



DIRECTIONS



June 2011
Volume 20, Issue 2

EARLY CHILDHOOD
ECDC
DIRECTION CENTER

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Visit us at:
www.siuh.edu/childhood

The Early Childhood Direction Center

In addition to providing confidential information and referrals on infant and preschool programs and services, we link families to respite and recreation programs, support groups, counseling, medical services and financial support.

We also provide ongoing community training programs to both parents and professionals. Contact our office to tailor a workshop to your unique needs.

S.I. ECDC is funded by The Office of Special Education of the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and locally sponsored by Staten Island University Hospital, North Shore – LIJ Health System.

MESSAGE FROM ECDC

Summer, along with the beautiful weather offers us all an opportunity to do things differently from the rest of the busier time of the year. It is a time to be outdoors with our children and take advantage of the warmer weather as we head to the pool, beach, or park. It is filled with endless possibilities for learning activities and fun. It may also be a time to prepare your child for a new program or school come the fall. Congratulations and best wishes to our preschool graduates moving on to Kindergarten!! We wish you all a happy and safe summer!!

Playing With Math

By Dolores Reig, M.S. Ed.

When we talk about literacy, we usually think of reading and writing, not math. But math also requires literacy, and the language of math includes: numbers, colors, sizes, shapes, directionality, quantity, distance, length, weight, time, seasons, same, different, fractions, money and estimations. Summer is a time when many parents look for new things to do with their children. The following activities can enhance preschool as well as kindergarten math skills. Pick and choose and have fun!

- Counting Out:** walking up and down stairs; steps between car and store; spindles on a banister; boxes on a shelf; traffic lights; commercials; shirts; red/blue/etc. things; anything and everything you see; try using cadence and rhythm.
- Color Hunts:** have a red day when you just look for "red" things; note different shades of red; darker, lighter reds; almost reds; use adjectives to describe the colors; switch to another color.
- I Spy a Square:** look for and identify different shapes in the real world, a milk carton as a rectangle, a plate as a circle, slice of turkey as an oval; use your imagination.
- Up, Down and All Around:** describe things "on top of", "next to", "below", "behind" and invite child to do the same; use directional language: "You are behind /in front of the chair"; "Am I next to or behind the swing?"
- More or Less:** in the playground – more "baby" or regular swings; more steps on this or on that slide; more flowers or more trees; more children or more adults; comparisons of quantity.
- Long and Short:** carrots, trees, shoes, people, fingers, legs, anything; point out the "long" ones and the "short" ones, then ask your child which is "long" and which is "short"; move into "longer/shorter", "longest/shortest"; comparisons of size.
- Too Heavy:** pick up items and hold them to determine if they are "heavy" or "light", then let your child hold them and tell whether they are "heavy" or "light", keep going until child says, "too heavy!"
- Time Counts:** tell your child the hour it is and what you will be doing at that time – "12:00, time for lunch", or "no snacks now, it is 5:00 and we will be eating soon"; include the hour when discussing events with your child.
- Tis the Season:** include the season with all events – it is Spring, your birthday is coming, Winter coat, Summer bathing suit, the leaves change colors in Fall; guess the season when looking at old photos.
- Same or Different:** discover with your child ways in which the two of you are the same (2 eyes, 1 nose, etc) and ways in which you are different (brown/blonde hair, long /short arms); repeat with various objects and things.
- Parts and Wholes:** talk about things that are whole (an apple, pizza,) or cut into equal parts; count the parts; use the language of fractions – half a glass of water, you ate $\frac{3}{4}$ of your hamburger, $\frac{1}{3}$ of your banana, etc.
- How Much:** point out costs of different items; let your child pay with real money; talk about paper money and coins - different yet equivalent; count coins with your child; make a game out of sorting them.
- Let Me Guess:** try to guess which foods cook quicker and which take longer; how long before the bus or train comes; will it rain before you get home; will it snow before morning; how a storybook will end; and on and on.

These activities should be done cheerfully and in a playful spirit. Don't take a child's lack of interest too seriously. Just try again at a different time, with something else. Be creative. Encourage a sense of discovery. Remember to model that you, too, are learning. Smile! Enjoy your Summer!

COMMUNITY EVENTS, SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

June 22 – 6:30 pm

Mealtime Success for Kids on the Spectrum: Integrative Nutrition for Picky Eaters - with Susan Roberts, MDiv. OTR/L. Held at the Rebecca School, 40 East 30 Street, 5th Floor (212) 810-4120

June 25 – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

CARD Autism Summer Conference
Free, one-day conference. Held at Radisson Hotel, New Rochelle NY. To register contact: d.plump@centerforautism.com
www.centerforautism.com

July 6 – 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

ICare4Autism International Autism Conference NYC. AUTISM: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
Finding the Causes and Treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 1855 Eastchester Rd, Bronx. For more information contact Kim Robinson at krobinson@skhov.org or 718-686-9600 ext 1150.

