



NREIC

# Collaborations

Update January 2007

*Published for the Early Intervention  
Community of Bergen, Hudson and  
Passaic Counties.  
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## Transition to Preschool Workshops:

To be held at Helpful Hands, 65 Willowbrook Boulevard,,  
2nd floor, Wayne, from 10am to 12:30pm

Friday, February 9, 2007  
Tuesday, April 17, 2007  
Friday, June 1, 2007

**\*\*\*Learn about the process of transitioning your child from the Early Intervention System to Special Education services under your local school district, including the new changes to IDEA.**

These workshops are FREE but registration is required.  
Please call or email Lily at 973-256-8484 or  
[Lily@nreic.org](mailto:Lily@nreic.org) to register.  
Unfortunately, childcare will not be provided

*Treat people as if they were  
what they ought to be, and  
you'll help them to become  
what they are capable of  
becoming.*  
**-Goethe**



## **BILLY'S BUDDIES NEWS:**

At the Wyckoff Family YMCA

- **Sunday, January 21, 2007**  
Playgroup and Pizza Lunch,  
age 0-6, 11am—1pm.  
Program Room 3.  
Siblings welcome!
- **Monday, March 19, 2007**  
7:30pm Estate & Financial  
Planning for families with  
Special Needs children.

Please *RSVP* to Kathy Elleo,  
Billy's Buddies, 691 Wyckoff  
Avenue, Wyckoff, NJ 07481  
201-891-2081

JCC on the Palisades will present  
**“ASSISTING SIBLINGS OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM”** on  
Wednesday, March 21, 2007 from 7:30pm-9:00pm. Siblings  
of children with disabilities are often faced with many  
challenges. Although these challenges may be intense in  
nature, little literature, attention and research has been  
dedicated to the impact that having a brother or sister with a  
disability has on the typical sibling. Speaker: Mark Lampert,  
behavioral consultant, social skills instructor and sibling  
support group facilitator for the Valley program. He is a  
certified school psychologist and teacher of the  
handicapped. He will discuss issues and emotions that are  
unique to siblings of children with autism. A hands on  
approach will be provided to parents and professionals to  
assist in eliciting emotional expression, perspective taking,  
sibling interaction and networking amongst typical siblings.

For further information and to enroll call Esther Woletz,  
201-569-7900 ext.232

# Top 10 Reasons to Give Thanks for Your Child With Special Needs



As if you need a reason! Parents of children with special needs know more than most that every child is a gift worthy of thanks, every one, the ones who thrive and the ones who strive, whether they become our legacy or we become theirs. But on those days when there doesn't seem much to be thankful for, or others are suggesting that your child must be just a burden, or well-meaning charities suggest giving thanks for *healthy* kids, check this list for a smile and a little inspiration.

**1) You never have to worry about worrying over nothing.**

Let other parents obsess over the frivolous and the shallow. Your child will make sure you always have something worthy to worry about.

**2) Developmental delays = more years of hugs, kisses, and little-kid sweetness.**

My 13-year-old still wants to sit in my lap, give me hugs, and tell me he loves me. What mom of a sullen teen doesn't secretly wish for the same?

**3) Maybe someday, Ty Pennington will come build you a house.**

Hey, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* loves families of children with special needs. Your little one may be your ticket to a lavish living space.

**4) Any little milestone is a cause to throw a party.**

Your child works hard for every step, sit-up and syllable, giving you lots to be excited about.

**5) Every day is a learning experience.**

Some days it's a pop quiz, some days it's a crash course, but life with your child is always an education, for sure.

**6) You have the privilege of putting several doctors' children through college.**

After paying for all those appointments, you may feel like a one-family scholarship foundation. Put your child's name on some letterhead and take pride.

**7) You meet a better class of parent in waiting rooms and support groups.**

Your child frees you from having to hang out with those snotty parents on the playground, and gives you entry into an exclusive club of people who are sensitive, sarcastic, and sure of their priorities.

**8) You have an iron-clad escape excuse for any occasion.**

You'd love to stay at that boring party, crowded event, endless church service, but, you know, *your child just can't tolerate it.* (And if sometimes it's *you* who can't tolerate it -- who's to know?)

**9) Coming up with new strategies every day keeps your brain sharp.**

They say doing crossword puzzles helps ward off Alzheimer's. Figuring out your child's schedules and treatments and lessons and rights and restrictions must easily provide twice the protection.

**10) Your blessings will always be fully counted.**

Other parents may take the gifts that their children bring for granted. Not you. Not ever.