected with the work and mission of The Center.

Once a month, this wonderful group of about 12 -15 ladies gather together and have lunch together!! It speaks volumes of The PCCD that these long lasting friendships continue on!!!

Cheers to this extraordinary group of women!

Two-by-Two & Early Intervention Group News

It is that time of the year again, when we say goodbye to some children and families and welcome some new families. There are always changes in our groups from the end of spring to fall, as some children move onto preschool and others begin our 2x2 groups. We are so pleased that some of our families are returning with their second and third children to our groups. It is so much fun to greet younger siblings and remember the older ones when they were two years old!



The change of seasons was very apparent in our groups as we moved from playing with snow to playing with dirt, which was really enjoyed by all our children. The sensory garden outside grew flowers, and we quickly went from winter coats and boots to short sleeves and sunscreen. But the biggest change has been watching the children grow and mature in so many ways. Whether we measure growth by inches or new words or less frequent tantrums, everyone made progress in his/her own way. It has been so much fun for the group staff to be a part of these changes! If you are staying with us for the summer, our 7-week summer session begins on July 11 and ends on August 26. Don't forget to apply sunscreen before group; we love to spend time on our playground in the summer!

We look forward to spending the summer and fall sessions with some of you. To our friends who are leaving the Professional Center, please feel free to stop by and visit us!

Melanie Shipon, M.Ed.—Community Group Coordinator

Aimee Phleger, BS, CEIS— EI Educational Coordinator

Grandparents and Special Friends Week at The PCCD



We were happy to welcome over 80 grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts and uncles



Websites for Young Children

From the Regional Consultation Program (RCP) Director—Rachael Daniels, MS, OTR/L

There are many computer websites with free materials for young children. The following are some examples.

Early Education ~ Young children benefit from hands-on, experiential activities for learning. Computer learning can be a wonderful adjunct, however, especially for children who have difficulty using their hands (e.g. to turn the pages of a book or explore objects).

~ KneeBouncers (www.kneebounce.com) has educational games and activities for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

~ Starfall (www.starfall.com) teaches the alphabet, phonics and beginning reading skills.

~ Minisebran is a free suite of early learning games for children ages 2-6 years. It can be downloaded from many sites including (www.filecluster.com).

Electronic Books ~ Bookshare (www.bookshare.org) has over 80,000 electronic books. Subscriptions are free for people who have difficulty holding or seeing a traditional book. A special education teacher, teacher of the visually impaired or physical therapist can certify that someone is an appropriate candidate.

Switch Access ~ The following sites include switch accessible activities for children recommended by their Early Intervention Team or the Regional Consultation Program to use a single switch or switches (with a computer switch interface) to access the computer. Other means for young children to access a computer include a regular mouse with a bright sticker to identify the mouse click button (used with parent assist), a touch screen, a child-sized trackball, Mouse Keys (See the control panel of your computer operating system.) or Intellikeys.

~ HelpKidzLearn (www.helpkidzlearn.com) is comprised of early learning, games, stories, and creations that are switch adapted to develop skill. These free activities are from Inclusive Technologies. Resources for parents are included.

~ Inclusive Technologies (www.inclusive.co.uk) has free downloads to work on switch and other skills such as Let's Talk on the Farm, Interactive CD player, and music games

~ SENSwitcher (www.northerngrid.org) is a progressive switch use teaching tool for young children new to computers and/or people with significant learning difficulties. Programmed by Inclusive Technologies, it develops switch skills starting with exploration through cause and effect, switch building, timed activation, targeting and row scanning.

Note: Most of the electronic books included below are switch accessible if you position the cursor on the page turning arrow.

Art ~ Jackson Pollock by Miltos Manetos (http://www.manetas.com/pollock/jacksonpollock_by_miltos_manetas.swf) enables you to create a Jackson Pollock-like painting by moving the cursor around on the computer screen.

~ Rub-A-Dub (www.arts-letters.com) teaches young children to use a mouse. Colors and pictures are revealed accompanied by a theme song.

Organization ~ Inclusive Technologies (www.inclusive.co.uk) has an Interactive Visual Timetable (free download) that can be used to make first/then boards, and schedule boards with accompanying analog clock faces

Sign Language ~ American Sign Language Browser (<http://aslbrowser.commtechlab.msu.edu/browser.htm>) shows videos of signing thousands of words in American Sign Language.

