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Latest news ...

This has been a very busy summer for Chicago Education Project! Our teachers & students have been having lots of fun in school and on weekly outings to the splash park, local stores, fire zone and the zoo!

Chicago Education Project would like to introduce you to our newest board members! Please help us give a warm welcome to ...

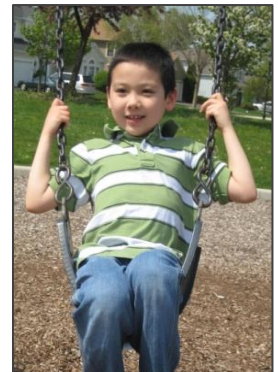
- Sue Keener, Chair
- Ryan Eddingfield, Director
- Laurie Huspen, Director
- Kathleen Longueil, Director
- Barbara Mitalo, Treasurer
- Ben Olson, Director
- Amanda Parker, Program Director
- Melinda Pieniasek, Secretary
- Alex Vealitzek, Director
- Dave Ven Horst, Director

Beginning September 6th, our board meeting minutes will be posted on our website. Here you will also be able to learn more about our members, goals, and upcoming events we have planned!

We are thrilled to announce that CEP has expanded its 1355 suite so that we can all be together under one roof! This move will provide us with more space to meet our students' sensory needs and give our students more of a school atmosphere to learn in with our classrooms, computer rooms, lunch room, and more! We will be making this move over our August summer break. Volunteers from the community, our board of directors, as well as friends and family will be assisting in the move and build out. If you would like to help, or have resources or supplies to donate, please give us a call.

Last but not least, we would like to remind you that the new student registration forms went home with all kids and due back to CEP by August 2nd. If you haven't done so already, please make sure to send those back to the CEP admin office ASAP.

We look forward to having an exciting 2010 – 2011 school year!



Communication Corner

By Rosina D'Avola, M.S., CCC-SLP/L

After recently attending a PECS workshop I wanted to share some interesting facts about the system. PECS, or Picture Exchange Communication System, was created by behavior analyst Andy Bondy, Ph.D., and Speech Pathologist Lori Frost, M.S., CCC/SLP.

They utilized the principals of broad-spectrum applied behavior analysis and language development to create a functional communication system to be used by any person who demonstrated a breakdown in communicating their thoughts and ideas.

Functional Communication is defined as: behavior directed to another person who in turn provides related direct or social rewards. In other words, communication involves a "speaker" a "listener" and a message that can be understood so that the speaker receives social praise or their tangible reinforcement.



PECS focuses on teaching the individual how to initiate and how to be persistent, by providing a consistent form of communication that can be understood by a variety of listeners. Children are easily engaged in activities that incorporate their favorite reinforcers and therefore are more willing to communicate.

PECS is a research based system that is utilized around the world and there are over 60 published articles that can be found at www.pecs-usa.com/research.html.

Sarah's Class

We are off to a great start this summer! The theme over our summer months is "under the sea." The kids have made a number of great under the sea art projects and we are



looking forward to doing some more sea themed groups over the course of the summer.

In addition to our academic groups, we have introduced some newer group activities to improve students' group and referencing skills they include yoga, relays, and group games such as musical chairs and red-light, green-light.

We also have a couple of new staff members to the classroom Janel Natale, Megan Lukaszewski, and Yvonne Yap who began at the start of the summer. We are so lucky to have them on our team and look forward to working with them over the course of this summer. We look forward to a great rest of the summer!!!!



Katie's Class

It has been a busy summer! Katie is on maternity leave and recently had a healthy baby boy named Charlie. He is 7lb 2oz and 21 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great at home.



Kelli Gschwind, her substitute, has been filling in for her. The students have been enjoying our trips to the playground & water park on Tuesdays when the weather is nice. We look forward to moving into our new building and our new classroom.

Enjoy the summer and stay cool!

Parent Satisfaction Survey Results

Pamela Zavada, LSW, BCBA

Thank you for taking the time to complete CEP's annual Parent Satisfaction Survey! 28 surveys were distributed and 13 were returned.

69% agree there is good communication & collaboration with their child's teacher. 54% expressed a preference for notices sent home with their child and/or emails whereas 31% prefer a phone call and/or either a notice sent home or email correspondence.

