



# 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)

**June 2008**

Early Childhood Direction Center

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. ECDC is funded by New York State Education Department and hosted by Women and Children's Hospital. If you would like to be included on our list serve to receive the latest federal, state and local updates, please send an email to [vrubin@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:vrubin@kaleidahealth.org) and indicate whether you are a parent or a professional.

**WE NEED YOU!**

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Patient and Family Centered Care Committee is looking for parent members who would like to join us for a 1-2 year term. Parent members advise the committee about issues parents face while in the NICU and help to improve the relationship between medical staff and families. Specific activities may include talking to current NICU families, or participating on a problem focused committee to improve one aspect of Family-Centered Care. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Debbie Griesbaum at 878-7961

**Healthy Fact :** Do not use air-filled or foam toys, such as water wings, noodles, or inner-tubes, in place of life jackets (personal flotation devices) with young children. These toys are not designed to keep swimmers safe. For more information on swimming and pool safety, please visit the CDC website. <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/drown.htm>

**DID YOU KNOW?**



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that your homeowners insurance should provide coverage or have riders covering the medical equipment ordered by your doctor? If your home burned how would you replace your hospital bed, specialty mattress, power wheelchair, lift equipment, shower equipment, breathing equipment, etc? Speak to your insurance agent about extra and /or additional coverage or riders for replacement costs of these expensive items.

**DID YOU KNOW** that your automobile insurance should cover your wheelchair accessible vehicle at replacement cost or book value? Is your lift equipment declared and covered under your policy? If your vehicle were totaled how would you pay for the vehicle and lift equipment to be replaced? Speak with your insurance agent about adequate coverage for replacement costs on the vehicle and all equipment installed.

**DID YOU KNOW** that if you are renting an apartment or room you need a renter's insurance policy? Your landlord is insured for the property but your apartment contents are usually not covered unless you have your own renter's insurance policy. Are you going to be able to replace your equipment in the event of a fire, disaster or emergency?

**DID YOU KNOW** that you may be eligible for a property tax exemption on part of your home if you have made modifications or built your home to be wheelchair accessible? Contact your local tax assessor's office for more information - or refer to Office of Real Property Services, Section 4.01 - RPTL section 459, exemption code 4190.

For more information contact: Christine Muller, The Independence Foundation 716-685-3976

[www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org](http://www.TheIndependenceFoundation.org)

Dear ECDC:

## Ask ECDC

I am a parent of a three-year old girl. I have been reading about Response to Intervention for school-age students in the newspapers. Does this apply to my preschool child? John, West Seneca

Diane Salverson replies:

Response to Intervention is a strategy for school age children; however, a version of this strategy has been designed for preschool children and is known as Recognition and Response (R&R). R&R is designed to help early childhood teachers and parents recognize children who show signs of learning difficulty and respond in ways that help them experience early school success. These children may exhibit problems in areas such as speech and language development, movement, hand and finger skills, and attention.

Recognition & Response is an emerging early childhood practice that is still being developed. R&R is a three-tiered approach:

1. Specific teaching strategies and providing a high quality-learning environment,
2. Determining whether most children are making adequate progress in key domains of learning and development (group interventions) and
3. Responding to individual children who require additional supports to learn (individualized interventions).

It is important to note that some three to five-year-olds will require additional supports to acquire key school readiness concepts before kindergarten, even when teachers use effective curriculum and specific teaching.

Being aware of your child's developmental stages will empower you to recognize if your child shows early signs of learning difficulties. The Early Childhood Direction Center offers free birth to five-year old developmental checklists. If you have further questions about R&R and/or are interested in a free copy of the developmental checklist please contact Diane Salverson at 716-880-3876 or [dsalverson@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:dsalverson@kaleidahealth.org). A copy of the developmental checklist can be sent by email or postal service.