



Children's School News

Welcome to our first issue of Children's School News. This newsletter will be published quarterly for the families of The Children's School for Early Development and for our Alumni families. We hope you find the information useful, informative and fun for all.

Parent Advocacy: Tips on what to do & what not to do

Here are some things you may want to think about as you are preparing for your upcoming CPSE/CSE meeting with your school district.

What parents should do:

Do Prepare For Your Meeting. Make sure that you have all the reports necessary to support the specific services you will be requesting for your child. Read all of the reports well and understand the data.

Do Prioritize Your Child's Needs. Everything that you want for your child is not equally important. Decide before you go into the meeting what you really want, and what you may be willing to compromise on. Find the evidence in your child's evaluations that will support each requested item. If you have evidence to support what you are requesting, you will have a better chance to getting what your child needs.

Do Build A Good Relationship. You may need a good working relationship with school personnel for some time. As hard as it may be to do, being courteous is always better than being rude and nasty.

Do Document Your Issues and Concerns. You can refer to this as your parent input. Either hand in a document that lists your issues or concerns or ask that they be documented. Remember that you are a key member of your child's IEP team.

Do Use Advocacy Strategies. You may agree to disagree with the school district, but still move forward towards the goal you want for your child. If the team cannot reach consensus about the type or frequency of service, ask that additional information or observation be obtained from consultation or conversation between your child's private therapist (if there is one) and a school therapist. Remember, you can always schedule another meeting to discuss this, but keep the issue on the table by requesting more information, consultation or further evaluation.

What parents should not do:

Don't Cry Wolf. Parents should not complain equally about every issue that comes up over the course of their child's school life.

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The Children's School for Early Development

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Children's School News
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Newsletter submissions
to: Theresa Mooney
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Dates to Remember

March 11th
Family Fun Day
11:00am –4:00pm
Hawthorne Site

April 26th – 29th
Fortunoff Charity
Shopping Event

June 5th
7th Annual
Golfing for Kids
Westchester Hills
Golf Club

Parent Advocacy continued...

Don't Assume the Worst. While you need to enter the special education process with the knowledge to protect your child's rights, you should treat the professionals with whom you deal as if those professionals have your child's best interests at heart.

Don't Have a Closed Mind. You need to have an open mind at IEP meetings. If your child's team proposes a placement with which you disagree, do not dismiss it, or refuse to observe it. If you can not reach an agreement and you need to proceed to a due process hearing, it is important that you present yourself as a cooperative

Parent Workshop Series

Come join us from 6:00 – 8:00pm - Hawthorne

February 28th Potty Training
March 14th Biomedical Intervention
April 18th Transition to Kindergarten

- ◆ All are welcome to attend and we will have pizza for parents and children
- ◆ Children's School staff will be available for babysitting
- ◆ PTA Meeting at 6:00pm before each workshop



person who thoughtfully considered the team's program, personally observed the program and can explain why you believe the program does not meet your child's needs.

Don't Save on Experts. Do not try to cut corners by saving on the cost of the experts who can provide sound professional opinions and evidence. Experts are critical to successful cases, especially if parents are unrepresented.

Golfing for Kids



The *7th Annual Golfing for Kids* will be held on June 5th at the Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains. The committee is hard at work, planning a day

full of golf, followed by an evening of dinner with a silent auction. Last year the event raised over \$100,000 for the school, which allows us to purchase materials and equipment to help support the program for our children. For more information call Fran Higgins at 914-428-8330, ext. 3028 or email: fhiggins@westchesterarc.org

Notes from the Children's School PTA

Family Fun Day
Sunday, March 11th
11am – 4pm

The PTA will hold our annual Family Fun Day and Book Fair and the Hawthorne location. Please join us for a day of fun and raise money for the school at the same time. Children will be treated by a visit from a local fire department as well as book fair, bake sale, crafts and a special character appearance.

T-Shirt and Sweatshirt Sale

We are selling t-shirts and sweatshirts for kids and adults with The Children School for Early Development logo on the upper left corner. The shirts come in blue and white for \$10 kids and \$15 for adults and blue sweatshirts for \$15 for kids and \$20 adults. To purchase these great items please contact Theresa Mooney at 263-0565 or email: mooney73@verizon.net

For more information on the school and resources available
Visit our website at www.westchesterarc.org