



The Professional Center  
for Child Development

## PCCD An Impressive History of Education, Early Intervention and Care.

The Professional Center for Child Development (PCCD) was founded in Andover in 1973 as a private nursery school for children with disabilities (now known as the **PCCD Developmental Day School**). Through the dedication and vision of its founders the PCCD grew into the multifaceted agency it is today.

The **Early Intervention Program** was added in 1978 to provide outreach and education for infants and toddlers. In 1986 PCCD moved to its current location at 32 Osgood Street in Andover, and in 1994, opened a second site at 130 Parker Street in Lawrence. Services are provided to more than 1,400 children and families each year.

The PCCD grew even more over the years... The **Two-by-Two** toddler groups and the **PCCD Preschool** enabled children of all abilities ages 2 to 5 the opportunity to learn and play together with children in The Center's Developmental Day School and Early Intervention Program.

In the last 10 years the PCCD started a **Pediatric Therapy Program** offering speech, occupational, and physical therapies. And the **Regional Consultation Program of the Northeast** that provides consultation services and direct care to families, child care centers and other Early Intervention programs.

It continues to be a privilege working with the families in our community. As we look forward to our 40th anniversary, we say thank you for your support.

- ◆ Decorate a wagon, stroller or wheelchair and pull the kids
- ◆ Join us for the Free Cookout and Costume Parade
- ◆ Get a Team together and name it after your child
- ◆ Create a personal fundraising page by going to [www.active.com/donate/trotforspecialtots](http://www.active.com/donate/trotforspecialtots) (invite family & friends to make pledges in your child's name)



### 19th Annual Trot For Special Tots - Oct. 2nd

978-475-3806  
[www.TheProfessionalCenter.org](http://www.TheProfessionalCenter.org)  
32 Osgood Street,  
Andover, MA 01810  
and  
130 Parker Street,  
Lawrence, MA 01843

Fall 2011  
Volume 15, Issue 2

#### Programs at the PCCD

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

#### Inside this issue:

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## From The Desk of The Executive Director

The summer season was wonderful here at the Center. Our playground, shaded by our special trees and complimented by our flowering sensory garden, was a very comfortable and fun filled place to be. We spent more time out doors playing with water, sand, and in the grass. All our outdoor riding toys were sparkling clean thanks to our ongoing car washes. Everyone enjoyed chasing rolling balls and butterflies at the end of the summer session. We want to thank all of our wonderful student volunteers for all their help with special projects, groups and fun events this summer. We wish them well as they settle back into school this fall.

We are gearing up for our annual 5K Trot for Special Tots. This year our event is scheduled for Sunday, October 2, 2011 at the Andover Site. We have many wonderful sponsors and donors supporting us this year. We hope that you and your family will be able to join us on this special fall morning. We will celebrate with a cookout, a costume parade, fun and

Prizes. Please contact the Center or go to [www.TheProfessionalCenter.org](http://www.TheProfessionalCenter.org) if you wish to register for the race or walk. If you would like to sponsor, donate, or volunteer please call the Center for further information.

We are looking forward to a beautiful fall season 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



### Trot for Tots a fun family event

This year's family-friendly event is Sunday, Oct. 2, with check-in and registration beginning at 9 AM. Runners & walkers take off at 10 AM, following the 3.1 mile fast, flat course along residential streets. The event ends with a free costume parade and free cookout for all participants.

Medals will be presented to the top 2 male and female race winners in age categories, and prizes awarded to the top fundraisers. All taking part in the costume parade and walk will receive a ribbon.

Create a personal fundraising page by going to [www.active.com/donate/trotforspecialtots](http://www.active.com/donate/trotforspecialtots) (invite family & friends to make pledges in your child's name)

Proud Premier Sponsor

**FOLLOWING OUR HEARTS!**

Credit Unions united in supporting  
The Professional Center for Child Development



~~ Costume Parade ~~

Try out that great costume



Call or go to our website for more info.

## Assistance with Medical Expenses

A family with a child who has complex care needs or multiple disabilities often incurs increased medical expenses. In addition to private insurance, there are government programs that may help to relieve the financial burden. The following are brief descriptions of some possible resources. All require an application to determine eligibility.

