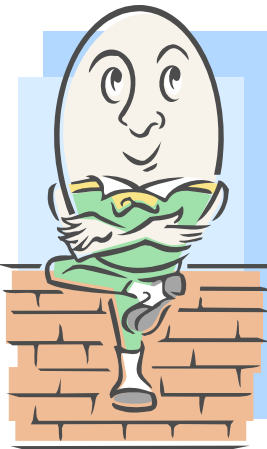




The Professional Center for Child Development

The Importance of Nursery Rhymes

By Cheryl Bruk MSCCC/SLP



Nursery rhymes have been around for a long time and a recent article in the Center for Early Literacy Learning Review highlighted new research on why they are here to stay! Research shows that nursery rhymes help develop children's early communication, language and literacy skills. They target early communication skills by working on joint attention and turn taking skills. Pausing at the "high point" in a song/rhyme and encouraging your child to fill in the

word or use a gesture will facilitate both receptive and expressive language skills. You can also give your child a choice during the rhyme to further encourage language skills. For example when signing "If you are happy and you know it", ask you child if they want to do "beep your nose" or "clap hands" next, while showing them the actions. Research has also shown that the rhyming aspect of nursery rhymes promotes literacy development. So, scoop up you baby or toddler and enjoy a round of Twinkle twinkle little star. Remember children learn more when they are interested and engaged so use exaggerated gestures and voices and pause to let them take their turn or signal for you to do it again.

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and

130 Parker Street,
Lawrence, MA 01843

Winter 2011—2012
Volume 15, Issue 3

Programs at the PCCD

- ◆ Early Intervention
- ◆ Developmental Day School
- ◆ Two-by-Two & EI play groups
- ◆ Regional Consultation Program
- ◆ Private Therapy & PCCD Preschool

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Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you

Star light Star bright
The first star I see tonight,
I wish I may, I wish I might,
Have this wish I wish tonight.

From The Desk of The Executive Director

The fall season at the Center was wonderful. The warm weather and dry ground allowed us to use our playground through December. We all enjoyed the leaves, pumpkins, and fall plants in our sensory garden, and the freedom of being outside to play in the warm sunshine. Our **19th Annual Trot for Special Tots** was a great success. Many of our families came to run, walk, and enjoy the costume parade. Our fundraising goal was exceeded, and we are using the funds to benefit the children enrolled in our programs. We want to thank all of our wonderful staff, volunteers, and Board members for all their help with special projects, cooking, and all of the activities that made the event fun and safe for all who came together to enjoy a beautiful fall morning. We thank all of our sponsors including our Premier sponsor, "Following Our Hearts!" Credit Unions United.

As we move into the Winter Season, and celebrate the Winter Holidays, we are making plans for our Annual Swing into Spring Gala to be held on Friday, April 27, 2012 at the Andover Country Club. We have many

wonderful sponsors and donors supporting us this year, and we have some special plans for making it a truly special evening. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us to share this very unique event where we honor special people in our community who help children and families while we all join together to welcome Springtime. Please contact the Center or go to **www.TheProfessionalCenter.org** if you want more information. If you would like to sponsor, donate, or volunteer please call the Center for further information. We welcome and are very grateful for your help.


We are looking forward to safe and happy Winter with our friends and neighbors. Please stay tuned for future announcements as we move forward with the events we are planning for the coming months, and please

save the date for our Swing into Spring Gala on Friday, April 27, 2012 at the Andover Country Club.



Veryl D. Anderson, RN
Executive Director

Life isn't
about
waiting for
the storm to
pass... it's
about Learning to
Dance in the
rain.



two by two
An Integrated Toddler Experience



One of the areas only
drop off play groups for
young children

A play & educational
experience designed especially for toddlers that
integrate children of all developmental levels.

Sign your child up today

Northeast Regional Consultation Program Augmentative Communication Assessments

By: Rachel Daniels, OTR

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) evaluations are a highlight of my job. I enjoy watching the children explore and expand their abilities. I love that they leave the assessment better able to communicate and play than when they arrived.

