



Children's School News

*Parent Teacher Organization
The Children's School for Early Development*

Presents

Family Fun Day

October 25, 2008

12:00pm - 2:00pm

at

Westchester Arc

265 Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A) - Hawthorne, NY
(½ mile north of the Hawthorne Movie Theatre on Route 9A)
Directions ? Go to www.westchesterarc.org

Admission and All Activities are Free



Children's Entertainment
Special Character Appearance
Magic Show
Fire Truck Appearance
Games
Arts & Crafts
Pumpkins
Cotton Candy
Raffles

**The Children's School
for Early Development**

40 Saw Mill River Road
Hawthorne, NY 10532
Phone: (914) 347-3227

Children's School News
Fall 2008



Go to westchesterarc.org
for back issues of
Children School News
And other resources

Dates to Remember

October 16th
Parent Workshop Series
"What Do I Do When..."

October 21st
"Matter of Taste"
Westchester Country Club
Rye, NY

October 23rd
Parent Workshop Series
"Positive Parenting: Beyond
Screaming, Spanking &
Yelling"

Ask The Attorney?

By Sheryl Frishman, Esq., Frishman & Faber

It is being recommended that my child undergo evaluations. What exactly is an evaluation?

The law requires the school district to fully evaluate a child in all suspected areas of disability. A full evaluation must be completed before a student is considered or approved for special education services in the first place or further services. An evaluation is a comprehensive process used to determine a student's strengths and challenges. There are multiple assessment instruments and other items that can be used to evaluate a child. Different types of assessments measure different things. Which evaluations will be done will be based on what needs to be answered about a student. Before you can have a meaningful CPSE or CSE meeting to develop an appropriate educational plan for a child there must be a thorough understanding of what the student's strengths and weaknesses are and objective data to support a plan. The determination of what evaluations are needed is done on a case by case basis with input from parents in order to comprehensively identify a student's Present Level of Performance ("PLOP") in each of the following areas:

1. Academic/Educational Achievement and Learning Characteristics:
The levels of knowledge and development in subject and skill areas including activities of daily living, level of intellectual functioning, adaptive behavior expected rate of progress in acquiring skills and information, and learning style.
2. Social Development
The degree and quality of the student's relationships with peers and adults, feelings about self, and social adjustment to school and community environments.
3. Physical Development
The degree or quality of the Student's motor and sensory development, health vitality, and physical skills or limitations that pertain to the learning process, including pertinent information from the student's physical exam.
4. Management Needs
The nature of and degree to which environmental modifications and human or material resources are required to enable the student to benefit from instruction. Management needs are determined in accordance with the factors identified in each of the three areas described above.

Some of the items that should be in a good evaluation are the following:

1. The basic information about the student, i.e., name, date of birth, grade, school, school district.
2. A description of the child on the testing day.
3. The evaluator's credentials.
4. Was the test given in the child's native language?
5. Why was the evaluation requested? What are the suspected areas of disability?
6. What tests were performed and the results of the testing? Were the most recent versions of the tests used?
7. What is it that the student can and cannot do?
8. What are the student's strengths and abilities in each area assessed? **VERY IMPORTANT!**
9. What are the parent's concerns regarding the education of the student?
10. Does the student require a particular device or service to address special factors related to the student's behavior, communication needs, limited English proficiency, visual impairment and or the student's need for assistive technology?
11. What factors affect the student's participation and performance in the general curriculum?
12. What has worked in the past and what has not worked?
13. Recommendations and plan.

Sheryl Frishman, Esq. is an attorney with the law offices of Frishman & Faber in Mount Kisco, NY. This is not legal advice. Please do not rely on this without first consulting an attorney.

SEPTA (Special Education PTA) Meetings

Frishman & Faber specializes in providing quality advocacy for the unique needs of children with special needs from birth through adulthood. Sheryl Frishman, Esq. will be speaking at the following SEPTA meetings:

- 10/14/08 - Ossining SEPTA - Understanding the IEP - 7:00-8:30pm
- 10/23/08 - Mt Pleasant SEPTA - Understanding the IEP - 7:30-9:00pm
- 11/12/08 - Somers SEPTA - Educational Advocacy 101 - 7:30-9:30pm
- 11/13/08 - Lakeland SEPTA - Educational Advocacy 101 - 7:30-9:30pm
- 3/2/09 - Katonah Lewisboro SEPTA - Educational Advocacy 101 - 7:00-9:00pm
- 3/9/09 - Peekskill SEPTA - Understanding the IEP - 7:00-9:00pm.

