



NREIC

Collaborations

Update February 2008

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Community of Bergen, Hudson and
Passaic Counties.

www.nreic.org
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SAVE THE DATE!!!

Helpful Hands NREIC is sponsoring
our 5th Annual Golf Outing

JUNE 23rd, 2008



WILD TURKEY GOLF CLUB
HAMBURG, NJ

Watch this space for more info or
please call with any questions
(973)256-8484

www.HelpfulHands@nreic.org

Transition to Preschool Workshop

There will be a Transition from Early Intervention to
Preschool Workshop at the JCC on the Palisades in
Tenafly on February 26, 2008 from 7:30pm to 9pm. We
will discuss the process of transitioning your child to
your local school district from Early Intervention.
Please RSVP by February 19th to Joy at 973-256-8484
x205 or Joy@NREIC.ORG

New Spanish Language Web Site on Neurological Disorders

Free, accurate information on many neurological
disorders is now available on a Spanish language
website from the National Institute
of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), part of
the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Health information
featured on the website includes publications on stroke,
dementia, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, and autism, as
well as many other neurological disorders. The
publications can be downloaded or ordered free of
charge. The website also provides information on
clinical studies, links to non-profit organizations that
offer information and assistance on neurological
disorders, and a contact form where people can submit
questions on topics related to health and biomedical
research. The website is:
<http://espanol.ninds.nih.gov/>

SPAN's 20th Anniversary
Conference "Strengthening Families,
Building Communities" will take place
on Saturday, March 1st (registration
begins at 7:30; the last session ends
at 4:30) at the Sheraton of Eatontown
(Route 35). NEW for 2008 - SPAN IEP
Clinic - SPAN staff and volunteers will
assist you in preparing for your next
IEP meeting! (Must pre-register for
IEP Clinic.)

[http://www.spannj.org/conference/
index.html](http://www.spannj.org/conference/index.html) for more details; last day
to register for the conference at a
discount is 2/15.

Save the Date!

AutismSpeaks will be sponsoring a Walk Now For
Autism, which will take place in Paramus (at Bergen
Community College) on Sunday, June 1, 2008. The
ASPEN Bergen County chapter will be forming a team,
so stayed tuned for further details on how to register –
either to walk or to make a donation.

Video to promote Awareness of Autism Research

The band, Five for Fighting, is generously donating \$0.49 to Autism Speaks for *each time* this video is viewed. The funding goes toward research studies to help find a cure for Autism. When you have a moment, please visit the link below to watch the video and pass it along to your loved ones. They are aiming for 10,000 hits, but hopefully we can help them to surpass this goal.

<http://www.whatkindofworldyouwant.com/videos/view/id/408214>

APRAXIA NETWORK OF BERGEN COUNTY

P.O. Box 1142, Paramus, NJ 07653-1142
Email jbmistletoe@optonline.net or call 201-741-4035

UPCOMING 2008 MEETINGS

Meetings are held at Temple Shalom, 385 Howland Ave. River Edge, N.J. from 7:00pm until 8:30pm

- March 5th
Dr. Eisenberg, an ENT will talk about tonsils and adenoids with our children who have speech disorders.
- May 7th
Janet Krebbs ,ccc-slp, will talk about auditory processing and reading issues with our children

Please register ahead of time so they can plan accordingly. Visit their website for directions and further information:

www.speechville.com/communication-station/new-jersey-network.html

Therapeutic Services Inc. will have a conference on Sunday, March 2nd with Linda Hodgdon presenting on Visual Strategies: The Key to Improving Communications, Behavior, and Social Skills - Working with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Communication

Challenges. The conference will be held from 8:30 AM - 4 PM in NYC. For further info, please contact (888) 7-THERAPY or (718) 692-1929 or visit www.therapeuticservicesinc.com



AutismSpot.com is the fastest growing FREE online resource for the global Autism Community. They use streaming video to provide the latest in education and information, and is a complete online community providing expert videos, blogs, forums and the latest news dedicated to the Autism community. Join them in sharing this resource with your friends, clients and others who will benefit from this extensive offering.

www.autismspot.com

Notice herein of any workshop, seminar, conference, etc., not offered by the NREIC, does not constitute an endorsement of any specific methodology, organization, or opinion

Subject: Passing Failure on the Way to Success

Andrew is a bright eyed, blonde haired cheerful kid who lights up a room when he walks in. He seems to want to befriend you, to talk to you or make idle chatter, but doesn't quite know how. He still tries. But Andrew is a different Andrew today from the one I knew many years ago.