There was a 100% agreement for sharing information on how their child is doing; 92% want to know the current targets and programs being taught; 77% expressed interest in ways to help their child at home; and 46% are interested in information related to school events.

92% agree the parent teacher conferences are scheduled at a

convenient time. Furthermore, 77% agree that 30 minutes is a suitable time frame to discuss their child's progress.

In regards to IEPs, 100% agree with understanding their rights and responsibilities related to special education. 85% received a copy of their child's tentative IEP goals in a timely manner before the scheduled IEP. 92% agree their concerns and opinions were respected & valued during the IEP process and meeting. 88% believe their child's IEP reflects his/her specialized needs and appropriate goals/objectives. 85% are satisfied with the progress their child has made at CEP.

92% acknowledged they received a copy of their child's assessment reports. 77% agree the assessments were thorough and helpful with understanding their child's present level of performance.

69% indicated that parent support activities have been offered at a convenient time. 87% expressed an availability preference for Thursdays; 67% for both, Tuesdays & Wednesdays; 60% for Friday; and 47% for Mondays. 87% prefer to meet between 9-11am; 20% between 1-3pm; 0% for 5-7pm; and 13% for 7-9pm.

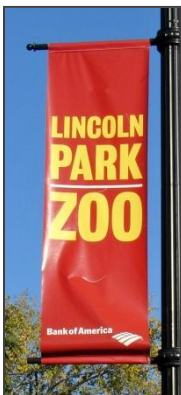
In regards to the location of the Coffee Talk, 33% prefer Starbucks; 20% prefer Einstein Bagels; 7% suggested Panera; and 40% had no preference. Furthermore, 77% would like the Coffee Talks to be informal. Of those that have not attended any parent support activities, 56% indicated there's a time conflict.

60% or more expressed an interest in the following training topics: Safety Awareness Skills, Functional Skills, Community Resources, Assessment Tools, ABA, Social Skills, ABCs of Behavior and How to Manage Behavior.

Angela's Class

This summer has been off to a great start! We have been going on two outings per week: on Tuesdays we are going to stores to work on functional goals and Thursdays we are going to the splash park to interact with others and enjoy the weather! The kids love the splash park!

For the end of summer celebration we will be going to the Lincoln Park Zoo. At the zoo the kids will eat lunch on picnic tables, check out the animal exhibits and go to the petting zoo!



In addition to all the fun activities we have been doing, we have also been learning a lot! For math we have been focusing on patterns, addition/subtraction, and money. For spelling, we have been looking at pictures, writing the words, filling in blanks and completing sentences. The kids have been doing well in groups and during 1:1 times.

Please don't forget to collect and turn in Box Tops and Campbell's Soup Labels so we can win another fun outing!

Kristi's Class

The summer has been a very fun one so far! Since the break, we have had two wonderful new additions to our class. We would like to welcome Emily (student) and Katy Laisure (staff) to our classroom!

For the first two weeks of summer we talked all about ice cream and took the kids to Oberweis Dairy and also practiced our restaurant skills. The kids did a great job sitting nicely and waiting for their ice cream!

We are now focusing on the beach and ocean animals. Our last unit will be on zoo animals, ending the summer with a field trip to Lincoln Park Zoo!



The kids have also been practicing group responding, team building skills, and other social skills necessary to participate successfully in groups in the classroom. Everyone is doing a great job!

Tiffany's Class

For the new school year there will be a couple changes that come with it. Two of our students will be leaving our classroom and moving to other classrooms within CEP. That means two new students will be coming to our classroom! Jax and Andrey will be starting with us in August. Unfortunately we will be saying good-bye to Anna, who has worked with CEP for the last two years. We will be losing a great therapist, but are excited for her new opportunity as she starts her master's degree program in Oregon!!

As the new school year approaches us we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce the staff that will be working with your children for the next school year.

Hi, I'm Blair. I started working at CEP this past April. I have experience working with children with autism from an ABA clinic in Iowa. I am also interested in obtaining my BCBA soon. I look forward to the next school year.

Hi, I'm Courtney. I started at CEP last January when I moved to Illinois from California. I started out working with the younger children in Katie's classroom before being transferred to Tiffany's classroom. I have learned so much from all of the kids, and can't wait for the upcoming school year.

