



The Professional Center
for Child Development

Forever grateful

As the Professional Center for Child Development in Andover celebrates its 40th Anniversary of providing educational and therapeutic programs and services to children in our community, there are many memories we hold and two words that come to mind for our family. These words are "forever grateful". We were able to witness firsthand the compassion, commitment and dedication that the staff of the PCCD provides to the families and children they serve.

Nearly thirteen years ago we travelled to Yangjiang, Guangdong Province, China to adopt a beautiful baby girl. As first time parents we were filled with the joy of becoming a family. Caroline was all that we had hoped for and more! She had spent the first nine months of her life in an orphanage and was grossly underweight and had significant developmental delays.

We returned home and almost immediately contacted the PCCD at the urging of our pediatrician. The Center and their Early Intervention Program were amazing in their response to our needs. An evaluation was done and aggressive



Caroline and Catherine as young girls

occupational and physical therapy sessions began. Within a very short time major improvements in gross and fine motor skills could be seen. Her major milestones lagged behind but she continued to progress at a nice pace. At age two we enrolled her in the Center's Two-by-Two program where she socialized, improved her language skills. By her third birthday all of the goals set forth early on had been met and she was well on her way! - *Continued on page 2*

Thank you for entrusting The Professional Center for Child Development as your child's first educational experience.

Happy 40th Birthday PCCD



978-475-3806

www.TheProfessionalCenter.org

32 Osgood Street,
Andover, MA 01810
and

130 Parker Street,
Lawrence, MA 01843

Summer 2013
Volume 17, Issue 4

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

Spring at the center has been great fun even on some rainy days. There are a number of projects to work on even if we have to stay indoors. All of the children worked very hard to make beautiful centerpieces for our "Paint the Town Red" Spring Gala at the Andover Country Club. When all the snow had melted, we were able to be out on the playground having a great time on the swings, slides and playing in the sand box. The children and staff cheered for our professional sports teams as they entered their playoff season. We welcomed many visitors during our "special friends' week". Parents, aunts, uncles and even grandparents came to visit in our classrooms.

The Red Sox helped us celebrate our upcoming 40TH Anniversary at one of their regular season games in April. In June, one of our very special volunteers, Elly Evans, was honored by the New England Patriots at the annual Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards in Foxborough. At the same event, the Center received a generous grant from the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation. Elly's wife, Joanne Evans, one of our former Day School teachers, was able to attend with him. What a great honor. They were very happy and excited, and, so were we!

Ellen Waddill and Rachel Daniels also attended the event to represent the Center.

Everyone was excited about the arrival of spring and we are looking forward to summer. It is wonderful to enjoy our playground, our garden, fresh air and sunshine. We thank all of our wonderful volunteers and students for a great school year!

Our Spring Gala celebration was well attended and very successful. We had some great raffle and auction items. We sincerely thank all of our sponsors, volunteers and donors for all of their generosity and help in making our event so very successful.

We are looking forward to our annual "Trot for Tots" 5K Road Race and fall celebration. Please plan to join us on October 6, 2013 at the Center's Andover site at 32 Osgood St, Andover, MA. Please have a wonderful summer



Veryl D. Anderson, RN
Executive Director

- From page 1 **Forever Grateful**

We travelled back to China one more time a couple of years later and adopted Catherine, who at eight months old had been in a foster care program in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. She was on target developmentally and did not require any services. She attended the Center's Two by Two program and thrived while there.

Today both girls are happy and healthy and have given us so much to be thankful for in life. While we spend much time wondering what the future holds for them we also celebrate their past and just how far they have come in their journey. We are and always will be forever grateful for all of the dedicated staff, amazing educational programs and unending support that was given to our family by the Professional Center.

~ Maureen, Michael, Caroline & Catherine Payne, North Andover

2x3 Preschool at PCCD

Social Skills and the Private Therapy Program



Social skills are the foundation for getting along with others. For many children, social skills such as turn-taking, using appropriate language to communicate while playing, reading non-verbal cues and respecting personal space are easily learned by observing others in the environment.