Our AAC evaluation team consists of a speech language pathologist, an occupational therapist and a developmental specialist with strong backgrounds in the language, cognitive and motor development of young children combined with knowledge of assistive technology. Assistive technology includes both light tech (e.g. picture supports, switch adaptations, pointers, voice output devices) as well as high tech (e.g. computer, iPad) options. Our assessments are play-based and success-oriented, incorporating collaboration from the child's family and Early Intervention treatment team. We gather information about the child's current levels of communication and play and then assess how much farther they can go with assistive technology supports.

We provide immediate feedback and a follow up report with recommendations. In addition, we loan materials such as simple technology devices and adapted toys.

People question whether providing augmentative and alternative means to communicate will decrease a child's interest in working on speech. Research, however, shows that that is not the case. (See <http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/b2.html> for more information on AAC research.) It seems that successful communication spurs more attempts to communicate by any means possible.



This toy has been adapted with a switch. A child will touch to play with.

Let's Get Organized

Join the Family TIES Regional Coordinator for this free workshop to develop your own record-keeping system for your child with special needs.

February 8th 6:30 to 8:30

PCCD Andover Conference Room

RSVP before 2/1/12 to ext. 243



April 27, 2012

Andover Country Club

Save the Date

Swing Into Spring
Annual Gala &
Auction

Proud Premier Gala Sponsor

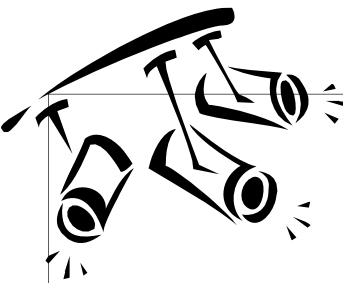
FOLLOWING OUR HEARTS!
Credit Unions united in supporting
The Professional Center for Child Development



You can help by making a donation to the auction.

- ◆ Give gift cards for the "Gift Card Tree"
- ◆ Make a themed basket for the auction
- ◆ Donate a skill or service you may have— great for business!
- ◆ Advertise in the Gala Program/Ad Book
- ◆ Attend the April Gala with your friends

Staff Spotlight



Name: Laura Eberth, MS RN
Education: Simmons College
Position: Health Coordinator
(Classroom Nurse for 7 years)

Years at the PCCD: 9 years

Thoughts about working at the PCCD: It is a privilege to work at PCCD. The staff are incredible... the most compassionate and dedicated people I have encountered in my career. Working directly with the children motivates and inspires me and gives me the greatest joy. **PCCD is a place where wonderful things happen.**

Name: Kim Briggs, M.Ed. CCC-SLP
(Speech & Language Pathology)
Education: Northeastern University
Position: Private Therapy Program Director
PCCD Preschool

Years at the PCCD: 10 years

Thoughts about working at the PCCD: The staff at the PCCD are supportive to the families and children that they service but also to each other. The most impressive aspect of working at Professional Center for Child Development is to see a child's growth and development just blossom.

Name: Caitlin Burke, M.Ed. CEIS
Education: Merrimack College, Lesley University

Position: Developmental Specialist in EI

Years at the PCCD: 8 years

Thoughts about working at the PCCD: I began working at PCCD as a Merrimack College intern. I immediately fell in love with the children in this age group! The environment at The Center, and the support I received from my co-workers made me realize that I would want to continue with this type of work. Today, I still enjoy seeing a child waiting for me at his front door when I pull into his driveway. Seeing a child talk or sign for the first time is extremely rewarding, and it is such a joy to observe the parents' reactions to their child's progress. My work at the PCCD is special, and each day brings new opportunities and rewards!

News from Early Intervention... Sandy Levine, LCSW, CEIS—EI Program Director

Studies support that Early Intervention (EI) continues to be one of the most cost effective programs for children birth to age three with developmental delays. We at PCCD are proud of the services offered by our experienced and very competent staff who make a difference to the 350 families we serve in the Merrimack Valley.

