



The Professional Center for Child Development

We proudly celebrate 40 years of...

~ Kelley Granahan, PCCD Development

Accomplishments Each and every one of the 1,400 children we serve each year has an accomplishment to be proud of. Our goal is to ensure that children of all abilities achieve their full potential.

Smiles Our Developmental Day School, Preschool and Two-by-Two Play-groups encourage individuality, independence and lots and lots of smiles. Smiles are on the faces of the children as they make new friends, learn about the world around them or explore their creativity. The smiles are also on the faces of the parents who know that their children are receiving a wonderful educational experience while also building self-esteem, self-reliance and a solid foundation for future learning.

Milestones are what our Early Intervention (EI) Program strives for every day. Our EI specialists work with children age birth to three who are experiencing developmental delays or are at risk for delay due to premature birth, a medical condition or environmental factors. After receiving EI, a vast majority of these children reach their developmental milestones, overcome their delay and go on to enroll in school at the same developmental level as their peers.

Support of the entire family is critical to our children's successful outcomes. Parents and caregivers are the children's very first and most powerful teachers. Ensuring that families needs are met and that they have the tools they need to reinforce their child's progress and be powerful advocates ensures that the children will continue to thrive.

978-475-3806
www.TheProfessionalCenter.org
32 Osgood Street,
Andover, MA 01810
and
130 Parker Street,
Lawrence, MA 01843

FALL 2013
Volume 18, Issue 1

Programs at the PCCD

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

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From The Desk of The Executive Director

I would like to express gratitude to our community for the support that the Professional Center for Child Development has received over the past 40 years. On September 10th, 2013 the Professional Center for Child Development celebrated forty years of service to the children and families of our community.

We opened our doors on that September morning at the Parish of Christ Church, Andover. Thanks to the Rector, The Reverend J. Edison Pike, the wardens, vestry and parishioners who gave us the space, support, and encouragement, we were able to begin to meet the needs of young disabled children living in our area. Within a few short months, as we began to grow, we realized that there was a substantial need for our services.

Cynthia Stocking and I, as co-directors, began in 1973 with three children, a \$100.00 dollar grant, and three volunteer nurses. Today we are a nonprofit 501(c)3 agency/private school that provides vital educational, therapeutic and social services to over 1,500 children each year. Over the years we continued to expand our programming and now offer six programs to serve children of **all abilities** including those children our agency was established to benefit - those with disabilities or complex medical conditions.

On behalf of the Board, dedicated staff and families of The Professional Center for Child Development, I wish to



thank our community, the families we serve, individuals and local businesses, service groups and foundations for their encouragement and generosity. Our growth and success would not have been possible without your strong support.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of these wonderful children. Together we can ensure that children of all abilities achieve their full potential.

To learn more about our history in the community, visit www.theprofessionalcenter.org.

Veryl D. Anderson, RN
Executive Director

Early Intervention benefits infants and toddlers...

- ♥ EI reduces incidence of future learning problems for many children.
- ♥ From birth to age 3 the EI staff will work with the child and family to maximize the developing brain.
- ♥ It can be less costly and more effective to intervene early in a child's life, rather than it would in later years.
- ♥ Families become empowered to advocate for their child.

Reading is the foundation upon which your child's education is built.



2x3 Preschool at PCCD:

Our 2x3 Preschool is a specialized fully licensed integrated preschool for children ages 3 to 5. Our goal is to help children foster independence, self-reliance, and positive self-esteem. We do this using a developmental play-based curriculum where children develop reasoning and critical thinking skills, engage in problem solving, making choices and becoming aware of their role as part of a larger group.



Facts about 2x3 Preschool:

Days: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays **Times:** 9:00am to 11:45am

Enrollment: is flexible. Children can enroll at any time through-out the school year.
Children may attend one, two or all 3 days.

Our Preschool runs from September to June.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

Small class sizes with 1:3 teacher/child ratio ~ Seasoned Early Childhood educators, consultants available with Speech, Occupational and Physical therapists ~ Music, Science, art/sensory, math activities ~ Gross motor play on our state of the art playground ~ Healthy snacks provided (peanut-free environment) ~ Child does not need to be potty trained ~ Great Summer Adventure-Summer preschool program

*For more information and to schedule a visit please contact
Kim Briggs @ ext 226 or email ptp@theprofessionalcenter.org*

WALK, RUN, PUSH OR PULL FOR THE PCCD

This year's family-friendly event is Sunday, Oct. 6th, with check-in and registration beginning at 9 a.m. The center is located at 32 Osgood St., Andover. Racers take off at 10 a.m. following the 3.1-mile fast, flat course along residential streets. Walkers follow the runners and the event ends with awards and a free cookout for all participants.

