



NREIC

Collaborations

Update October 2008

Published for the Early Intervention
Community of Bergen, Hudson and
Passaic Counties.

www.nreic.org

(973)-256-8484

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Helpful Hands, the Northeast Regional
Early Intervention Collaborative, Inc.
requests the pleasure of your company at our sixth annual

Casino Night

Saturday, November 15th

7pm - 11pm

The Bethwood

38 Lackawanna Avenue

Totowa, New Jersey

(valet parking optional)

The evening's proceeds will benefit our Special Needs Fund,
which provides financial assistance to Bergen, Passaic, and
Hudson County families of infants and toddlers with disabilities,
impacted by the high cost of services and support not covered
by early intervention or other sources



**Please call Lisa at 973-256-8484 with any questions or if you are interested in attending or
are interested in becoming a Sponsor for this event!**

Help for Siblings of Children with Special Needs

Siblings of children with chronic illnesses and developmental disabilities are two to three times more likely than their peers to experience psychological adjustment problems. Young children in particular are at high risk for experiencing these kinds of problems.

Family-based group intervention can help improve the self-confidence and knowledge of young siblings (ages 4 to 7) of children with special needs. It has been found that participating in a group with other young siblings and parents of children with disabilities was both educational, therapeutic, and fun. Well siblings may experience extra caregiver burden, differential treatment, and an imbalance of family resources. Outside their families, siblings may experience limited access to information about the child's condition, negative peer reactions, and disruptions in social activities. It's important to address the psychological and emotional needs of this group at an early stage. Children spend more of their lifetimes with their siblings than they do with their parents. Siblings play a key role in one another's social and emotional development. They often sleep together in the same room, eat at the same table, and go to the same school. Our siblings are often the ones who most easily make us laugh and cry. So, when a child has a chronic illness or disability, brothers and sisters are likely to affect each other in both positive and negative ways.

<http://www.emaxhealth.com/50/5461.html>

Pfizer has free or low cost prescription assistance for the un- or underinsured of all ages. This includes undocumented immigrants and the Medicare Rx "donut hole". There are several different programs, 95% of which are free, and eligibility ranges from 200% FPL on up to no income limit depending on the program. Basically folks have to answer 5 questions: age, income, meds., lack prescription coverage, and where they live. Pfizer will also refer to other programs if they don't carry that medication. Applications can be downloaded (soon to be available online) at www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com or by calling toll-free (866)706-2400

Representatives will sort which program(s) folks are eligible for, in English and Spanish. Disability groups can also put a link on their website by clicking on the Community button which also has a 15 min. free online training for professionals. If you prefer the Partnership for Prescription Assistance has a gateway to all prescription programs, including Pfizer, at www.PPARx.org or call (888)4PPA-NOW.

Using *GOODSEARCH.com* will support our Special Needs Fund!

Helpful Hands, the Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative has joined the search engine at www.goodsearch.com. This site will give us a penny for each search conducted. Just fill in Northeast Regional Early Intervention Collaborative in the box that asks "who do you search for?" All of our fundraising efforts go toward our Special Needs Fund and other family support activities, not administrative expenses. For more information about the Special Needs Fund, go to www.nreic.org.

Every penny counts!

TRANSITION TO PRESCHOOL WORKSHOP

Our next Transition Workshop will be held at Helpful Hands, NREIC on November 20, 2008 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Highlights will include: Comparisons of Early Intervention and Preschool Services, Understanding the Transition Process from EI to Preschool, Components of IDEA, Transition materials, Parental Rights and Family Resources. RSVP to Desirée (973)256-8484 x204 or email Desirée@nreic.org with the number of people attending and your telephone number.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The next meeting for our support group for families to discuss challenges they are experiencing will be held at the JCC on the Palisades, Tenafly, on November 13, 2008 from 7:30pm-9:30pm. Free of charge. Please RSVP to Joy at 973-256-8484 x205 or email Joy@nreic.org

Today's children with hearing loss may surprise you! With the help of cochlear implants, digital hearing aids, and specialized instruction in listening and spoken language, deaf children can learn to listen and speak, just like their hearing peers. According to the University of Michigan, over 100,000 people have received cochlear implants in the past 20 years. Children with hearing impairment, however, are rarely represented in children's literature and cochlear implant technology is widely misunderstood.