Parent Workshop Series

“What Do I Do When... ? Understanding & Managing Your Child’s Behavior

October 16, 2008
6:30-8:00pm

Presented by Debbi Cohen & Ann-Marie Sabrsula

This workshop will address challenging behaviors, their function and how to manage them at home and within your community and has been designed to meet the specific behavioral challenges of parenting a child with a pervasive developmental disorder/autism.

Both workshops will be held at:
The Children’s School for Early Development
40 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne

Positive Parenting: Beyond Screaming, Spanking & Yelling

October 23, 2008
6:00-7:30pm

Presented by Dr. Vicki A. Mast, School Psychologist
Facilitated by Karen Valdez, Social Worker

Are you frustrated in your attempts to get your child to behave?

Is NO the most common word in your vocabulary with your child?

Are you sometimes ready to pull out your hair or sit in the corner and cry?

This workshop will provide a variety of strategies to improve communication and increase your child’s willingness to comply with requests.

Check Out These Websites and Programs

Autism Speaks launched an autism social networking site which will provide a new venue for members of the autism community to share insights, opinions and information. Members are able to create their own personalized profile, start a blog, and join a number of new forums. Go to autismspeaks.org for more information.

Aboutourkids.com is the NYU Child Study Center website. You can find articles on childhood health issues, research topics and medications, find doctors and ask an expert.

Funschool.kaboose.com is a great website for all children of all ages and has its own “preschool” section.

Navigating the Special Education Voyage

This series of workshops is not age specific. The material presented would benefit any parent/caregiver who has a child in special education either in preschool or general education. Workshops are \$15 each and will be held at Westchester ARC, 265 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, call 949-9300 for more information.

December 6th - 10:00-11:30am

Mid-Year Program Review: Reassessing the programs, support services and accommodations for your child.

February 28th - 10:00-11:30am

Let’s Look at the Numbers: Understanding ways students can receive support and related services.

Save the Date –

November 10, 2008 - Parent Workshop on Potty Training

Dr. Pete, Presenter & Geri Friedman, Social Worker

Location to be announced, please watch for a flyer in your child's backpack

Parent Resource Center

This section is for parents to share information on places they have been that work well for a child with special needs. Share your favorite places with other families by sending an email to mooney73@veriozn.net.

Dr. Stephanie L. Wolman is a Developmental Optometrist specializing in pediatric eye care and vision therapy. She provides comprehensive eye examinations for toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children. In addition, she focuses on treating those with developmental delays, autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy. For more info call 777-5767.

Sharkey's is the place to be to get your haircut. Kids sit in Harley Davidson motorcycles or Barbie Jeeps while they watch TV. Located at 2100 Boston Post Road, Larchmont, 834-5300.

Mrs. Green's Natural Market in Briarcliff Manor (off of 9A) is recommended for a its large selection of gluten free, dairy free and organic items.

Stuart's Farm has hayrides, apples and pumpkins without the large crowds, 62 Granite Springs Rd, Granite Springs NY, Phone: 914-245-2784

FYI

The Hudson Valley Regional Center for Autism has recently opened at the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) in Valhalla, N.Y. The new center, which has just received a special designation as one of the six newly established Regional Autism Centers in New York State, is a collaboration of WIHD and the New York Medical College. WIHD offers an array of services for individuals and children with disabilities, as well as their families and communities. For more information about the Hudson Valley Regional Center for Autism, please contact Dr. David Kuhn or Dr. Stephanie Contucci Kuhn at 914-493-7373.

Help Support The School

Shop and Give

Fortunoff is having a charity shopping event from November 7th – November 11th to raise money for The Children's School for Early Development and other non-profit organizations. Purchase a \$10 special shopping pass from the PTO and this ticket will give you 15% off on most purchases throughout the entire store. Just send a note to the PTO mailbox with your \$10 and we will send you the shopping pass.

T-Shirt and Sweatshirt Sale

We are selling t-shirts and sweatshirts for kids and adults with The Children's 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 send a note to the PTO mailbox with your name, school location and the size and color of the item you want.

Children's School News Suggestion Box

How are we doing? At the Children's School, we value your input and ideas, so any comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter are welcome. You can also submit articles or information that may be included in upcoming newsletters. Just send an email to mooney73@verizon.net