~ HandSpeak (www.handspeak.com) is an American Sign Language dictionary.

Social Stories ~ Whiz Kids Games (<http://www.autismgames.com.au/index.html>) are games for children with autism to help them learn daily living skills. The site's creators are from Australia as evidenced by their accents and vocabulary.

A list of 40 websites with free materials for young children is available from Rachel Daniels at rcp@TheProfessionalCenter.org.

WHAT'S COOKING? Is the question every Friday in the Day School cooking class.

By Linda Sliwoski, M.Ed.,

Cooking is a wonderful multi-sensory activity which is great for the diverse learners in the Day School. Having the chance to touch, see, smell, hear and taste provides each student lots of varied ways to have a fun, social and educational experience. Here are a few examples of how cooking class helps us learn:

- ~ **Touching** the ingredients helps students learn about different concepts such as shape, size and texture
- ~ **Seeing** the picture symbols and words on a recipe page helps students identify the steps involved and the sequence of events
- ~ **Smelling** the ingredients stimulates the senses and helps students differentiate between foods
- ~ **Hearing** the description of ingredients and instructions helps with vocabulary development and following directions
- ~ **Tasting** each of the ingredients helps us identify likes and dislikes and encourages communication.... Students can express themselves in whatever way is best for them "Yum- that's good" or "Yuk-I don't like that"

Cooking is a fun way to access many curriculum objectives in subject areas. We incorporate science (solids/liquids), math (counting and sequencing) and literacy (reading and comprehension) concepts into cooking activities. Sometimes history is an interesting part of cooking class as we discuss the ethnic origins and significance of different foods. And as always social skills (turn taking) and communication (self expression, choice making) are primary goals. Cooking class provides an opportunity for students of all abilities to have fun learning together.



Nathan shows the product of our Green Eggs and Ham Cooking Class which combined cooking with literacy, science and art.

PCCD Board of Directors

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 Ms. Veryl Anderson

PCCD Schedule of Events...

- Ongoing** Parent groups—Complex Health Care Needs
- Ongoing** Two-by-Two/Three, Day School and Agency tours
- June 24** Last day of spring Two-by-Two groups
- July 18—Aug. 12** Developmental Day School summer school
- Oct. 2nd** 19th Annual Trot for Special Tots (5 K road race and walk)

PCCD Wish List *Donating from the "Wish List" is easy. Just Call the Center.*

- ◆ *Riding or walk behind lawn mower with grass collection system (new or gently used)*
- ◆ *Gas or Electric hedge trimmer, lawn trimmer and/or gas powered back pack leaf blower*
- ◆ *Items for our silent auction and Road Race prizes*
- ◆ *Art Supplies, Bubbles and Play Doh* - Batteries AA, C, D, 9 volt
- ◆ *Printing of agency newsletter or brochures* - New or used (in good condition) car seats
- ◆ *Gift certificates (BJ's and Market Basket, Toys' R Us, gas cards)*
- ◆ *A corded Waterpic—to be used in the Day School (not on teeth)*

Thanks for everything

New "Developments"

By: Julianne Bloise, Director of Development

A big Thank You to all those who helped make our **Annual Swing into Spring Gala** on April 29th a huge success! We never would have reached our goal without the support and hard work of our Board, Gala Committee members, staff, attendees, advertisers, sponsors and auction item donors. This year's theme was " 'Sea' Us Learn, Grow & Play," and our Master of Ceremonies & Auctioneer was **Hank Morse**, radio personality for Greater Media Boston, who donated his time to The PCCD. Receiving the Children First Award were **Barbara L'Italien**, a former state representative, and **Morning Travelers**, a group that provides support and encouragement to families of children with Down syndrome. Receiving the Community Service Award was the **Spade &**

Trowel Garden Club of Andover. Guest Speakers were **Cora & Jim True-Frost** and their son, **Leo**, who receive services from The PCCD's Regional Consultation Program. Our sincere thanks go out to our sponsors, as well as the many individuals and businesses that purchased ads in our Gala Keepsake Program Book and donated items for the auction. Hope to see you on **April 27, 2012!**

Since the last newsletter, the Center has received gifts from the **Josephine G. Russell Trust**, the **Rotary Club of Lawrence** and the **Catherine McCarthy Memorial Trust**. These generous grants will help provide Early Intervention services and equipment to families most in need.