2012 will bring some new initiatives

- ◆ Increased use of our SMART Board at our Andover site for workshops and programming
- ◆ Increased use of computers and Ipads in home visits
- ◆ Use of the Battelle Developmental Inventory - 2nd Edition for eligibility evaluations for newly referred children
- ◆ Continued participation in the Breathefree for Kids Study which helps families who want to reduce cigarette smoke in the home. For those who chose to participate, the goal is to help reduce the amount of second hand smoke children are exposed to at home.
- ◆ Advocacy for an increase in the EI rate paid by insurance companies to allow EI to maintain its skilled staff

If you have questions or are interested in any of these initiatives, I'd be happy to speak with you. Please call me at our Lawrence site 978-688-5070.

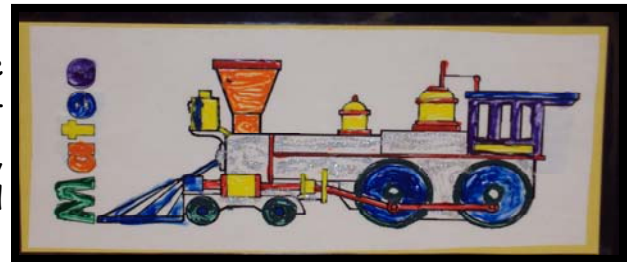
All aboard the Polar Express

These were the words heard in the Developmental Day School as students lined up with tickets in hand for the Polar Express. This award winning book, written by Chris Van Allsburg (which is also a movie featuring Tom Hanks) is a winter favorite and was one of the books highlighted as part of our literacy curriculum.



All week we read the story about a boy who takes a magical train ride which captured everyone's attention each time. The great illustrations provided lots of opportunities to incorporate curriculum goals such as number concepts (counting people, animals or objects); color recognition (find something red, who is wearing blue); identification of shapes (train cars are great for this); and weather (snow and cold).

During our weekly cooking class we made a train cake which was a great sensory experience. Students each got a mini train car cake which could be seen, smelled, touched and tasted (depending) before decorating and assembling to make our Polar Express.



At the end of the week we transformed the classroom into a movie theater for a special showing of the Polar Express movie. During the week students made their own train themed ticket which gave them admission to the show.

Our Conductor Avery collected tickets at the door (photo above).

It was a great week of fun and learning!

By: Linda Sliwoski, M.Ed.—Director of the PCCD Developmental Day School

2x3 Preschool



The 2x3 Preschool has a few spaces available for this school year. The Preschool is a natural transition from the 2x2 Toddler group.

The Preschool "Great Summer Adventure" begins in July for 6 weeks on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Registration will be available in February.

Private Individual Therapy Sessions are available for Speech-Language, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy.

For more information about these programs and to schedule a visit to the Preschool, contact Kim Briggs, Private Therapy Program Director, ext. 226



A special thanks to our friends who so generously contributed time, talent and financial support in 2011.

Thanks to you we were able to...

- ♦ **Expand our Developmental Day School to accommodate children up to the age of 10.** This means that children with special needs can now continue to make educational and therapeutic gains without the complication and confusion of transitioning into elementary school. These children will graduate from the Day School and transition easily into Middle School where they will continue to build on their academic achievements.
- ♦ **Increase access to assistive technology in our classrooms.** The use of laptops, iPads and educational applications in our classrooms provide access to more creative education plans, increases participation, promotes independence and for children receiving special education services, assistive technologies make academic and cooperative inclusion possible.
- ♦ **Provide vital therapeutic, educational and social services to over 1,000 local families through our Early Intervention Program.**
- ♦ **Increase awareness, advocacy and education through on-site and community-based trainings and workshops.** Through our Regional Consultation Program we provided education and training for our staff, local child-care providers, other Early Intervention programs, school systems and parents. Our goal is to better educate the community to maximize the educational gains of local children.



Your continued support in 2012 will have a direct and positive impact on the education and well-being of so many local children and families - **thank you.**

PCCD Board of Directors

Officers

- Ms. Susan Moloney, Chairman
- Ms. Kelly Gilbert, Vice Chair
- Mr. John DeCourcy, Treasurer
- Ms. Janice Burkholder, Clerk

Members

- Mr. Peter Daniels
- Mr. Brian Latina
- Mr. Sam Meas
- Mr. Matthew Remis
- Mr. John Roberts
- Mr. William Schofield
- PCCD Executive Director,**
- Ms. Veryl Anderson

PCCD Schedule of Events...

