

### Teen Time - Ages: 15-18 years

This group provides a social atmosphere where adolescents can interact with their peers with adult facilitation while engaging in typical teen activities such as having conversations while eating, listening to music, playing pool, foosball, darts, or games. This is a socialization group for individuals with high functioning Autism/Asperger Syndrome that provides social opportunities with adult facilitated peer interactions.

For more information on summer programs or to sign up, contact Jan Richards 513-636-1377 (or) [jan.richards@cchmc.org](mailto:jan.richards@cchmc.org).

### OTHER PROGRAMS

#### SibShops ARE HERE

SibShops are an exciting support, information, and recreation opportunity for siblings ages 8-12. Brothers and sisters of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders will have a chance to meet and talk with other brothers and sisters. Registration is limited.

#### Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention Program

**(EIBI):** This is a year-long clinic based program that provides intensive, on-going program development and guidance for parents interested in setting up a home-based comprehensive education program for their child.

**Programming Resources Team (PRT):** This is a multi-disciplinary team that collaborates with families to review their child's current programming or assist families seeking input as to determining programming needs.


For more information or to sign up, contact Jan Richards 513-636-1377 (or) [jan.richards@cchmc.org](mailto:jan.richards@cchmc.org).

### EVENTS

If you have any questions about what The Kelly O'Leary Center is, what we offer, what's available to you, how you can utilize our services or have other questions, you can attend a free class designated to answer such questions. Classes take place the first Thursday of every month at 10 AM and the third Thursday of every month at 7 PM, but you must register to attend. To register or for more information, contact Mark 513-636-5352 (or) [mark.brasington@cchmc.org](mailto:mark.brasington@cchmc.org).

### IEP'S & AUTISM CLASSES

For a list of all classes visit [www.cincinnatichildrens.org/autism](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/autism).

  
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# The Kelly O'Leary Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

in the Division of  
Development and  
Behavioral Pediatrics

## Newsletter April 2006

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

With spring approaching after a thankfully mild winter, we have some exciting program developments to share. Our therapeutic staff has developed a continuum of group opportunities for pre-schoolers through school age, and we hope to maintain this model of programming as we move out of summer, throughout the year.

We continue our Process Improvement Initiative with efforts focused on increasing access to our therapeutic programs. We are grateful to the families who are so giving of their time towards this initiative, and we welcome a few new families to the process. Every new program developed is done with the concept of "scaleability" in mind. In other words, how can this program be quickly expanded to serve more children? We believe programs can be "scaled" and access can be increased without compromising quality or intensity of service.

Many of you are familiar with the efforts of Dr. Cindy Molloy, researcher at CCHMC whose efforts focus on autism. She recently received the Schmidlapp award, a prestigious honor recognizing a promising female researcher at the hospital. This award will allow Dr. Molloy to continue her research efforts.

The TKOC "family" continues to grow! It seems a month doesn't go by without one of our staff sharing happy news about a family addition. I know I can speak for our staff when I thank you all for your patience and support during the "transitions" that occur when staff take leave.

Finally, we have been preparing for our Annual Collaborative Conference, taking place October 20 and 21, 2006, in the Sabin Educational Center at CCHMC. We already have speakers arranged, and you will be receiving 'save the date' cards soon.

As always, it's an honor to work with such a supportive family community. I hope you are all doing well.

Patty

Patricia Manning-Courtney, MD  
Director, TKOC

## NEW RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

### ASD and Down Syndrome

In cooperation with the Thomas Center for Down syndrome, researchers at The Kelly O'Leary Center and the Center for Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Cincinnati Children's are continuing their study of children with both Down syndrome and autism. Reimbursement is available for travel expenses.

The second phase of the study is underway in which we are examining blood samples to describe gene expression patterns that are different in children with Down syndrome with and without autism.

For more information, contact Terry, the research coordinator, at 513-636-1665.

## UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TREATMENT

Donna Murray, Ph.D.

We've have been busy developing innovative programs to more effectively serve children with ASD. Our main goal this winter has been to improve accessibility to treatment programs and I am happy to announce very exciting news . . . we have cleared our treatment wait list . . . yea! This will allow families more immediate access to programming The Kelly O'Leary Center has to offer. Call to schedule a consultation to determine what programming may best fit your child's needs. I'd like to take a moment to highlight a couple of current programs and introduce our schedule of summer programming.

**The Kelly O'Leary Center Summer Programs 2006  
June 19 - Aug 11** (unless otherwise indicated)

### InterActions - Ages: 18 months to 4 years

This is a small group designed for children and their parents. Parents will learn how to build the interaction skills that lay the foundation for later communication and social learning.

### PECS (Picture Exchange Communication Systems) Group - Ages: 3-6 years

This group focuses on following the strict protocol for the establishment of PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) by a Speech Language Pathologist specifically trained in the PECS protocol.

### A.A.C. Group - Ages: 5-8 years

This group will focus on using devices to appropriately gain attention, request, and comment in a group setting. This will allow children opportunities to communicate with adults as well as with other children using devices.

### S.M.I.L.E. (SensoriMotor, Interaction, Language, and Exploration) - Ages: 4-6 years

The focus of this group is to assist in expanding language skills, facilitate exploration of the environment and people in it, address arousal level and self-regulation issues, and work on foundational skills for development of social interaction.

### C.L.I.M.B. (Collaboration, Language, Interaction, Movement, and Balance) - Ages: 5-7 years

This group is designed for children with fluent verbal skills who need therapy focusing on the use of motor and regulation skills and their effect on language in social interactions. Therapy will address conversation, turn taking, using appropriate social commenting, and an introduction to awareness of level of alertness.

### S.O.A.R. (Social Language Opportunities, Awareness, and Regulation) - Ages: 8-10 years

This group is designed for children with fluent verbal skills who need therapy focusing on the use of motor and regulation skills and their effect on language in social interactions. Therapy will focus on individual pragmatic language needs and expanding recognition of alertness levels.

### Conversations - Ages: 11-12 years - 13-14 years

These groups are for individuals with Asperger Syndrome. It addresses social skills training through direct teaching, rehearsal, and peer interaction. Social concepts targeted include conversation skills, making good first impressions, sportsmanship conflict resolution, negotiation, compromise, and group collaboration.

### Handy Work - Ages: Early Elementary School Age

This group is designed for early elementary aged children who need intervention focusing on development of fine motor skills. Areas addressed will be upper extremity strength and stability, writing skills, and daily living skills.

### Educational Tutoring Group

**Ages: 4-8 years Ages: 9-13 years**

Extended school year group(s) for children with ASD. The group(s) will focus on maintenance of important school related skills. These skills include participating in circle/group activities, following a schedule, working independently and 1:1 with an adult, and language communication systems.

### Individual Tutoring - Ages: Varied

Tutoring packages consist of 2 sessions per week over the course of 8 weeks. Instructional goals are individualized to the student's specific needs based on parent input. Tutoring packages may be purchased by parents who wish for their child to receive supplemental instruction during the summer or for children who qualify for Extended School Year services.



[www.cincinnatichildrens.org/autism](http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/autism)

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