However, for some children, instruction that is more direct is needed to help develop appropriate social skills.

To be an effective communicator, we must be able to hear and understand what another person is saying. We need to be able to read both verbal and non-verbal cues in order for conversations to happen and relationships to build.

This is what the 2x3 Preschool and Saturday Play Pals groups focus on.

Enrollment is still open for these programs. Both groups start up in the fall.

For more information about these programs and individual therapy for Speech-Language, Occupational and Physical therapy, please contact Kim Briggs, M.Ed. CCC-SLP, at 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

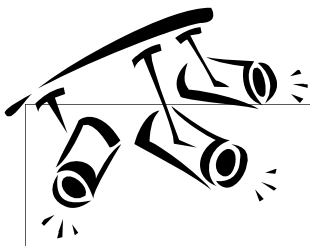
- ◆ Decorate a wagon and pull the kids
- ◆ Join us for the Free cookout
- ◆ Get a Team together and name it after your child
- ◆ Create your own personal fundraising page by going to www.active.com/donate/trotforspecialtots (invite family & friends to make pledges in your child's name)

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: Beth Corcoran, BA DS
Education: Georgian Court College
Position: Developmental Specialist in Early Intervention

Years at the PCCD: 3 Years

Thoughts about working at the PCCD: "I love the work I do at PCCD. The children, families and staff teach me so much every day. Being invited by families into their homes to participate in fostering the development of their babies and very young children is a gift for which I am grateful."

Name: Wilawan Chaiyarat, MA, PT

Education: New York University—Advanced Master Degree in Physical Therapy (Developmental Disabilities)
Khonkaen University Thailand—BSc. (Physical Therapy)

Position: Physical Therapist in the Developmental Day School

Years at the PCCD: 2000 to 2002 & 2008 to present = 6 years

Thoughts about working at the PCCD: "I'm very lucky to have an opportunity to work with friends/co-workers here who sincerely care for not only our students but also each other. It's also great that we look after each student here as a whole person both body and mind aspects."

2 Summer Activities at the PCCD

Family Friendly Fun

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.*
- ♦ *Art Supplies, Bubbles and Play Doh*
- ♦ *Car seats new or used (in good condition)*
- ♦ *Batteries AA, C, D, 9 volt*

What: *Pajama Music Time... with Ms. Suzie*

Date & Time: July 23, 2013 - Tuesday 6:30 to 7:30

Location: PCCD, 32 Osgood Street - Andover

- ♥ Come dressed for bed
- ♥ Stuffed friends are welcome
- ♥ Bedtime snack will be provided (milk & cookies)
- ♥ PCCD children, siblings, parents and caregivers are invited to join us for both activities

What: *Bedtime Story Hour*

Date: August 13, 2013 - 6:30 to 7:30

Location: PCCD, 32 Osgood Street—
Andover

*Please RSVP - Ellen@TheProfessionalCenter.org
978-475-3806 ext. 217*



Developmental Day School Hosts Curriculum Expo

The Day School recently hosted it's first Curriculum Expo which provided an opportunity for families and students to have an interactive experience by sampling some of our favorite learning activities. Students welcomed their families by using switches to recite a poem written by Bridget, one of our nurses. Then families rotated through the curriculum in five interactive exhibits.

Students helped to prepare the materials needed for the Expo such as making playdoh for the volcanoes, creating the transportation book for literacy and making the cookies to decorate. The Expo

activities demonstrated some of our learning goals such as: sensory exploration, choice making, visual attention, color recognition, number and letter identification, measurement, vocabulary, counting, and vocalization.... to name a few. Day School students work hard all year so it was nice to be able to share with families some of what we do.