- Ongoing** Parent groups—Complex Health Care Needs
- Ongoing** Two-by-Two/Three, Day School and Agency tours
- 2/8/12** "Let's Get Organized" Workshop for families
- 4/27/12** PCCD's Swing Into Spring Gala @ Andover Country Club
- Spring 12'** PCCD Early Intervention Family Survey

PCCD Wish List *Donating from the "Wish List" is easy. Just Call the Center.*

- ♦ *Riding or walk behind lawn mower with grass collection system (new or gently used)*
- ♦ *Gas or Electric hedge trimmer, lawn trimmer and/or gas powered back pack leaf blower*
- ♦ *Items for our silent auction and Road Race prizes*
- ♦ *Art Supplies, Bubbles and Play Doh* - Batteries AA, C, D, 9 volt
- ♦ *Printing of agency newsletter or brochures* - New or used (in good condition) car seats
- ♦ *Gift certificates (BJ's and Market Basket, Toys' R Us, gas cards)*

Family Involvement in Early

Intervention

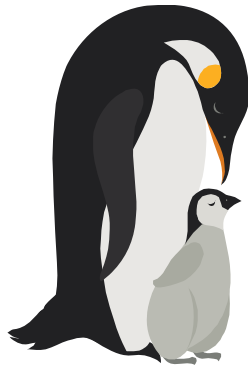
Parent Leadership Project 1-877-35-EI-PLP

The Project's main goal is to promote lifetime advocacy and leadership skills, and work to develop an informed parent constituency which will, in turn, encourage Early Intervention services to be increasingly family centered. As a parent initiated and parent driven endeavor, the PLP continually seeks family input regarding the needs of EI families in our state. Identifying these needs helps determine future direction for the project as well as the EI system as a whole.

The Parent Perspective is a free newsletter written by and for parents distributed 8 times a year. Parents are invited to submit articles. The Professional Center frequently submits articles and information to this publication. contact the PLP to receive the newsletter.

Become more involved...

Join a statewide committee or task group with The Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC).



You can make The Professional Center for Child Development even better...

~ Join the Friends of The Center ~

~ Volunteer for an event ~

Family Rights in

Early Intervention Services

In your intake packet, each family received a brochure on family rights in EI. If you would like another copy, please ask your service coordinator.

If more information is needed, The Department of Public Health has written standards for the operation of Early Intervention Programs and written procedures that protect your rights. You may get a copy of these at The PCCD or by going on the DPH web site.

Early Intervention services in Massachusetts are provided in compliance with federal regulations.

This newsletter is designed to share information with families colleagues, the community, and contributors. The newsletter is coordinated by Ellen Waddill (the PCCD Parent Liaison) and is edited by Ellen, Emily Knapp, those who write articles & other PCCD staff.

To contribute articles, stories, poetry, etc.,

please call Ellen at ext. 217 or Ellen@TheProfessionalcenter.org

Family TIES of Massachusetts

(TIES—Together In Enhancing Support)

A statewide information and support network for families of children with disabilities, special health care needs, or chronic illness.

MassFamilyTies.org

1-800-905-TIES

"Friends of The Center"

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift to help The PCCD provide services and support for families and children as has been done for three decades. With your help, PCCD will expand services, develop new programs, and make facility improvements.

\$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____
\$1000 _____ \$ _____

Name and address of contributor (please print) Email: _____

Name: _____ Address: _____



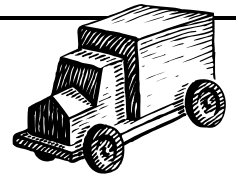
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for making our Holiday Toy Drive a wonderful success



Thank you for
"Adopting a Gingerbread Boy/Girl"
and donating to our classrooms.
We appreciate your kindness!

Thank you for choosing the
Professional Center for Child Development
for your child's first
educational experience



On behalf of all the children at the PCCD...
Shea & Clariselly accept books from
employees at Raytheon.