Our next event is the **Annual Trot for Special Tots 5K Road Race & Walk**, on **Sunday, October 2nd**. Now in its 19th year, The Trot is a fun way for families to socialize and get to know one another while helping raise money for programs here at The Center. Last year, we had 400 people in attendance! Prizes are awarded in several race categories and the walk is friendly for all ages and abilities. In addition, there is a free cookout and costume parade (for adults & children), as well as special awards for the top money earners and door prizes. T-shirts are guaranteed to those who sign up early. Look for online registration to begin during the summer, and check out our **website** and **Facebook page** for Trot updates!

'Sea' Us Learn, Grow & Play

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Remis Family

SAVE THE DATE!

19th Annual

Trot for Special Tots 5K
Road Race & Walk

Sunday, October 2nd, 2011



Join us at our
website and on
Facebook

Family Involvement in Early

Intervention

Parent Leadership Project 1-877-35-EI-PLP

The Project's main goal is to promote lifetime advocacy and leadership skills, and work to develop an informed parent constituency which will, in turn, encourage Early Intervention services to be increasingly family centered. As a parent initiated and parent driven endeavor, the PLP continually seeks family input regarding the needs of EI families in our state. Identifying these needs helps determine future direction for the project as well as the EI system as a whole.

The Parent Perspective is a free newsletter written by and for parents distributed 8 times a year. Parents are invited to submit articles. The Professional Center frequently submits articles and information to this publication. Call the PLP to receive the newsletter.

Become more involved...

Join a statewide committee or task group with The Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC).



You can make The Professional Center for Child Development even better...

~ Join the Friends of The Center ~

~ Volunteer for an event ~

Family Rights in Early Intervention Services

In your intake packet, each family received a brochure on family rights in EI. If you would like another copy, please ask your service coordinator.

If more information is needed, The Department of Public Health has written standards for the operation of Early Intervention Programs and written procedures that protect your rights. You may get a copy of these at The PCCD or by going on the DPH web site.

Early Intervention services in Massachusetts are provided in compliance with federal regulations.

This newsletter is designed to share information with families colleagues, the community, and contributors. The newsletter is coordinated by Ellen Waddill (the PCCD Parent Liaison) and is edited by Ellen, Emily Knapp, those who write articles & other PCCD staff.

To contribute articles, stories, poetry, etc.,

please call Ellen at ext. 217 or Ellen@TheProfessionalcenter.org

Family TIES of Massachusetts

(TIES—Together In Enhancing Support)

A statewide information and support network for families of children with disabilities, special health care needs, or chronic illness.

MassFamilyTies.org

1-800-905-TIES

"Friends of The Center"

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift to help The PCCD provide services and support for families and children as has been done for three decades. With your help, PCCD will expand services, develop new programs, and make facility improvements.

\$25 _____ **\$50** _____ **\$100** _____ **\$200** _____
\$500 _____ **\$** _____

Name and address of contributor (please print)

Name: _____ Address: _____



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for Child Development

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Enroll now for The PCCD
Preschool & Private Therapy



They're Playing Our Tune

I sing the praises of The Professional Center for Child Development to all of my friends! I fell in love with the Two-by-Two program when my older son, Finn, enrolled in 2008. I was so nervous leaving him, but Finn ran in smiling every time we walked him to his classroom. His language skills advanced by leaps and bounds.

He arrived home singing songs and showing us his artwork. It was heart warming to watch. And the projects he brought home were amazing. I was so impressed with the staff and interesting activities they took on with a group of two year olds! I was so impressed that I called Melanie (Melanie Shipon, M.Ed., Community Group Coordinator) when my younger son, Caeden, was barely a year old to request a spot for him.

I wondered how Caeden would transition to a drop-off program. He is much quieter than his older brother. But the staff of Two-by-Two won over my shy boy! He says goodbye to me without even glancing over his shoulder. And his language skills have blossomed thanks to the skilled interaction of the teachers in his class.

I love the mission of the school. In my opinion, The Professional Center offers a sensory-rich environment and caring, top-notch staff that draw the best out of children no matter what developmental stage.

~ By Mary—Finn and Caeden 's Mom