Andrew has autism. While I knew his mother in high school, we never really crossed paths much until we started socializing in the same circles -- you know, the autism circle. The one that houses all of your friends because you can't stand the friends you used to have with only neurotypical children who complain about the slightest thing while you're thinking, "if you only knew what you had....." And so, if you're anything like me, you embarked on your journey into autism and found solace and friendship in those who know your life -- those who go through the same thing you do day after day, and who can cheer with you when you say "Ohmigawd he told a lie! Isn't it great?" Tell that to a mom of neurotypical-only children and she'd probably look at you like you had a big booger hanging off the end of your nose. What? Rejoicing over your kid telling a lie? But your autism buds?? They get it.

Cindy, Andrew's mom, is one of my "autism buds." She has been an incredible advocate in our community and seems to have found her niche in educational advocacy. She is constantly learning, yet teaching and helping the rest of us at the same time. She gives back tenfold to the autism community. With a busy life of raising a child with autism (and one without), working outside of the home and inside the home, she still manages to help others. She's one of those special people who feel a calling to make their mark on this world by helping those in need. A rarity in these days of "it's all about me."

This week, Cindy taught me a lesson -- one of those lessons that makes you reflect on yourself and your own behavior and DING! goes the lightbulb. This was one of those moments for me and it might be for you too.

Cindy has always wanted Andrew to be included and has advocated for her own son and many others to be included in everything. School activities, social activities -- you name it. She's always been determined that Andrew will NOT be left behind, that he WILL participate and have every opportunity that every other child does. And so, with that in mind, Andrew has participated in just about everything the school offers. After-school activities, projects, fairs -- you name it, he's participated and Cindy has been there every step of the way.

Recently, Andrew participated in a school science fair. He completed his own Fair project in December, followed scientific methods, wrote his own material, recorded data -- the works. On the night of the fair, Cindy and Andrew were there socializing, looking at all of the class projects, and participating in yet another school activity.

The time came for the awards ceremony and as Cindy and Andrew sat in the audience, the 7th grade winners were announced, all of a sudden "ANDREW" boomed over the loudspeaker. HUH? *Blink blink* Are you SERIOUS? Andrew took second place! Not because of pity, not because he had autism and everyone felt badly for him, but because his project was GOOD. Andrew went to the stage and got his trophy, and sat back down in the audience with Mom.

She's still in shock, and so proud of this boy who spoke late, who had behavior problems, sensory problems, communication problems..... the boy who now just took 2nd place in his middle school science fair, just like any other typical child would do, except he had worked 10 times harder to get there.

Cindy told us Andrew's story when she came home from the event, and taught us all a lesson. She wrote:

"While this made his day, please remember that unless we enter our kids in these extracurricular activities, they don't know if they will succeed or not. They have to at least have the chance. All extracurricular activities that are held during or after school and are school affiliated are eligible for ALL the support (provided by the district) that our kids may need. Thinking of track and field for your young runner? How about an Art Fair? Marching Band? JUST DO IT!"

So I looked back at my own behavior, and I realized that I do hold my son back. He doesn't participate in Boy Scouts or clubs or sports. He doesn't want to. But is it him, or is it me? Is it my insecurity that holds him back? Does he really want to participate? Maybe, just maybe, if I were more like Cindy, he would. If I just nudged him a little bit to participate, maybe he'd succeed. Who knows? I never give him the chance. I wonder how many other moms out there are like me, afraid of the behaviors, afraid that he'll fail, that the other kids will bully and torment him, that he will give up and won't succeed. *But it's me.*

I think that Cindy and Andrew taught me a good lesson, and hopefully you as well, that we should let our kids experience these things. Maybe our own insecurities and pride get in the way of us letting our kids experience life.

So many times, they sit on the sidelines watching the game, and we let them, instead of letting them play. And they may try and fail, but at least they tried. I guess it's better to try and fail, than to never try at all.

In the words of Mickey Rooney, "You always pass failure on your way to success."

Way to go Andrew. Way to go, Cindy.

Helpful Hands, NREIC will be presenting the following

Transition to Preschool Workshops



February 26, 2008

**JCC on the Palisades
411 E. Clinton Avenue, Tenafly
7:30pm – 9:30pm
Call Lily @ 973-256-8484 to register**

March 13, 2008

**Helpful Hands NREiC
65 Willowbrook Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Wayne
7pm – 9pm
Call Lily @ 973-256-8484 to register**

April 11, 2008

**Hudson Family Support Organization
705 Bergen Avenue, Jersey City 07306
10am – 12:00 pm
Call 201-915-5140 to register**

May 2, 2008

**Helpful Hands NREIC
65 Willowbrook Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Wayne
10am – 12:00pm
Call Lily @ 973-256-8484 to register**

July 17, 2008

**Helpful Hands NREiC
65 Willowbrook Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Wayne
7pm – 9pm
Call Lily @ 973-256-8484 to register**



65 Willowbrook Boulevard – 2nd Floor
Wayne, New Jersey 07470
(973) 256-8484 VOICE / TTY
(973) 256-1233 FAX
www.nreic.org



Child Development Checklist: Birth to Three

This checklist will help you to know what you can expect your child to be doing for the next three years. If you have a concern, call your physician or local Early Intervention Program.