July 6 – 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Using Self-Questioning Strategies to Boost Comprehension and Interaction with Text.
Everyone Reading, 71 W 23rd St, Suite 1527, Manhattan, Contact: Susan Voelker at svoelker@nbida.org or call (212) 691-1930

July 11 – 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

From Rhyme to Reason: Building Phonemic Awareness Skills in Young Children.
Everyone Reading, 71 W 23rd St, Suite 1527, Manhattan, Contact; Susan Voelker at svoelker@nybida.org or call (212) 691-1930

July 23 – 9:30 am to 12:00 noon

Informal Assessments: Getting Started and Tracking Progress. Everyone Reading, 71 W 23rd St, suite 1527, Manhattan, Contact: Susan Voelker at svoelker@nybida.org or call 212-691-1930

To our graduates...

We continue to be available to assist you during your child's transition to Kindergarten. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time with your questions, comments or concerns. Best wishes during the coming year as you continue your involvement at your child's new school!



July 27 – 28 Albany, NY

2-day conference on "The Inclusive Classroom" and "Learning Disabilities in Children" Must register for conference. For more information and to register go to: www.spectrumtrainingsystemsinc.com/albany_ny.html

August 22 – 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Pupil Transportation-Parent Workshop
Brooklyn Parent Center at BCID, 27 Smith St 2nd fl, Brooklyn, Free. Contact: Ruth DiRoma or Raphael Rivas at 718-998-3000

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Hands and Voices is a nationwide non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families who have children who have significant hearing loss. It is a parent driven, parent/professional collaborative group that is unbiased towards communication modes and methods. Membership includes individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired and their families who communicate orally, with signs, cue or a combined method. It exists to help children reach their highest potential. Contact: www.handsandvoices.org. If you would like to be part of the start up of the New York chapter, send your contact information to Regina Bryde at rb10@health.state.ny.us or call (518) 473-7016

Summer Reading at New York Libraries is an annual program that brings children and families into local public libraries for reading and activities. To learn more or find your local library go to: <http://www.summerreadingnys.org/>

Cognitech Café's Free Assistive Technology Support Program.

Discover how assistive technology may help (at any age) address learning, communication, vision, hearing and physical access needs in the classroom. Available on Sundays through the summer. JCC Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Ave. Must have appointment. Call (917) 586-8000 or email athelp@me.com

Helpful websites to check out:

www.familysupportservicesadvisorycouncil.webs.com/

www.specialneedslifeline.org

www.extraordinaryminds.org

www.sidc.org

<http://sispecialkids.blogspot.com>



A New Stride – Pediatric and Adult Therapy Center Still Has Openings for: Recreotherapy Saturday Programs

Exploration Group

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Playgroup activities for 2-4 year old children. Integrating cognitive, language, sensory, motor and socialization skills through play.

Craftmatics with Ms. Lisa

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Crafts with a theme (Craftmatics) program for 5-7 year olds in a small integrated group. This program will stimulate your child's creativity while improving their fine motor (small muscles of hands and fingers), sensory integration (texture exploration, vision and auditory) and communication (social, expressive and receptive language) skills.

To register call 718-494-5923 or online at www.anewstride.com
1779 Richmond Avenue, SI 10314

Extraordinary Minds: Mommy and Me

Classes are designed for children 8 months through 2.5 years. Mommy and Me classes are run by certified special and general education teachers. Spend time and have fun with your child while focusing on language development, communication, gross and fine motor, sensory integration and socialization skills. Contact: Laura Hynes (347) 564-8451 or Email: L.Hynes@yahoo.com

Greenbelt Environmental Education

Center 200 Nevada Avenue, SI NY 10306, offers Summer programs to help young campers discover the wonders of the forest. For information call 718-667-7475 or go to www.sigreenbelt.org

Hola...

Éste es el boletín de noticias trimestral con información sobre talleres y acontecimientos para familias de niños hasta la edad de cinco años con discapacidades del desarrollo que reciben servicios especiales. Esperamos que usted pueda leer esta copia inglesa o que haya alguien que le puede ayudar. Si no, llámenos por favor en (718) 667-6374 y trataremos darle la información en español. Lo sentimos si esto le inconveniencia.