PCCD EXPO Interactive Exhibits

Math/Science - making & exploding volcanoes

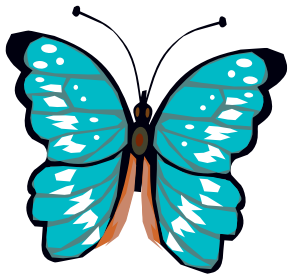
Literacy - reading aloud an original book using switches

Art - shaving cream painting

Cooking - making & decorating cookies

Vision - experimenting with the Lightaide box & iPad

ALSO.....



On display at the Expo was a photo collage of our butterfly hatching activity. Over five weeks, students closely followed the life cycle making observations and recording their findings: caterpillar chrysalis à butterfly. We ended the fascinating activity with "release day" sending our adult butterflies out into the world. We learned lots of interesting facts and some new vocabulary throughout the process. Maybe next year an ant farm!



**Thank you to the PCCD
Board of Directors.**

We appreciate your
leadership & commitment
to the children
and families.



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
- ♦ Parent Child groups at our Andover & Lawrence Sites **Interested in any of our groups? Please contact Aimee Phleger at ext 341.**

Six Powerful Words...

Thank you to everyone who participated in the PCCD Six-Word Story Project. We asked families, friends and staff to think about six words that represent your feelings or experience at The PCCD. We had caring, compassionate, and thought provoking stories from every participant. We would like to share a few with you in this newsletter issue.

A WORLD BEYOND MOM AND DAD



Author of Six-Word Story: Lucy (Mom)

Children in photo:
Elisa & Cristina

PCCD Program: Two-by-Two
Home Town: North Andover

EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE

CARING FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN

Author of Six-Word Story: Michele (Mom)

Child in photo: Everett

PCCD Program: Developmental Day School

Home Town: Tewksbury



I HAVE THE BEST JOB EVER

Author of Six-Word Story:

Beth (PCCD Occupational Therapist)

NEVER STOP DREAMING THE UNIMAGINABLE DREAM



Author of Six-Word Story: Sarah (Mom)

Child in photo: Amayah

PCCD Program: Developmental Day School

Home Town: Lowell

WALKING ALONGSIDE US DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

Author of Six-Word Story: Christy (Mom)

Children in photo:

Madelyn, Lauren, Cameron & Gretchen

PCCD Program: Early Intervention and 2X2

Home Town: North Andover



TEAMWORK IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Author of Six-Word Story: Rosmery (Mom)

Child in photo: Jeremiah

PCCD Program: Two-by-Two & Early Intervention

Home Town: Lawrence



SHARING, RECEIVING, GROWING AS STAFF TEAM-MATES

Author of Six-Word Story:

Emily (PCCD Office Manager)

Burton and Melchionda Honored at PCCD Gala

Two awards were given at the "Swing Into Spring" Gala in May. We are proud to present this years winners alongside past recipients.

Children First Award

The PCCD's Children First Award is presented to an individual or organization that enhances the lives of children through hard work and dedication.

- 1999 Dr. & Mrs. T. Berry Brazelton
Pediatrician & Author
- 2004 Mr. Jack Williams
Wednesday's Child - WBZ TV
- 2005 Mr. Matthew Haymer
Andover Challenger Baseball
- 2006 Dr. Serena E.H. Dee, MD, FAAP
GLFHC
- 2007 Ms. Marylou Connors
N. Andover Special Ed. Dept
- 2008 The Mother Connection
Supporting families
- 2009 Ms. Priscilla Bartle - PCCD
Community Giving Tree
Supporting families in need
- 2010 Gene Landis, NP - GLFHC
Ms. Roxann Nickerson, PT - PCCD
- 2011 Barbara L'Italien - *Government Relations*
Morning Travelers - *Supporting families*
- 2012 Ellsworth J. Evans, Jr.
Friend to PCCD families

2013 Vivian Burton, RN - *Home Health VNA*

Vivian has spent her entire career caring for medically complex, developmentally challenged and high risk children and for this we thank her for always putting
CHILDREN FIRST.