- ◆ SSI (Supplemental Security Income) provides a monthly cash benefit and automatic eligibility for MassHealth (Medicaid). The family, however, must have limited income and resources. For example, a two parent household with one child in need of SSI may make no more than \$48,705.36 per year.
- ◆ MassHealth Standard is medical insurance available to children based on family income whether or not the child has a disability.
- ◆ MassHealth CommonHealth is medical insurance for a child with special medical needs, available to families whose income and resources exceed the limits of SSI and MassHealth Standard. A premium (determined by a sliding scale) may be required, however, MassHealth CommonHealth as a secondary insurance may reimburse a private insurance premium.
- ◆ MassHealth Kaileigh Mulligan provides funding for in-home care of children who are dependent on invasive medical technology and have two separate nursing needs daily, regardless of the parents' income or assets.
- ◆ Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund is a reimbursement program for families who spend more than 10 to 15 percent of their gross annual income during one year to meet their child's special health care needs.

For more information about these resources contact Rachel Daniels (RCP@TheProfessionalCenter.org or PCCD ext. 242) or the Community Support Hotline (1-800-882-1435 in Massachusetts or 617-624-5992 out of state).

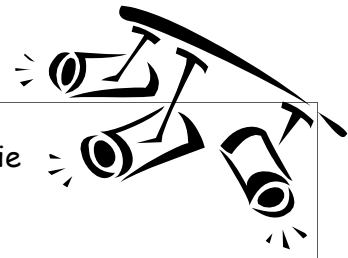
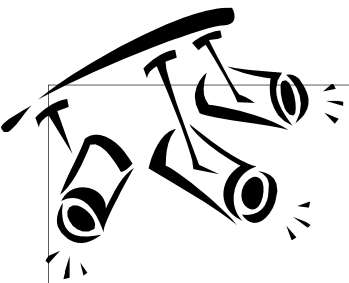
By: Rachel Daniels, MS, OTR/L  
Director—PCCD Northeast Regional Consultation Program

## Become an active member of the PCCD community

- ◆ Like us on Facebook
- ◆ Volunteer at The Center
- ◆ Tell a friend about the PCCD
- ◆ Join a committee for a special event
- ◆ Come to parent/professional workshops
- ◆ Write for the newsletter—Tell your story!
- ◆ Continue after 2x2 with The PCCD Preschool
- ◆ Come to a family/community event—Trot, Gala, Holiday Party, Legislative Coffee, etc.



# Staff Spotlight



**Name:** Jordan Natalino, MS Sped.  
**Education:** Cedarville University, OH and Salem State University  
**Position:** Developmental Specialist in EI  
**Years at the PCCD:** 4 years

**Thoughts about working at the PCCD:** "I enjoy working at PCCD tremendously. I have the opportunity to work with some of the most dedicated, supportive people. I love investing in the lives of children and families. It is such a blessing to watch the children grow, learn, and accomplish so much. Every day is exciting!"

**Name:** Vianna Deoleo  
**Education:** Northern Essex Community College  
**Position:** Classroom Assistant—Day School  
**Years at the PCCD:** 3½ years—Starting as an intern.

**Thoughts about working at the PCCD:** "I love working with the kids and put a smile on their faces. I love working with the PCCD staff. I feel lucky to be a part of such a wonderful organization."

**Name:** Melanie Shipon, M.Ed.

**Education:** Temple University, PA  
Arcadia University, PA

**Position:** Community Group Coordinator/Preschool teacher

**Years at the PCCD:** 8 years

**Thoughts about working at the PCCD:** "I learn something new every day at the Professional Center. The staff is dedicated, knowledgeable, and committed to the children and families. It is very rewarding to have families return to enroll siblings in our programs."

"The best thing is... every day is different and rewarding."



## PTP & PCCD Preschool NEWS:

The PCCD Preschool is beginning the fall looking forward to greeting the children and supporting their growth and learning. Our philosophy emphasizes personal relationships and respect for the individual child. Rather than expecting the children to adjust to the preschool rules and curriculum, we take the cues from the children - and are particularly attentive to differences among them. This philosophy helps us to implement our goals as well as give the opportunity to integrate with children of all abilities.

