



May, 2009

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Message from the Co-Chairs

Spring has finally come. The flowering trees and plants are in full bloom and warmth is in the air. We had some very successful events over the winter with wonderful turnouts from families and friends in the Early Intervention community.

In March, 100 people attended the presentation by Kim West, The [Sleep Lady's Gentle Guide to Helping your Child Go to Sleep, Stay Asleep and Wake up Happy](#). Kim provided families with many practical ideas on sleep routines for children.

The Family Outreach Group sponsored [Play Dates](#) at locations like My Gym that were filled to capacity. What a wonderful time for families to meet each other and learn about the opportunities in the Early Intervention community.

In this newsletter you will find information about upcoming events and meetings. We hope that you will come out and support the efforts of our Early Intervention community.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Ann Timashenka, Professional Co-Chair at 717-732-8400, ext. 8537, atimash@caiu.org, or Linda Burkley, Parent Co-Chair, lindaburkley@verizon.net.

Next EIC Meeting-

May 14, 2009

10:00 am

CMU

1100 Cameron St.

Harrisburg

232-8761

Upcoming Events

Make sure you have the following events on your calendar!

[Faith-based Networking Breakfast](#)

May 26, 2009

[EIC Family Networking](#)

July 16 at the CAIU in Summerdale 6:30-7:30 PM

[Family Carnival](#)

August, 2009

[EIC Retreat at Warm Springs Lodge](#)

October 30, 2009

[Feeding Disorders Presentation](#)

November 12 at the CAIU in Summerdale 6:00-8:00 PM

KUDOS

[El Physical Therapist Named as Healthcare Hero Finalist](#)

Lizbeth Kelly, Owner of Pediatric Physical Therapy, Inc., was recently recognized as a Healthcare Hero finalist in the 2009 Central Penn Parent Healthcare Heroes awards program. Now in its second year, Healthcare Heroes recognizes individuals whose job performance is considered exemplary by patients and peers.

Nominated by Linda Burkley, mom of Andrew Burkley who was treated by Liz throughout his three years in the Dauphin County Early Intervention Program, Liz was a finalist in the Allied Healthcare Hero category and was honored along with other finalists at a breakfast program at the Whitaker Center in March.

Congratulations to Liz on her recognition and for her ongoing commitment to children in Central Pennsylvania!

[CAIU Educational Para-Professional receives Cumberland/Perry special recognition award.](#)

Susan Luhn, Educational Para-Professional received an award from Cumberland/Perry MH/MR for her dedicated service in the counties. Suze has worked for the CAIU EI program for 20 years. She has found a way to reach children with unique needs and provide them avenues to learn in a place where they feel safe and successful. She has an innate ability to know what children need to feel successful in their educational environment and in their homes.

Congratulations to Suze on her award and her service to children and families!

Resources

[**Especially for Parents**](#) is an online network and forum where parents of children and youth with special health care needs can share knowledge and offer support. Members are able to start a discussion, share tips, tricks, and shortcuts, offer support to others, write a blog, create a group for parents with similar interests or situations, create a virtual meeting spot for a local community group, invite friends to become community members, and promote events. Visit us by going to www.pamedicalhome.org and clicking on the "Parents" button.

[**Want to meet other local families like yours? How about a Meetup?**](#)

Technology can be a great tool to link families with common interests. Sometimes it can be tough to find other moms or dads to talk to, schedule play dates with, etc. Now, there are some easy ways to find out who is looking for the same things you might be looking for. The website www.meetup.com is a great way to search for existing groups in our community or to form your own group around special topics of interest such as parenting a child with special needs, diagnosis, specific topics such as raising a preemie or a child with Down syndrome. There are also more general groups for other playgroups or outing opportunities. A number of these meetings exist in the tri-county region already. This may be an avenue that your family can use to meet others in the area. Resources exist on www.community-links.net as well as Parent to Parent www.parenttoparent.org which links families of children and adults with disabilities and special needs together.

[**Hershey Park Passes for Guests with Disabilities**](#)

Hershey Park offers special season passes for guests with disabilities. Guests need to request the passes at the Hershey Park season pass office. The passes are cheaper than the regular season pass rate and companion tickets may also be purchased at a discounted rate. The companion pass has a C in the photo space so that anyone accompanying the guest with a disability can use it. You only need a pass if you are over the age of three. If the child is less than three, parents can still buy a companion pass. Passes also include free parking, free entrance to Zoo America and discounts on food and merchandise purchased within the park. You definitely get your money's worth!

Committee Meetings

The following committees meet periodically throughout the year to support the mission of the EIC and provide quality early intervention services to children and families. If you would like to join one of the committees or want more information, please contact one of the committees chairs listed below. We look forward to you joining our team!

2008-09 EIC Meeting

Schedule:

10:00 AM

May 14, 2009

CMU

1100 Cameron Street

Harrisburg

232-8761

Membership Committee

Chair- Cheryl Gundrum- 780-7048 or cgundrum@dauphinc.org

(Responsible for recruitment of members and planning for EIC meetings. This group also collaborates with other committees to disseminate information important to the early learning community, as well as upcoming events, workshops and celebrations.)

Family Outreach Group

Chair- Amy Reed - 240-6320 or areed@ccpa.net

(Will look at ways to include and engage families in the EIC as well as creating networking opportunities for them.)

Seamless Transition Committee

Chair- Eric Bostick - 732-8400 or ebostick@caiu.org

(Focuses on the efforts of OCDEL to develop a cohesive early intervention system (birth through the age of beginners) by implementing best practices at the local level. Our goal is for families to have a smooth and positive journey to school age programs.)

Professional and Family Development Committee

Chair -Ann Timashenka - 732-8400 or atimashe@caiu.org

(Provides training opportunities for families, child care providers and professionals.)

Child find Committee

Chair - Amy Swartz 240-6320 or aswartz@ccpa.net

(Provides information and outreach to primary referral resources. Actively identifying new referral sources.)

Faith Based Inclusion Committee

Chair-Amy Reed 240-6320 or areed@ccpa.net

(For Families and Faith Community members interested in including children and youth with disabilities in their faith traditions.)

SICC Calendar (2009-10)

(12:00-3:00 at PATTAN in Harrisburg)

August 13, 2009

October 1, 2009

December 3, 2009

February 4, 2010

April 1, 2010

June 3, 2010

Parental and professional involvement is essential. Our community is diverse and we need the input and support of many to provide quality services to young children with disabilities and delays and their families.

Enjoy the warmth and beauty of the spring and summer months!