



**SAVE THE DATES! FREE WORKSHOP SERIES FOR 2011-12**  
Sponsored by Norwalk SPED Partners, Norwalk Public Schools, and SPED\*Net of Wilton.  
**Teachers will receive 0.2 CEUs for each workshop they attend.**

<b>El ABC de educación especial</b>	Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 6 – 8 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Room 330
Presentado por: Ada Suárez, MSW & José Centeno	
Padres y familias de niños con necesidades especiales, vengan a aprender los aspectos importantes de la educación especial. La <b>Sra. Suárez</b> y el <b>Sr. Centeno</b> son especialistas en los servicios humanos y comunitarios del estado de Connecticut. Trabajan por la Oficina de Protección y Defensa de las Personas con Impedimentos (CT Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities), en Hartford.	
<b>Whether and When to Give Psychiatric Medication to Your Child</b>	Monday, October 17, 2011, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Room
Presented by: Kevin T. Kalikow, MD	
Don't miss this thorough and balanced presentation on the thorny decision of whether to give your child prescription psychiatric drugs. <b>Dr. Kalikow</b> is a child and adolescent psychiatrist in private practice and a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at New York Medical College. He is the author of <i>Kids on Meds: Up-to-Date Information about the Most Commonly Prescribed Medications</i> and <i>Your Child in the Balance: Solving the Psychiatric Medicine Dilemma</i> . This event is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Association for Children/Adults with Learning Disabilities (CACLD).	
<b>Educación especial, la escuela, mi hijo y yo</b>	Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 6 – 8 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Room 330
Presentado por: Ada Suárez, MSW & José Centeno	
Padres y familias de niños con necesidades especiales, vengan a aprender los aspectos importantes de la educación especial. La <b>Sra. Suárez</b> y el <b>Sr. Centeno</b> son especialistas en los servicios humanos y comunitarios del estado de Connecticut. Trabajan por la Oficina de Protección y Defensa de las Personas con Impedimentos (CT Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities), en Hartford.	
<b>Film: "How Hard Can This Be: The F.A.T. City" (Frustration, Anxiety, Tension)</b>	Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 6:30 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall
If you are a teacher or family member of an anxious, stressed-out child, or of a child with learning differences, ADD, ADHD, etc., you will gain insight and strategies from this film from <b>Rick Lavoie</b> , MA, MEd, a noted special educator with expertise in learning disabilities. The Connecticut Parent Advisory Center (CPAC) will be on hand to facilitate the program and engage the audience in reflection and review after the video. Note: If you cannot attend, the video and book, as well as other books by Mr. Lavoie, are available at local libraries. This event is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Association for Children/Adults with Learning Disabilities (CACLD).	

**An Overview of Executive Functioning: How To Help Your Kids Plan and Organize, Initiate Tasks, Manage Time, Self-Regulate, Be Flexible, and Persist in Trying to Accomplish Their Goals**

Wednesday, November 2, 2011, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Room

Presented by: Lydia H. Soifer, PhD

Most of us need help with planning and organization some of the time; people with executive function difficulty need understanding and clear strategies. If you teach or live with someone who has difficulty with these tasks, don't miss this talk on the complex and critical topic. **Dr. Soifer**, a language pathologist with over thirty-five years' experience, is the Director of the Soifer Center for Learning and Child Development, Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, and faculty member in the Early Intervention Training Institute at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

**Knowledge is Power: How and Why to Advocate for Your Child with Special Needs**

Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Room

Presented by: Dana Jonson, Esq.

No one knows your child as well as you, and no one cares more. Learn how to advocate appropriately and effectively so that your child gets the education and the services that he/she needs. **Dana Johnson** is an attorney and former special education teacher. In her private practice, she helps families of children with disabilities through the Special Education Process, including representation at PPTs and Mediation, as well as litigation in Due Process and Federal Court.

**Negotiating the College Application & Selection Process for Students with Learning Disabilities and ADD/ADHD**

Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Room

Presented by: Michelle Berg, Psy.D.

Middle and high school families, guidance counselors, and social workers will learn how to help students gain the skills they need to be successful in applying to and selecting a college or university. **Dr. Berg** is a clinical psychologist who has provided individual, family and group therapy to adolescents and young adults in various outpatient settings. During her years in clinical practice at DePaul University in Chicago and The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, she sat on college admissions teams, where she interviewed prospective students and participated actively in the decision-making process. Currently she specializes in College Advising and Placement, particularly for students with learning disabilities, ADD, and ADHD. She is also the parent of a child with learning disabilities. This event is co-sponsored by SmartKids with Learning Disabilities.