Hi, I'm Denise. I have worked with children for 25 years. I have taught every grade level K-8, and have worked in administration. I have been working at CEP since December. I am currently going back to school to earn my Master's Degree in Special Education. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your child.

Hi, I'm Sam. I have my Master's in Elementary Education and am currently working on becoming a BCBA. I started working at CEP just after the New Year. Prior to starting here, I worked at an ABA based clinic where I found my true passion in life; working with kids with special needs. Everyone always says I make such a difference in their children's lives; however, your children are the ones that make the biggest difference in mine!! I am looking forward to the upcoming school year and helping your children reach their full potential.

Upcoming Conferences

2010 National Autism Conference

Monday-Friday, August 2-6, 2010

Attend selected sessions via Live Webcasting!

The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel
State College, PA

"... The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, and PaTTAN are proud to announce an exciting opportunity to participate in the 2010 National Autism Conference via live Webcasting. Various sessions will be available to view live from your computer free of charge [if not seeking to obtain CEUs]. During the conference, simply visit the website and click on the Live Webcast page and follow the instructions on the days that you wish to participate ..."

<http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/autism/webcastingq.htm>

Special Needs Future Planning

Thursday, September 23, 2010 | 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Arc of Illinois hosted by Avenues to Independence
515 Busse Highway
Park Ridge, IL 60068

" ... When you love someone who has special needs, planning for that person's future can be an overwhelming task. Where do you begin? Who has the answers? How do you find an attorney who understands the financial, legal, and Illinois Governmental complexities of the special needs' world? Could they possibly understand your emotions, concerns, and fears? Imagine the relief of finding an attorney who not only has the answers, but also has lived the very same experience ..."

<http://www.snf.net>

[This workshop is offered throughout the fall, check the website for more dates and locations]



Our new teacher ...

Hello! My name is Jill Bisluk and I am the new teacher for the upcoming school year. I am super excited to be making the move from a 1:1 instructor of 3 years to a teacher. I received a B.A. in Dance & Physical Fitness for individuals with disabilities from Northeastern Illinois University in 2007. I continued my education at DePaul University where I received a Masters of Education degree in special education and general education. During the fall, I am also an Adjunct Professor at Concordia University, where I teach Physical Education Majors. I look forward to the upcoming school year and all it brings!

Web Resources

www.hopefulparents.org

A website oriented towards parents with special needs children, not specifically autism.

<http://www.autismarmymom.com>

One of our very own CEP mom shares a light-hearted and humorous look at our lives as parents of children on the spectrum. Another purpose of this blog is to raise awareness of autism in general.

www.disabilityscoop.com

A news site summarizing anything and everything that's in the news about disabilities. It's a good resource for keeping on top of the latest legislation, etc.

www.chicagoparent.com/calendar.asp

Chicago Parent Magazine's online event calendar provides you up to date information regarding Chicagoland events as well as family outing ideas.

<http://www.asatonline.org/>

Thinking of trying a new treatment for your child? Association for Science in Autism Treatment shares objective & accurate information about autism and treatments for autism from a scientifically sound perspective.

If you know of any worthy websites or blogs to be shared with CEP families, kindly send a link to pzavada@chicagoeducationproject.org

Did you know?

DuPage Children's Museum invites families with special needs children to come play on the third Thursday of every month from 5-7 p.m.

The museum's exhibits offer ways to work on language development, social skills and purposeful play. Additionally, community and parent support resources are offered through the museum's Community Access Network coordinator.

Normal admission prices apply. No registration required. Free to DCM Members. The Museum is open at this time and everyone is welcome!

301 N. Washington St. Naperville, IL | 630-637-8000

<http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org/index.html>



Disclaimer: CEP cannot guarantee the services or quality of the events and resources mentioned.

Social Skills Groups

Little Friends Center for Autism

Naperville, IL | 630-305-4196

Social Detective

Ages: 10 -12 year olds

Day & Time: Mondays, 5-6 pm

Dates: September 13-October 18

Participants will learn to identify the facial expressions for happy, sad, and angry; what makes them feel that emotion; how others might feel when we display that emotion; and what they can do when they feel that emotion.

