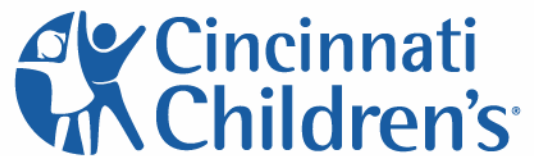


The Center for Infants and Children with Special Needs Family Newsletter January 2008



Happy New Year 2008 From the Staff in the Center for Infants and Children with Special Needs Welcome New Team Members

Appointment Availability

We have been restricted in scheduling due to our limited space available to see patients. We will continue to try to get additional space in Clifton for those patients who prefer that location. We ask that you try to be on time for your scheduled appointment. If you are late for your appointment it may affect the order in which you are seen and may increase your wait time. Please call ahead if possible and we will hold your appointment. Our current clinic hours at West Chester are Monday afternoons, Thursday and Friday all day. Base (Clifton) location hours are currently Tuesday afternoons. Our office is open Monday through Friday 8:30 – 4:30. We are excited to report the new Liberty location is being developed and we hope to add more hours and availability in late Summer 2008. As usual we will try to accommodate your needs to the best of our ability.

Paper Forms

We are asking for at least 1 week for all faxed forms and 2 weeks due to the mail system for any forms being mailed to our office. These forms include school forms, FMLA forms, guardianship paperwork, Plans of Care, and anything else that requires review and a signature of a physician. Thank you for your understanding, this allows us to make sure that all the orders and procedures are correct.

We Need Your Email Address

We are again trying to collect all of our families email addresses. We would like to have email addresses in order to send out our newsletter, as well as periodic important information throughout the year. Your email address will be kept confidential and only used by our staff. Email will not be used for medical care issues. If you would be willing to be put on our list, please email Della at della.smith-sokol@cchmc.org or

Colleen Mathews, MMSc, RD, LD our part-time dietitian joins us with experience working with children with special needs at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

Suzan DeCicca, MSW, LSW joins us with a variety of social work experiences including child advocacy, self-sufficiency, juvenile court knowledge, individual and family counseling.

Medication Refill Reminder

We are asking families that require any refills, especially monthly refills, of their medications that we are given at least 24 hour notice before they need to be picked up. Remember we are only in West Chester on Monday, Thursday and Friday afternoons for prescription drop off from the office. PLEASE refill all medications during business hours (M-F) unless urgent.

Parents Guide to Educational Concerns

An Individualized Educational Plan, IEP, can be an intimidating pile of paper, full of jargon and charts and evaluations and lists.

What should you be making sure of before you make it official? Here are some common areas of concern:

Goals

Whether academic, social or behavioral, for speech or occupational or physical therapy, all goals should be clear and measurable. Just saying there will be improvement in an area is not enough -- how much improvement? who decides? Generally, there should be a percentage listed as a criteria for mastery.

Modifications and Accommodations

Absolutely everything your child needs should be listed in this document -- one-on-one aide, instructional aide, inclusion teacher, resource room, alternate assignments, assistive technology, adaptive gym, extra time for tests, reduced homework, bus transportation, anything that's ever been discussed as helpful. If it's in the IEP, the school is obligated to provide it. If it isn't written and merely just mentioned during a conversation you may have trouble getting that enforced.

Therapies and Related Services

The details of any speech, physical or occupational therapy your child receives should be spelled out, not only with clear and measurable goals but with an indication of how many sessions a week will be given and whether these will take place individually, in a group, or in the classroom. Additionally, any related services should be specifically mentioned and details given.

Inclusion

The percentage of your child's day that will be spent in regular education and the percentage in special education should be clearly indicated. If this doesn't correspond with your understanding of how your child's services and education will be provided, request explanation and adjustment as needed.

Behavior Plan

If an IEP makes reference to a behavior plan, the behavior plan should be in the IEP. The ways in which behavioral goals will be achieved needs to be spelled out and agreed upon. Have the methodology behind this specified behavior in the IEP, and that everyone is aware of the behavior desired.

Background

If there's anything you want the people working with your child to know, make sure it's in the IEP. There should be a section devoted to your child's background, and if the information isn't there, there should be a section for parents' comments where you can have it added. It may be that no one will read it, but if it's in the IEP, they can't claim they were never informed.

On March 5, 2008 from 5:30pm-8pm.

Children's will be offering a free lecture/education Series:

Your Child's Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Focus is on Cerebral Palsy

At Cincinnati Children's, Loc. E, 4th Fl., Rm. 353

For Further details please use our Special Needs Resource Directory at

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/special-needs

**Questions.....Feel Free to Contact one of our Social Workers here at Special Needs:
Molly Sicking 636-9894 & Suzan DeCicca 636-5473**

2008 Golf Outing Update



The 5th annual event golf outing benefiting our clinic, The Center for Infants and Children with Special Needs, is approaching. Over the last 4 years we have been able to raise almost \$200,000. This year's outing will be on September 15, 2008— it's sure to be another success! Our golf outing will be held at the Tournament Players Club at Rivers Bend. We are looking for sponsorships and silent auction items. Please let us know if you or anyone you know would like informational packets mailed with more details.

If you would like to a volunteer or knows someone who wants to be a part of the fun please contact Della or Sally at 513-636-3000.

Look for an informative letter requesting participation to be in your mail soon.

Colleen's Corner

Food that goes bad can make you sick. One of the ways you can keep your food safe at home is to pay attention to how you store foods. Here are some tips to follow:

- Serve cooked foods stored in the refrigerator within 24 hours.
- Store dry ingredients (such as rice and sugar) in nonporous containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Cover and then refrigerate or freeze cooked foods if they will not be eaten right away.
- Leftovers that are refrigerated or frozen should be reheated only one time.



Source: Bright Futures

(When scheduling an appointment please specify if you need assistance from our new dietitian. She is available Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.)

Special Needs Resource Directory

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/special-needs

Remember to check the Special Needs Resource Directory for updated information. This is our working “resource handbook”. Many of your resource questions can be answered by using the directory. Additional educational information and you can find more information on IEPs.

Recently new information on Therapy Resources, definitions in our Glossary, New Ohio Individual Options Waivers and more information on adopting children with special needs.

When you use the directory for your own needs, please give us feedback. We want to hear about how the directory can be more helpful. Feedback can be given to Ava.Fried@cchmc.org.