To address these problems, Elizabeth Boschini and Rachel Chaikof, created a new children's book, Ellie's Ears. Written by Boschini and illustrated by Chaikof, the story presents cochlear implants and deafness from the perspective of Ellie, a ten-year-old deaf girl with bilateral cochlear implants, as she explains her hearing loss to a new student in her mainstream 3rd grade class.

The book is available for purchase at <http://stores.lulu.com/EaRbooks>, and the author and illustrator can be contacted at elliésearsbook@gmail.com or via their website, www.cochlearimplantonline.com. Proceeds from book sales will benefit organizations that provide legal advocacy and financial assistance to people in need of cochlear implants and other assistive listening devices.

Libraries and Autism - We're connected!

The website www.thejointlibrary.org/autism is aimed at helping library staff to serve individuals with autism and their families more effectively.

<http://www.thejointlibrary.org/autism/video.htm> The main component is a customer-service training video that focuses on what they need to know about autism and will empower them with specific techniques to offer more inclusive service to this growing and underserved population. In addition are important resources for libraries to use with individuals with autism.

All public libraries in the state of NJ will receive this on DVD as well as all NJ legislators.

Association for Special Children & Families (ASCF) offers the following support groups:
Behavioral Support : Tuesday at 7pm
General Support: Wednesdays at 7:30pm
Dad's Only: Thursdays at 7pm

To register and for more information call 973-728-8744
1810 Macopin Road, West Milford, NJ

VSA Arts of New Jersey is designated by Congress as the coordinating agency for arts programs for people with disabilities, and serves children and adults. They offer many diverse workshops and programs.

Visit them online at www.vsanj.org

Thank you to the following Corporations and individuals who helped make our 6th Annual Golf Outing a success:

Arc of Bergen & Passaic
Mrs. Eleanor Ariemma
Peggy Briant
Richard Byrne
William Clement
Robert Ciccone
Center for Family Resources
Christina Chivily
Commerce Bank
Howard Kerner
Jared M. Kurtz
Micael Longa
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Merletto
Mrs. Carolyn Scaglione
John Scaglione
William Tarallo
Wayne Subaru
Mary Alice Wilfong
Lisa Weinstein
Audrey Wrobel

We would also especially like to
Thank our Generous Sponsors:

Benjamin Franklin Plumbing
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Hawthorne Chevrolet
Jared M. Kurtz
Joe Meyer
Pediatric Therapy Resources
Provident Bank
Schwartz, Simon, Edelstein, Celso &
Kessler, LLC
Therapy Associates, LLC
Toilet Bowl Tradition

2008 Princeton Disability Awareness Conference

Princeton University
Sunday, November 23, 2008
10am - 8pm

This year, PDA is inviting families with children with Down Syndrome. The 2008 theme is education and will host speakers, workshops and exhibitors on topics including Early Intervention, Inclusion, Post-Secondary Education, and Creating an IEP. During the conference, all children with Down Syndrome under the age of 21 (and interested siblings) will attend a carnival with a personal Princeton University student volunteer. There will also be a nursery for all children under the age of 2. Complimentary brunch and dinner will be provided for all attendees. Registration must be completed and submitted online. If you do not receive email confirmation of your place in the conference by October 23rd, please email jnewbury@princeton.edu or call Jenni Newbury @ 908.581.4957.

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

AUTISM:

Putting the Pieces Together

*An Interdisciplinary Conference for
Teachers, Parents and Professionals*

November 21, 2008



KEAN
UNIVERSITY
www.kean.edu

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

This regional conference will bring together families, teachers, school administrators, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, counselors, social workers, psychologists, community organizations and others affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders. Family members and professionals will have the opportunity to learn about the local, regional and national resources available to those whose lives ASD touches each day. Panelists also will discuss the latest discipline-specific research, as well as the various strategies used to cope with this disorder. The conference will feature top research and medical experts on autism from throughout the country. Keynote speakers include Jake Greenspan, one of the co-directors of DIR Support Services in Bethesda, Md. DIR Support Services is a child development center specializing in the use of the DIR/Floortime model. Jake and his DIR co-director Tim Bleeker, with the help of Dr. Stanley Greenspan, developed evaluation and intervention programs based on all aspects of the DIR model. Their goal has been to develop and implement these intervention programs for children with a variety of developmental and learning challenges.

