

Celebrate the Children

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SFSS' WINTER 2015 SMALL GROUP PARENT SERIES EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS PART II

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Parent Series
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Peek Into the
Classroom
2

Able Act
3

RDI Parent
Training
3

Teen Night
3

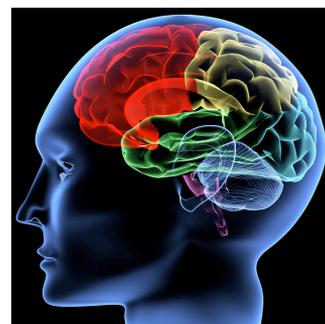
Upcoming Events
4

What are Executive Functions?

Executive Functions (EFs) are a set of cognitive processes responsible for cueing, directing, and coordinating one's own perception, emotion, cognition, and action. Effective coordination and control of EFs allows one to take in and process information, plan actions and execute on those plans. Conversely, ineffective mastery of EFs result in behaviors that lead to difficulties in school and work environments. (www.identifor.com)

The series will support parents to address the following topics:

- How to support your child in building EF's and EF skills
- Working memory & sense of time
- Prospective memory & Self activation
- Emotional self control
- Hindsight & forethought
- Real life applications & exercises



Meets on Fridays from 11:00 AM -12:30 PM

January 30th

February 6th, 13th.

March 6th, 13th & March 20th

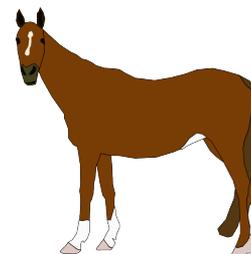
*Please note the dates- it is not every week

The group will be held in the CTC lobby conference room

To sign up: Please contact Mady Kaplan or Stefanie D'Amore at the SFSS Dept.
(973) 989 4033 - EXT.421 or 420

A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM LAURA'S CLASS

Laura's class had a great first week back and is enjoying the new year together! Her students have been working hard and have picked up right where they left off! They have been learning and reading about responsibilities and how to take care of pets. We have been reading stories such as "Taking Care of Pets" from our language arts curriculum and "Pets on a Mat." You should hear and see what great readers the students are becoming! We also topped off our week with a chilly but adventurous trip out to the horse farm. There the students put some of the skills they learned in class to use. They helped brush, feed, and clean up after the horses!



A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM JACKIE'S CLASS



December was a busy month in our class. The students learned and experienced different holiday traditions such as lighting a Menorah, playing the dreidel game, and decorating our classroom tree. We also practiced some important Life Skills by going to the mall and shopping for family members, wrapping their gifts, and making cards. In Social Skills, we celebrated the holiday season by making cookies then delivering them to the elderly right in town.

In Science class, we learned all about Arctic Animals and how they adapt to the cold weather by filling buckets with ice water for some plastic polar bears, penguins, and more. Brrrrrr!

This month so far, the students have been working on improving their Life Skills by returning to the mall to try on different kinds of shoes and coats, as well as recognizing important signs and symbols in the environment. We have also started a Language Arts unit about kids earning money by running a business and will finish the unit by running our own lemonade stand for the rest of the school. Come and visit us and have a cup of lemonade. Only 25 cents a cup!

A PEEK INTO THE FACILITATED COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

Every Tuesday Jackie's class gathers and plays strategic thinking games on the smart board. Recently we have been working together sequencing stories and patterns. Overall this is a great way for everyone to build teamwork and find success together as the students help each other by collaborating ideas about what comes next.

Ruthie's Thursday afternoon group participates in a variety of activities. We play Hedbanz, Smart Mouth (or as we like to call it, "Smart Finger"), Apples to Apples and other fun games. While one of the challenges of this group is the student's varying levels of communication, we adapt these games to insure each child's success. Ruthie's staff is great at finding clever strategies to help all to participate while having a fun time. It is wonderful to see these students playing age appropriate social games with peers.



ABLE ACT

ABLE Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience) was signed into law this past weekend by President Obama. This is outstanding news and a wonderful, legislative victory after many years of advocacy.