**The preschool still has a few slots available for the Fall.** The preschool meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 11:45 AM. Enrollment is flexible whereas children can attend one, two or all three days. The preschool also has a summer program ("*The PCCD Great Summer Adventure*") which runs for 6 weeks beginning in early July.

Other PTP programs are:

**Saturday Play Pals group**, with a focus on speech-language development, social language and social skills in a play-based setting. This group meets on Saturday's beginning in October from 10am to 11:30am.

**Individual Therapy** sessions in the areas of Speech-language, Physical and Occupational therapy are available by appointment. This is a private pay service but we will provide the parents with documentation to then submit to their insurance companies for possible reimbursement.

For info. on any of the above programs, please contact Kim Briggs, M.Ed.CCC-SLP, at ext. 226.

# Think SAFE when leaving children with a babysitter

Every parent needs a break once and a while. Hiring a responsible and reliable babysitter begins with you. Finding and keeping a great babysitter can be a challenge! Word of mouth may be your best resource: ask friends, neighbors and family for a good referral. You can do your part to prepare your sitter by leaving clear instructions and information before leaving home.

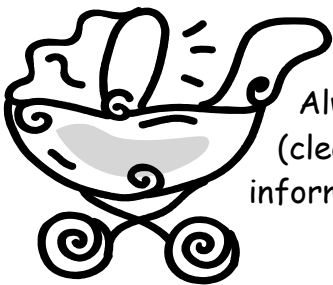
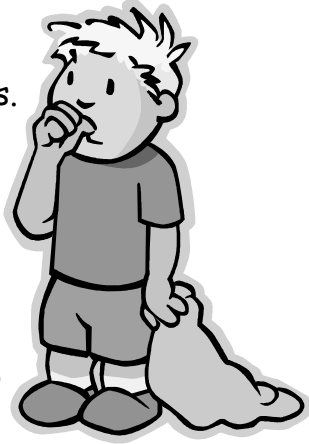
## Think SAFE!

**S** = **Sleep** - Let the sitter know your expectations around bedtimes. (Nightlights? Blankies? Help brushing teeth?)

**A** = **Activity** —What activities are available for the children? Is there anything you do not want them to do? Do you have a limit on screen time—TV, computer, video games, etc.? Are they allowed to go outside?

**F** = **Food** —What can the children and the sitter eat? Any allergies or off limits foods?

**E** = **Elimination** - Are the children able to use the bathroom by themselves? (if not... Be specific as to what type of help each child may need). If still in diapers, put diapering supplies out and ready to use.



## Other things you will need to discuss before heading out...

Always leave contact information, give a house tour with house rules (clearly identify off-limit rooms, phone and computer use, and pet information), and don't forget to talk about the babysitters fee.

By: Mary Beth Huber, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC & Ellen Waddill, PCCD Parent & Community Liaison

EARLY INTERVENTION  
PARENT LEADERSHIP  
PROJECT

The Massachusetts Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project was originated by parents and is staffed by parents whose children have received Early Intervention Services.

Created through the generous support of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the lead agency for the statewide Early Intervention system, the Project works in collaboration with Early Intervention Programs, the Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council, and families who receive Early Intervention services for three main purposes:

- ♦ To develop an informed parent constituency;
- ♦ To promote leadership and lifelong advocacy skills for parents and family members; and,
- ♦ To facilitate family participation to ensure that EI Services are family-centered.

**Do you want to learn more? Go to... [www.eiplp.org](http://www.eiplp.org)**

# PCCD ~ "Warm and Welcoming"

We absolutely love the Two by Two program at the PCCD! Eloise is our third child to attend the program and we continue to be so impressed with every aspect. We first learned about the PCCD when our oldest daughter received speech therapy. Even though it was almost 7 years ago, many of the same staff members are still there . . . that speaks volumes! All of the teachers and staff are so warm and welcoming and Eloise looks forward to going to school twice a week. She now comes home and sings songs that she has learned and tells her sister and brother about her friends at school.

