

## Developmental Individual Relationship-based Intervention® (DIR®)-Greenspan/Wieder

The DIR model was recently highlighted in the  
**Autism Quality Program Indicators**  
published by the *New Jersey Department of Education* as one of two most commonly implemented instructional methods used with young students on the **autistic spectrum**. The Indicators are available online at [www.state.nj.us/njded/specialed/info/](http://www.state.nj.us/njded/specialed/info/).

# Celebrate the Children



State Approved School

Byram, New Jersey

**This is the first DIR® school in NJ for children ages 3-17 years old.**

CTC opened its doors in *January 2004* and offers a multi-disciplinary, developmental approach designed to meet the needs of the individual child by providing them with the foundations to be independent thinkers and problem solvers.

***The demand for school programs for children with relating and communicating disorders is growing rapidly!***

1. More children are being diagnosed now than in previous years.
2. We are gaining a better understanding of the foundations of these disorders and how they manifest developmental delays/differences.
3. Because more children now receive early intervention, there has been an increase in the number of children who require *less traditional*, special educational programs that meet them at their individual developmental level.
4. We now know that there is no end to what these children can achieve with intensive individualized intervention.
5. We know that one approach does not work for every child. Professionals and parents need options!

[www.celebratethechildren.org](http://www.celebratethechildren.org)

973-448-0041

# Celebrate the Children

Celebrate the Children is a comprehensive, state-approved educational program for students on the **autism spectrum (PDD-NOS), who have MSDD (Multisystem Developmental Disorder), Regulatory Disorder, ODD, OCD, ADHD, Down's Syndrome, expressive language delay, or mild physical disabilities.**

## ***The Unique Nature of the Program:***

**Celebrate the Children** is one of the first schools to use the **DIR** model to fulfill the requirements of the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards. We are at an important time in the history of education as many people, including public school districts, are recognizing the need for approaches for special needs children that look at overall development and target documented deficit areas such as *abstract thinking, problem solving, independence, self esteem, emotions, language, and social interactions in a natural and supportive setting.*

- It has been argued that children need cognitive skills, such as independent thinking, problem solving and understanding of social relating, as a foundation to all other learning (Greenspan, 1997).
- The DSM-IV identifies these areas of deficit in children on the autistic spectrum and other disorders of relating and communicating.
- Currently, parents and professionals are recognizing the limitations of traditional approaches and requests for DIR services is increasing at a rapid and steady pace. It is the goal of Celebrate the Children to expand the use of DIR through direct intervention services and the training of other professionals.

**On-site classrooms** provide a comprehensive education for their students that meet New Jersey core curriculum content standards. These classrooms provide a supportive learning environment for students who are not ready to participate in their home district programs or their home districts do not yet offer a program that supports their needs. **Although these classrooms will provide students with a comprehensive education, it is the mission of this service to create independent individuals and prepare students to return to their public schools and inclusive settings as soon as they're ready.** The curriculum incorporates all components of the Celebrate the Children program with a heavy focus on independence, abstract thinking and social skills preparing them for less restrictive environments.

**Parent and sibling training and support** includes on-site DIR and behavioral training for parents, facilitated play sessions with siblings, and support groups for both parents and siblings. **The goal behind this service is to empower family members with an understanding of the student's needs that will result in positive and meaningful relationships.**

**Research** projects will include 'Developing Theory-of-mind in Children with Social Difficulties', 'The Efficacy of DIR programs in Educational Settings', etc.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. We are happy to talk to you about our program if you would like more information. Please call us at the number below to discuss our program or schedule a visit. You may also find more details (such as classroom schedules, descriptions of our daily activities, etc.) on our website [www.celebratethechildren.org](http://www.celebratethechildren.org).

Regards,

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Director

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