



# NEW DIRECTIONS

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTION CENTER C/O Women and Children's Hospital 219 Bryant Street Buffalo, NY 14222 PHONE 716-880-3875 1-800-462-7653  
FAX (716) 836-1252 [www.wchob.org/ecdc](http://www.wchob.org/ecdc) Any questions? [rmalinowski@Kaleidahealth.org](mailto:rmalinowski@Kaleidahealth.org)

December 2007

The Early Childhood Direction Center

The ECDC is a regional clearinghouse that provides free information, referral, technical assistance and support to families, professionals, and community agencies concerned with children birth to five with suspected or diagnosed delays or disabilities. We provide ongoing community training programs for both parents and professionals.

The ECDC is funded by New York State Education Department and hosted by Women and Children's Hospital.

## **PERSPECTIVE ON PARENT INVOLVEMENT:**

**Joyce Epstein's Framework of Schools, Family & Community Partnerships**  
By Diane Salverson

The ECDC was proud to co-host a full day conference by Dr. Joyce Epstein in November. Dr. Epstein talked about the 6-Types of "School-Family-Community Partnerships" For Enhancing Inclusion and Increasing Students' Success. These keys to partnership include:

### **The basic obligations of parents**

- To help children learn by keeping them healthy and safe, and by supervising, disciplining and guiding them.
- Help children feel good about themselves and confident with others.
- Teach children a positive attitude about learning and school.

### **Communications between home and school**

- Schools provide information to parents about students' progress and school programs.
- Schools also provide ways for parents to share with school staff information important to their children's learning.

(Phone calls, notes, conferences, open houses, newsletters, and report cards are examples.)

### **Parent involvement at school**

- Parents assist teachers, administrators, and children in the classroom and school building by volunteering.
- They support their children by attending student performances, sports or other events, or attending workshops or classes for their own learning as parents.

### **Parent involvement in learning activities at home**

- Families learn together by talking and listening to each other, playing games, reading, going on trips, visiting museums, telling stories, singing and working on homework.
- Parents help children connect family learning to school learning.

### **Parent involvement in governance and advocacy**

- Parents help make decisions in the school through parent groups, building leadership teams and other local school organizations.
- Parents work for school improvement at the district, state, and national level.

### **Parent involvement through community collaborations**

- Citizens in community agencies, businesses, service groups, cultural organizations, governmental units, faith communities, and other groups work together with schools in the best interests of children's learning.

When school, family, and the community work together students succeed!

## Ask ECDC

Dear ECDC,

I heard that there are some new changes to the regulations for Special Education, is there anything that I need to know? Joanne, Buffalo

Stacie Ricioppo replies:

Yes, there are some changes that all parents need to know.

- If you have concerns about your child and would like an evaluation you must make the referral, in writing, to your school district.
- If you are transitioning from Early Intervention to Preschool Services, you can invite your EI Service Coordinator to your first meeting along with anyone else that you wish. The Early intervention representative is a member only at the request of the parent of the student transitioning from EI to preschool special education. You and the district can also agree in writing that certain members of the Committee on Preschool Special Education can be excused from the meeting.
- Meetings are not required for every little change on the Individual Education Plan. If the district and the parent agree (in writing) changes can be made to the IEP. You have the right however to hold the meeting if you wish, at anytime.

**For more information about these changes and much more join us for Overview of CPSE/CSE**

**January 23, 2008**

**5:30-7:30 pm**

**People Inc.**

**3131 Sheridan Dr. (Northtown Plaza)**

**Amherst, NY 14226**

**RSVP 800-462-7653**

**We will bring the pizza you bring the questions.**