Medals will be presented to the top male and female race winners in age categories, and prizes awarded to the top fundraisers. All taking part in the walk will receive a ribbon. **To register, call ext. 222 or visit our website.**



5K Road Race & Walk
October 6, 2013

- ◆ Decorate a wagon and pull the kids
- ◆ Join us for the Free cookout
- ◆ Get a Team together and name it after your child
- ◆ Create your own personal fundraising page by going to www.active.com/donate/trotforspecialtots (invite family & friends to make pledges in your child's name)

Proceeds from the Trot for Special Tots go to support the programs and services we provide to local families.

The 5K Road Race is sanctioned by the USA Track & Field Association.

We look forward to seeing you at the Trot!

Staff Spotlight

Name: SHELBY BALUKONIS, LICSW CEIS
Education: University of Southern Maine & Boston U
Position: Family Worker in Early Intervention
Co-facilitator for the "Parents Night Out"
group for RCP families

Years at the PCCD: 23 Years

Thoughts about working at the PCCD: "I love working in Early Intervention, learning from families and sharing helpful information. We have an awesome staff that I learn so much from. I enjoy working with this team of professionals to assist in meeting the needs of children and their families."

a free, state-wide conference
for families with children who
have special healthcare needs
or multiple disabilities

Saturday, October 26
375 Fortune Blvd,
Milford MA
(Gas cards available)

The Regional Consultation Program presents

Together in Learning and Caring

Morning session

The Top Ten Parent-Proven Ways to Reduce Stress

A workshop by parents for parents

Lunch provided ~ Afternoon sessions

Applying for CICRF a fund that reimburses medical expenses

or

Making a social book for your child/children

All attendees will receive the materials to make a social book.

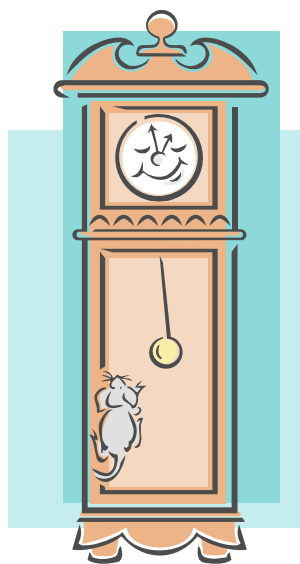
RSVP to Rachel At ext 242 or RCP@TheProfessionalCenter.org

PCCD Needs List

Donating from the "Needs List" is easy

Just Call the Center.

- ◆ Gift certificates (BJ's and Market Basket, Staples, Toys' R Us, gas cards)
- ◆ Volunteer at a PCCD event
- ◆ Items for our silent auction and Road Race prizes
- ◆ Donations to **Friends of the Center.**
- ◆ Group Supplies—Bubbles, glue sticks, crayons, stickers, shaving cream & Play Doh
- ◆ New Car seats



Kindergarten Success

Nursery Rhymes are important on many levels. They are wonderful for shared reading and increasing children's understanding of sound neighborhoods and phonological awareness. Familiarity with and the ability to recite nursery rhymes are a great indicator of literacy success in kindergarten.

So don't forget those classics.

- Michael J. Dormer, MS SLP-CCC

(Cunningham and Allington, 1991 taken from
http://www.bridgew.edu/library/cags_projects/mmaurano/honologicalAwareness.htm).

Thank you for choosing PCCD playgroups for your child's first educational experience

Our Two-by-Two toddler play groups at the Professional Center for Child Development were filled with happy & energetic two and three-year-olds this summer. Our summer curriculum consisted of a water beach theme, circle time songs and a dinosaur unit. Children participated in many arts and craft, sensory, and fine motor activities that reinforced our curriculum. We enjoyed being outside on our playground working on gross motor skills and when it was too hot we spent time in our air-conditioned motor rooms. Children especially enjoyed their music time with Ms. Susie on Monday mornings.