<b>Is My Child Developing Normally?</b>	Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Rm SNOW DATE: January 12
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Panel: Tara Glennon, EdD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Michael Weiss, PhD; Amy Gladwell Jones, MA, CCC/SLP

Every parent has asked this question at some point. Join us for brief presentations followed by an open discussion with three experts in different areas of child development. **Dr. Glennon**, a specialist in pediatric occupational therapy for over 25 years, is Professor of Occupational Therapy at Quinnipiac University and the owner of the Center for Pediatric Therapy in Fairfield and Wallingford. **Dr. Weiss** is a psychologist with more than 30 years' experience in pediatric behavior and development. He is Adjunct Professor at Fairfield University and has consulted with school boards across the country. **Ms. Gladwell Jones** is a speech and language pathologist with eight years' expertise treating individuals with language disorders, phonological disorders, articulation disorders, autism and spectrum disorders, hearing loss, apraxia, and feeding/swallowing disorders. She has worked in a variety of settings including schools, birth-to-three, private practice, home care, and hospitals. She is Senior Speech-Language Pathologist at Danbury Hospital.

<b>Using Nutritional and Lifestyle Changes to Protect Your Family</b>	Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Rm SNOW DATE: January 26
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Presented by: Vicki Kobliner, MS, RD

Children today suffer more than ever from obesity, as well as chronic illnesses such as asthma and allergies and disorders such as autism and ADHD. Improving digestive function can have a far-reaching impact on these problems, as this critical nutritional pathway affects our brain, immune system, and other seemingly unrelated systems. **Ms. Kobliner** is a Registered Dietitian with years of expertise in applying a functional approach to nutrition. She has worked with schools to develop a whole-foods approach to student meal planning, and she helps families and lectures widely on topics such as autism, special diets for food allergies and intolerances, healthy pregnancy planning, and choosing appropriate nutritional supplementation. She is a certified Defeat Autism Now!® practitioner and the owner of Holcare Nutrition in Wilton.

<b>Brain Gym and Sensory Integration: How to Maximize Your Learning Potential</b>	Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Rm SNOW DATE: February 15
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Presented by: Marie Ossi, OTR

Families and teachers will enjoy learning about Brain Gym, a movement-based program based on the idea of learning through movement. In the past 25 years, Brain Gym has been used in 87 countries, by therapists, teachers, and families. It can lead to improvements in concentration and focus, memory, academics, responsibility, organization, and attitude, as well as physical coordination. **Ms. Ossi** is an occupational therapist who has been a Brain Gym teacher and consultant for 16 years, as well as a Reiki Master for six years. She has worked at Giant Steps in Montreal, at Norwalk Rehab, where she was assigned to the Norwalk Public Schools for two years, and opened her private office in New Canaan in 2000. Previously she was a music therapist.

<b>How to Improve Sensory Processing to Improve Learning and Behavior</b>	Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 7–9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Room SNOW DATE: March 1
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Presented by: Rae Suba, OTR/L

Do not miss this presentation! Teachers and parents of *all* children—not just those with identified sensory issues—will learn from Ms. Suba’s presentation. You will better understand Sensory Processing and how it is essential for us to focus and reach our physical and academic potential! You will leave with new insight, strategies, and tips about how to support your own, your child’s, or your class’s sensory processing to improve attention, focus, and functional performance. **Ms. Suba** was rated “New Canaan’s Top Presenter Ever” by SPED\*NET. She is a pediatric occupational therapist with over 16 years of clinical and teaching expertise in Sensory Processing, Sensory Defensiveness, Sensory Diet Design, and Motor Development. She is the Executive Director of Child’s Play Clinic, LLC in Westport, CT.