The early years of a child's life are very important. During the infant and toddler years (0-3), children grow quickly and have so much to learn. Some children and families face special challenges and may need extra help. Early Help Makes A Difference!

3 Months At three months of age, most babies:	6 Months At six months of age, most babies:	12 Months At twelve months of age, most babies:	18 Months At 1-1/2 years of age, most babies:	24 Months At two years of age, most babies:	36 Months At three years of age, most babies:
Turn their heads toward bright colors and lights.	Follow moving objects with their eyes.	Sit without support.	Like to pull, push and dump things	Use two-to-three-word sentences.	Walk up steps (alternating feet).
Move both eyes in the same direction.	Turn toward the source of normal sound.	Pull to a standing position.	Follow simple directions ("bring the ball").	Say names of toys.	Ride a tricycle.
Recognize bottle or breast.	Reach for objects and pick them up.	Drink from a cup.	Pull off shoes, socks and mittens.	Recognize familiar pictures.	Put on their shoes.
React to sudden sounds or voices.	Switch toys from one hand to another.	Crawl.	Like to look at pictures.	Carry something while walking.	Open a door.
Make cooing sounds.	Play with their toes.	Play peek-a-boo and patty cake.	Feed themselves.	Feed themselves with a spoon.	Turn one page at a time.
Make fists with both hands.	Help hold the bottle during feeding.	Wave bye-bye.	Make marks on paper with crayons.	Play independently.	Play with other children for a few minutes.
Grasp toys or hair.	Recognize familiar faces.	Hold out their arms and legs while being dressed.	Walk without help.	Turn 2-3 pages at a time.	Repeat common rhymes.
Wiggle and kick with arms and legs.	Babble.	Put objects in a container.	Step off a low object and keep balance.	Like to imitate their parents.	Use three to five-word sentences.
Lift head and chest when on stomach.		Stack two blocks.		Identify hair, eyes, ears and nose by pointing.	Name at least one color correctly.
Smile.		Know five or six words.		Build a tower of four blocks.	Are toilet trained.
				Show affection.	

Revised: April 2006 http://www.health.state.ny.us/community/infants_children/child_health/babydev.htm

HOW DOES EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORT MY CHILD AND FAMILY?

Early intervention recognizes and respects the important and central role of your family in your child's life. We support families in their care giving roles and want to help your family continue in your daily activities while caring for your child. Our goal is to work with you in providing early intervention supports to you and your child.

All of us are better than one of us, which means that when working with infants, toddlers, and their families, no single individual, discipline, or agency can meet the many needs of each child. But together with you, your family, early intervention providers, service coordinators and other community agencies, we can work as a team to meet your child and family's needs and support your child's development.



We know that everyday family and community experiences, and events provide children with learning opportunities. Learning opportunities for your child are the places where children experience everyday activities that support and encourage your child's development and real world experiences.

Our goal is to help coach your family for success with your child. This means that we want to work with you to:

- Work with your child in the places that you see as learning opportunities, such as learning to climb the stairs to your child's room to get a favorite toy, climbing the steps to the library for story hour, learning to count and stack by helping you fold laundry or put away the dishes; enhancing speech by singing along with your child or learning sign language as part of your everyday activities.
- Pay close attention to what your child likes to do and is interested in doing in different places - whether that be in your home, at the local park, when going to the mall, going food shopping, going to religious activities or to a Mommy and Me class.

- As a family you will want to respond to the things your child does in any place where learning can occur by doing something interesting and positive, such as:

- Commenting on or praising what your child is doing.
- Joining in your child's play.
- Doing something interesting in response to your child's behavior.
- Using toys that provide interesting responses to your child's behavior.



Together we will help you encourage your child to do something new or different as part of what he / she likes by:

Praising him / her for trying new or different behaviors.

Giving your child just enough support to help so that he / she can do a task, activity or skill better.

Arranging things so your child needs to use behavior he / she likes in different ways in order to make things happen.



Adapted from *Natural Environments: Enhancing Learning Opportunities*
By Mary Beth Bruder, Ph.D.

Helpful Hands, Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative

Bergen County: 201-634-2620

Passaic County: 973-523-6778

Hudson County: 201-915-2514

Developed by the Mid-Jersey CARES Regional Early Intervention Collaborative
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