The conference lunchtime speaker is Jim Watkins, who co-anchors the Emmy Award-winning CW11 News at 10. Each weeknight, Watkins teams with co-anchor Kaity Tong, weatherman Irv "Mr. G" Gikofsky, and sportscaster Sal Marchiano. Jim and his wife Lauren Thierry, a CNN financial news reporter, are the parents of an autistic child who was born in 1997. Lauren made a much-praised documentary, Autism Every Day, which premiered to a sold-out audience at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Kean University - 1000 Morris Avenue, Union, New Jersey 07083 - 908-737-KEAN (5326)

http://www.conference-register.com/autism_conf_reg.asp

New Jersey Language & Autism Genetics Study (NJLAGS)

The Autism Center at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School is conducting a study that looks at how genes influence the development of autism. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is sponsoring this research as part of their national effort to learn more about the genetics of autism. This research is the first large genetics study to look at the connection between language development problems and autism in New Jersey. This is a 5-year study of children diagnosed with autism. If you have any questions, or are interested in participating in this research study go to:

<http://lifesci.rutgers.edu/njlags>

or

Contact by Phone: (732-) 445-1224



THE YM-YWHA OF NORTH JERSEY'S CHILDREN'S SUNDAY THEATRE SERIES

DECEMBER 14, 2008 TIME-2:30^{PM}
MAMA DONI BAND

Mama Doni's songs are a breath of fresh air for everyone from "Babies to Bubbies" - hip young kids and their even hipper parents and grandparents. "I Love Herring!" will be especially appreciated by those with an understanding of Jewish and Yiddish culture, but its universal themes of love and laughter are filled with musical and lyrical surprises that appeal to people of all ages, backgrounds, and religions!

Every genre, including reggae, folk, classic rock, country, hip hop, klezmer, and theatrical. This wild mix of musical styles is woven together with Yiddish terms and Jewish themes. The energized and unconventional songs are each stories unto themselves, with characters you can't help but love, like Bubbie, the Cowgirl Jew, The Jewperheroes, and Shlomo the Gefilte Fish.

Sponsored in part by Kiddsville



JANUARY 4, 2009 TIME-11:30^{AM}
A DOLPHIN UP A TREE

It's a magic day for Tina Talkington and her animals! Tina cast a magic spell to make her stuffed animals talk! Owl, Fox and Beaver sprung to life, but now her little brother is a Giant Baby and Tina has turned herself into a Dolphin up a tree! How will the animals learn to work together and get Dolphin out of the tree? Owl sings, "fly." Fox sings, "learn to walk." Beaver is busy building a bathtub. In this hilarious and interactive combination of comedy, songs, slapstick and drama, the different animals learn how to co-operate and help Dolphin. Kids yell out answers to help the animals and Tina learn to understand their differences - even appreciate them!



FEBRUARY 8, 2009 TIME-11:30^{AM}
DAVID JACK IS BACK!

An award winning children's recording artist who brings originality, upbeat humor and a refreshing hip musical energy to his audiences. He performs regularly at Sesame Place and on radio and TV.



MARCH 1, 2009 TIME-11:30^{AM}
FUNKY MONKEYS

The theater is very kid-friendly: children sit right on the floor and get a close-up view of the various instruments. Adults get a choice of sitting on chairs in the back or on the floor with their kids. For very young tots, the band can get loud, so if your child is noise-sensitive, a back seat may be preferable. Created by Joshua Sitron, composer for Nickelodeons *Dora the Explorer*, the Funky Monkeys are a supergroup of professional musicians and comedians based in New York City, who produced eclectic CDs and live shows for kids and parents.

Sponsored by Valley National Bank



Tickets price: \$8 Member / \$10 Non-Member
TO PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE CALL EXT.237

Free to children under 2 • Seniors 65 and over \$4

One Pike Drive, Wayne NJ 07470 • www.ymha-nj.org • 973-595-0100