We are looking forward to an exciting fall session of Toddler groups. We are excited to meet new friends and of course welcome back many of our old friends. As always our priorities in our playgroups are for children to have a positive first educational experience. For many of our children this is the first time they have separated from their parent/caregiver or family and our main goal is to make sure that children are safe, secure and happy. We thank you for choosing PCCD playgroups for your child's first educational experience and look forward to a productive educational and wonderful school year.



Thanks

To our extraordinary
Board of Directors
who are generous
with their time,
wisdom and support.



FYI - Enrollment for community slots is ongoing!!
Call if you want your child to participate in a group!!

- ♦ Toddler groups run Monday through Friday 9:00-11:30 am
- ♦ Afternoon groups on Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30-3:00 pm
- ♦ EI Parent Child groups at our Andover & Lawrence Sites **Interested in any of our groups? Please contact Aimee Phleger at ext 341.**

PCCD Fall Parent & Professional Workshops

With presenters from

The Federation for Children With Special Needs

PCCD invites you to 2 powerful & educational workshops.

♦ **Oct. 10th —Turning Three Essentials Workshop**

@ PCCD—6:30 to 8:30 Provides information about the process of transitioning a child from EI to public schools. Discussions include... transition planning, eligibility information, the TEAM process and parent roles.

♦ **Nov. 14th — An IEP for My Child Workshop**

@ PCCD - 6:30 to 8:30 Each child in special education has an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This workshop will guide parents through IEP development and identifying a vision and goals.

Save The Dates

♦ **Oct. 6th—Trot for Special Tots**

@ PCCD Grounds 9:00 registration

♦ **Dec. 7th—PCCD Holiday Party**

@ West Parish Church 10:00 to 12:00

♦ **May 2014 - "Swing Into Spring" Gala**

@ Andover Country Club

Please RSVP to ext. 217

Ellen@TheProfessionalCenter.org

Go to www.TheProfessionalCenter.org

For sign language and other workshops

PCCD "a welcoming community"

Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to pause for a moment and reflect on the excellent work of the Professional Center for Child Development of Andover, which is celebrating 40 years of service to our community. My family was a recipient of the center's encouragement and support, and our story highlights much of the value of their contribution to us all.

Ten years ago when my son Davis was born, our family was devastated by the news that he was born with Down syndrome. We had no ties to anyone with special needs generally and, more specifically, know no one with Down syndrome. Out of our own ignorance, we jumped to many wrong conclusions about what the lives of children with special needs were like. We had little hope for a bright future.

When Davis was 8 weeks old I found the PCCD and the staff instantly settled us in, both in terms of providing early therapeutic services to strengthen Davis's body and in terms of providing support groups and a welcoming community to strengthen our family's soul.

After four decades of working with families like ours—receiving us in our isolated downheartedness in the early days and returning us to our neighborhood and school communities with confidence—the positive impact of PCCD can't be overestimated. The staff members are among our community's true heroes, and I hope the occasion of this 40th anniversary will be celebrated throughout the Merrimack Valley.

- Sharon Randall—North Andover

Family Involvement in Early

Intervention

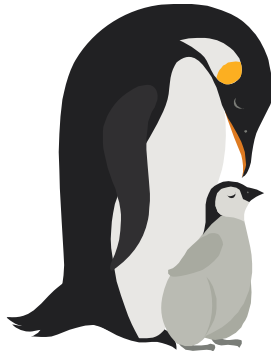
Parent Leadership Project 1-877-35-EI-PLP

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. contact 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"

Thank you for your Ruby Anniversary Gift

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift to help The PCCD provide services and support for families and children as has been done for 4 decades. With your help, PCCD will expand services, develop new programs, and make facility improvements.

\$40 _____ \$200 _____ \$400 _____ \$500 _____

\$1000 _____ PCCD 40th Anniversary Gift _____

Name and address of contributor (please print) Email: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____



The Professional Center
for Child Development

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Andover, Massachusetts
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KIDS AT HEART!



Premier "Trot"
Sponsor

We Launched Our New Website!!!

We are so proud of our beautiful new website and so very grateful to Mr. John Alders and his talented team at docWeb,TRC for creating and donating this new website for PCCD.

How fitting that we are given such a wonderful gift as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

This new site will make navigating the site and obtaining needed information and education much easier for our families.

We can't thank docWeb enough for choosing to support The Professional Center for Child Development by donating their time and talents to create this wonderful website.

www.TheProfessionalCenter.org