Community Service Award

- 2010 Knights of Columbus
Andover Council 1078
- 2011 Spade & Trowel
Garden Club of Andover
- 2012 Dr. Robert Nelken
Andover Pediatrics

2013 Ms. Jane Melchionda
President & CEO - EasCorp

Jane is the founder of Credit Unions Kids at Heart. She has been a loyal friend and supporter of the PCCD. We thank her for tireless service to the community!

The names of the award winners are listed on plaques hanging in the hallway outside the PCCD conference room.

Thank you to PCCD
sponsors, donors & supporters.
Your kindness is overwhelming!

PCCD 40th
Thanks Friends!

WHAT DO THE ANDOVERS OFFER THEIR PARENTS?

GET YOUR FREE COPY OF *THE ANDOVERS PARENT GUIDEBOOK* FOR THE ANSWERS.

By Tara Wilson

While the Andovers are known as a great place to live for their beauty, historic homes, world-class boarding schools, and recreational opportunities, you may not realize how much you actually have at your fingertips. Yesterday, you may have had to ask your friends or neighbors for recommendations; today, you have what you need at the tips of your fingers with *The Andovers Parent Guidebook*: lists of "Mommy & Me" classes, pediatricians, walking trails, preschools, kid-friendly stores, town services, events, member organizations, and professionals who provide great services to families like yours. Whether you're a new parent, or a parent of a toddler, there is something in here for you that you haven't previously discovered and may even NEED to know.

The Professional Center for Child Development was recently featured in the inaugural edition of *The Andovers Parent Guidebook*. This guidebook designed for parents by parents who want to share all of the great resources and advantages in the Andovers (and in some cases, a few minutes beyond). It started off as an idea by one mom to create a brochure for parents looking for recommendations on what to do with their small children and where to go around town—information that took her almost 5 years to learn. After asking for a few contributions, the simple brochure ballooned into an almost 50-page guidebook. While it does not cover everything, the hope is that it helps you navigate the Andovers with your little ones, making your experience as enjoyable as possible. If you have any suggestions for the next issue, please feel free to email them to info@theandoversguidebook.com

To receive a complimentary copy of *The Andovers Parent Guidebook* please visit www.theandoversparentguidebook.com. Once you input your name and email address in the contact box you will receive a link to your pdf copy.



Tara Wilson is the Editor-in-Chief of *The Andovers Parent Guidebook*, a new member of The Professional Center for Child Development's Board of Directors, and The Mother Connection's Executive Board Legal Advisor. In addition, Tara is General Counsel at a family-focused boutique law firm specializing in estate and small business planning helping parents and small business owners organize their affairs to protect their investments and provide for their loved ones. Tara lives with her husband, Jason, and their two children, Colby (4 years old) and Kaylin (3 years old) -- both graduates of the PCCD. Please feel free to contact Tara with any questions at (978) 296.4140 or tkw@wilsonlf.com.

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

32 Osgood Street
Andover, Massachusetts
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*Helping children of all abilities achieve
their full potential for forty years*

New Front Doors at PCCD

New front doors have been installed which provide a more efficient and safe entry & exit system as PCCD is now a full time locked facility.

There is a swipe in system for staff and a buzz in system for families and visitors.

- To Enter:** ~ Doors will be open each day during specific morning and afternoon arrival/dismissal times (with staff supervision)
- ~ Once doors are locked you must ring the buzzer for entry to the lobby (BUZZER WITH A BUILT IN CAMERA IS TO THE LEFT OF THE DOORS)
 - ~ Once in the lobby, familiar families dropping off will be buzzed into the building. All visitors **MUST** sign in and take a visitor badge before proceeding.

To Exit: ~ Press the switch plate to the right of each set of doors to open

Please DO NOT push the crash bars on the doors

This is for emergency exit only