One of my favorite things that brings it all full circle is that my 9 year old daughter, who attended The PCCD for speech therapy years ago, now races to Eloise's backpack on "school" days to read the note about her sister's day at Two by Two. And while they eat their snack together at the table, Olivia reads the note and chats with Eloise about what she had for snack and about the songs she sang that day. Thank you PCCD!

~ By Mom Kari



<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PCCD Board of Directors</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Officers</i></p> <p>Mr. John Roberts, Chairman          Ms. Susan Moloney, Vice Chair          Mr. John DeCourcy, Treasurer          Mr. Peter Daniels, Clerk</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Members</i></p> <p>Ms. Janice Burkholder          Ms. Kelly Gilbert          Mr. Brian Latina          Mr. Sam Meas          Mr. Matthew Remis          Mr. William Schofield          Mr. John Yeaton          PCCD Executive Director          Ms. Veryl Anderson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PCCD Schedule of Events...</u></b></p> <p><u>Ongoing</u> Parent groups—Complex Health Care Needs  <u>Ongoing</u> Two-by-Two/Three, Day School and Agency tours  <u>10/2/11</u> 19th Annual Trot for Special Tots (5 K road race and walk)  <u>10/13/11</u> Turning 3 Workshop @ PCCD  <u>11/8/11</u> Basic Rights in Special Ed Workshop @ Andover Library  <u>12/1/11</u> An IEP for My Child Workshop @ PCCD  <u>12/3/11</u> PCCD Holiday Party @ West Parish Church  <u>4/27/12</u> PCCD's Swing Into Spring Gala @ Andover Country Club</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PCCD Wish List</u></b> <i>Donating from the "Wish List" is easy. Just Call the Center.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <i>Riding or walk behind lawn mower with grass collection system (new or gently used)</i></li> <li>◆ <i>Gas or Electric hedge trimmer, lawn trimmer and/or gas powered back pack leaf blower</i></li> <li>◆ <i>Items for our silent auction and Road Race prizes</i></li> <li>◆ <i>Art Supplies, Bubbles and Play Doh</i> - Batteries AA, C, D, 9 volt</li> <li>◆ <i>Printing of agency newsletter or brochures</i> - New or used (in good condition) car seats</li> <li>◆ <i>Gift certificates (BJ's and Market Basket, Toys' R Us, gas cards)</i></li> <li>◆ <i>A corded Waterpic—to be used in the Day School (not on teeth)</i></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Thanks for everything</u></b></p>
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## 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. Call 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](mailto: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](http://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)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_



The Professional Center  
for Child Development

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Andover, Massachusetts  
01810

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ANDOVER, MA



## PCCD Parent & Professional Workshop Series

With presenters from The Federation for Children With Special Needs the PCCD invites you to 3 powerful and educational workshops. Come to any one or all in the series.

♦ Oct. 13th —Turning Three Essentials Workshop

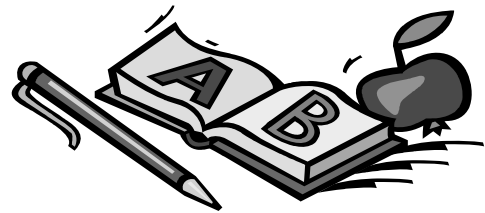
@ PCCD—6:30 to 8:30 Provides information about the process of transitioning a child from EI to public schools. Discussions include... transition planning, eligibility information, the TEAM process and parent roles.

♦ Nov. 8th — Basic Rights in Special Ed. Workshop

@ Andover Library - 6:45 to 8:45 Provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities in special education. Helps parents learn how to be effective partners with their child's school.

♦ Dec. 1st—An IEP for My Child Workshop

@ PCCD - 6:30 to 8:30 Each child in special education has an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This workshop will guide parents through IEP development and identifying a vision and goals.



### Save The Dates

♦ Dec. 3rd—PCCD Holiday Party

@ West Parish Church 10:00 to 12:00

♦ April 27th —"Swing Into Spring" Gala

@ Andover Country Club

Please RSVP to ext. 217

[Ellen@TheProfessionalCenter.org](mailto:Ellen@TheProfessionalCenter.org)