The ABLE Act will allow families to save for a loved one's long-term needs, via 529-style savings accounts, without jeopardizing an individual's eligibility for critical federal entitlement programs like Medicaid. ABLE accounts can be used for future expenses related to things like transportation, housing, employment support, and assistive technology. We believe these accounts will serve as another tool families and individuals can use as they plan for the years ahead.

The signing of the ABLE Act is great news and it puts us one step closer to having these accounts available in New Jersey.

Next Steps:

- Now that the bill is signed into law, rules and regulations will be proposed and there will be a period of time set aside for feedback from stakeholders, families and interested parties.
- After the proposed rules and regulations are finalized, it is possible that New Jersey may also need to pass legislation so that the provisions of the ABLE Act can be implemented here.

In the meantime, we encourage you to learn more about The ABLE Act by listening to the following recording:

National Disability Institute's ABLE Act: 10 Things You Need to Know

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tv8kldAovOO&feature=youtu.be>

RDI PARENT TRAINING

RDI and DIR have the same goal of addressing developmental goals and objectives for students. RDI was designed as a parent based intervention. RDI has hundreds of very specific, systematic, developmental goals that fit nicely within DIR's developmental levels. The main difference you will likely see and feel initially, is that RDI begins with a more structured, parent or guide led approach. Our goal in RDI is to create opportunities for the child to become regulated through co-regulating with a parent or guide.

Once the child is able to actively and competently engage in the back and forth set up by the parent or guide, more responsibility is transferred to the child to maintain that coordinated activity. Aside from the initial way an RDI activity is set up, it is often difficult to discriminate between RDI and DIR once an activity is in motion.

For more information on RDI, visit www.rdiconnect.com

Contact **Laura Hynes** to register
Or for more information

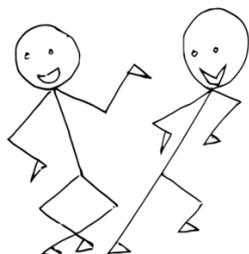
LHynes@celebratethechildren.org
973-989-4033 ext 424



Wednesdays 12:00-1:30
January 14th- February 4th

Fridays 11:30-1:00
January 16th-February 6th

TEEN NIGHT OFFERED THROUGH MOUNT OLIVE PEAK



A night out for Middle School and High School teens in grades 6-12. Dance your feet off and enjoy some fun games. It's a perfect time to socialize with peers, have a snack, and most of all, have fun!

Dates: Saturdays **1/24, 2/21, 3/21**

Time: 7-9 pm

Cost: \$5 per teen

Location: Mt. Olive Senior Center

For more information or to register, please email kellya@peakgroup.org

WHY ARE WE USING SOCIAL MEDIA AND WHY SHOULD YOU FOLLOW US?

Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States and now affects 1 in 50 children. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than AIDS, Diabetes and Cancer combined.

We are at an important time in the field of special needs intervention as many people are beginning to recognize the need for approaches that look at the overall development of a child and target areas such as abstract thinking, problem solving, independence, self-esteem, emotions, language, and social interactions in a natural and supportive setting. At this time, the demand for this type of intervention is much greater than what clinicians and educators are able to supply. Therefore, it is crucial that we share the amazing programs we have to offer and the “how to” with others.

To fulfill our mission, we need your help and ask you to participate with us in the development of work, in the sharing and building of materials, and in the structure and growth of our organizations: Celebrate the Children and Profectum. Like us on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter and spread awareness of progressive programs that support families and help individuals reach their highest potential and find success in society.

Please share our pages and posts with your family and friends! ☺

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 12th
After School Program
Winter Session Begins

January 14th-February 4th
RDI Parent Trainings
12:00-1:30

January 16th-February 6th
RDI Parent Trainings
11:30-1:00

January 19th
Martin Luther King Day
School Closed

January 24th
Teen Night
Mount Olive Senior Center
7:00pm

February 11th
Coffee with Dr. Mike
Reservations Required
9:30am

February 16th-20th
Winter Recess
School Closed

March 5th
Speaker Series
SCARC Guardianship Services
7:00pm

March 27th
Annual Benefit
SAVE THE DATE!

April 1st
Coffee with Dr. Mike
Reservations Required
9:30am

June 11th
Speaker Series
Transportation
7:00pm



Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

Phone: 973.989.4033
www.celebratethechildren.org