Friendship Group

Ages: 7 -8 year olds

Day & Time: Wednesdays, 4-5 pm

Dates: September 15-October 20

Using "I Can Do It!" from the Model Me video series, children will practice appropriate behavior during challenging situations such as losing, working as a team, trying something new, and going to and having a birthday party.

Friendship Group

Ages: 9-10 year olds

Day & Time: Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15 pm

Dates: September 15– October 20

This group will work on conversation skills such as when to start a conversation; when someone is interested in talking and when they are not; how to start a conversation, how to stay on topic; and how to maintain a conversation.

\$360 for 6 sessions. Application deadline is August 18, 2010; please fax completed application to 630-305-4785.

<http://www.littlefriendsinc.org/images/Frdshp%20Grp%20Applctn.pdf>

Alexian Brothers: Interfaith Parish Support Services

Schaumburg, IL | 847-981-3514

Purposeful Play Social Skills Group

Ages: 5-10 year olds

Day & Time: Mondays, 5:45-8:00 pm

Dates: September 13 – November 1

Based on the group's common social skill needs, participants will learn skills to enhance their relationships and awareness of self in a safe and compassionate environment. Periodic parental participation is required. \$160 for 8 sessions & \$25 for the initial intake. Contact Michelle Berkos at 847-230-3777 for more information.

North Shore Pediatric Therapy

Highland Park | Glenview | Chicago | 877-486-4140

Social groups are offered for children, 3-16 years old. Specific social skills goals are selected and then taught through role play, peer modeling, etc. Call for more information.

Puzzles Puzzles!



5		9		7				3
		8	6					2
1					3			
			9		7		4	6
		3		8				1
6	5		3					
		6					9	
	8			2		6		5
	9		7		1			

Sudoku directions:
 Fill the grid with numbers 1 to 9 so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating any numbers.

ACROSS

- 1. grows on stalks
- 3. children’s museum
- 4. used to frighten birds
- 6. change colors
- 10. summer, then ...
- 11. touchdown!
- 14. we all scream for ...
- 16. ocean mammal

DOWN

- 2. squirrel
- 5. survey
- 7. picture communication system
- 8. peer interaction
- 9. fall from oak trees
- 12. found on playgrounds
- 13. tool to clean the grass
- 15. red + yellow

CROSSWORD PUZZLE KEY

Across	Down
1. corn	2. rodent
3. dupage	5. poll
4. scarecrow	7. pecs
6. leaves	8. social skills
10. autumn	9. acorns
11. football	12. slide
14. ice cream	13. rake
16. whale	15. orange

Attendance

Please remember to call the administration office to report all student absences. If parents also wish to send an email to the teacher, that is fine. Please be aware, however, that we require that all attendance first be reported to LuAnne in the administration office at 847-884-7030. This will ensure that the appropriate staff are aware of attendance should the teacher be absent or not able to check their email.

New Address

We've moved! We have expanded our 1355 space so that we can all be in one building! Please make a note of our new address for your records. Effective August 16th our address will be **1355 Remington Rd Suite L in Schaumburg, IL 60173**. Remember, parents and visitors who are coming in for meetings or observations will need to check in at the front desk, located at suite L. This will also be the new drop off point for students at our new location.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 4	Coffee Talk
August 9-20	Summer Break; school closed
August 23-24	Teacher Institute Days; no students
August 25	Students return to school; regular school year begins
Sept. 2	Coffee Talk
Sept. 6	Labor Day Weekend; school closed
Sept. 16	Parent Education: ABA ... what it is, what it is not
Sept. 24	Parent Teacher Conferences; no students
October 7	Coffee Talk
October 11	Columbus Day; school closed
October 21	Parent Education: Safety Awareness Skills
October 29	Teacher Institute Day; no students
Nov. 4	Coffee Talk
Nov. 18	Parent Education: Community Resources
Nov.24-26	Thanksgiving; school closed
Nov. 29	Students return to school

Chicago Education Project

1355 Remington Road, Suite L

Schaumburg, Illinois 60173

Phone: 847/884-7030

Fax: 847/874-7091

URL: www.chicagoeducationproject.org

August 2010

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2010

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2010

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

November 2010

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				