<b>Declarative Language: How to Help Your Child Learn to Think and Converse Just by Talking!</b>	Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Rm SNOW DATE: March 8
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Presented by: Nancy Schwartz, PhD,CCC/SLP

This workshop will give families, teachers, and home care workers simple strategies to use in everyday life to enhance children’s communication and thinking. **Dr. Schwartz** has a wealth of experience helping children with language problems learn to talk, especially those with autism and/or apraxia. She has been doing Speech and Language therapy in private practice in Fairfield County for 32 years and is currently the clinical director of the Communication Clinic of Connecticut (CCC). Previously, she was the director of the Scottish Rite Institute for Childhood Aphasia in Los Angeles. She is certified by the American Speech and Hearing Association and has been certified in Relationship Development Intervention. She has taught at universities in New York, Connecticut, and California at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

<b>The Use of Visuals to Support Social, Academic, Behavioral, and Executive Functioning across the Home and School Day</b>	Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Rm SNOW DATE: March 22
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Presented by: Lynne Guilmette, MEd

This workshop will provide useful strategies and tips to teachers and families of students with special needs. **Ms. Guilmette** is the Chief Administrator of Meliora Academy, in Meriden. She has dedicated herself to serving families of children with autism spectrum and related disorders. She provides intensive and comprehensive educational services using innovated, integrated models designed specifically to reduce the fragmented learning that often occurs with youngsters on the autism spectrum. She places a strong emphasis on the development of language and communication, relatedness, cognitive flexibility, and social cognition in the context of functional real-life activities.

**Our Canaries: Why All the Asthma, Allergies, ADHD, and Autism?**

Wednesday March 28, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall, Community Rm  
SNOW DATE: March 29

Presented by: Nancy O'Hara, MD, MPH

Why are today's children so subject to allergies, asthma, and other disorders? Learn about factors influencing these issues from internationally recognized expert Dr. O'Hara, of the Center for Autism and Integrative Health in Wilton. **Dr. O'Hara** is a board-certified pediatrician dedicated to the integrative and holistic care of children with neurodevelopmental disorders and autistic spectrum disorder. She was the Assistant Medical Director for Defeat Autism Now! (DAN!)® Physician Training and the Physician Mentoring Director for DAN! in Europe. Prior to her medical career, Dr. O'Hara taught children with autism.

**Special Education Law 101: What Parents Need to Know**

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 10am – 12n, Norwalk City Hall

Presented by: Gail Mangs, Esq.

This presentation will benefit all special-needs families, especially those new to the world of special education. Come learn about your child's rights, legal protections, and legal processes. **Gail Mangs, Esq.** is an Educational Consultant with the CT State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. She has served as a due process Hearing Officer for the past 12 years. Prior to working with the State Department, she was a Teacher/Program Coordinator with Headstart. A graduate of Clark University, majoring in History and Education, Gail received her M.A. in Education from Northwestern University, and her J.D. from the University of Connecticut.

**DIR/Floortime: How to Use Play to Develop Your Child's Social-Emotional Abilities**

Thursday, April 12, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall

Presented by: Lorraine Ehlers-Flint, PhD

A child's ability to engage socially and emotionally with others is the foundation for learning and development. The Floortime model uses play therapeutically to engage children (at any age), develop intentional communication, social problem-solving, symbolic play, and abstract thinking. Families of children with autism, preschool teachers, and school social workers will learn how to observe, analyze, and build on a child's play. **Dr. Ehlers-Flint** is a clinical and developmental psychologist with extensive pediatric experience in private and community settings. As a faculty member of the DIR Institute and the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders (ICDL), she has special expertise in the use of the DIR/Floortime approach. She has consulted with schools and trained and supervised psychologists to use Floortime and previously taught special education pre-school.

**Using DIR/Floortime Techniques and Strategies at Home and in School**

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall

Presented by: Audrey Spellman, MA

This is the second of two complementary workshops on the Floortime approach. Families, special educators, and social workers working with children with autism and related disorders will learn ways to integrate the Floortime approach in different ways throughout a child's day. There will be ample time for discussion of situations that you have encountered, so please bring examples where you have found it hard to interact with your child.

**Ms. Spellman** has over 30 years' experience working in the field of early intervention. She coordinated the Opportunity Center Early Intervention Program in the New Canaan Public Schools for many years before leaving to start Family First Early Intervention Project in 2007. Family First is a trans-disciplinary team of therapists in Fairfield County who use the DIR<sup>®</sup> model and Floortime techniques in their work with young children with disorders of relating and communicating. As a certified special educator and consultant with advanced training in the DIR/Floortime approach, Ms. Spellman conducts developmental assessments, provides play therapy, and trains parents and professionals in the use of this approach.

**The Language-Literacy Connection: How Language Impacts Children's Literacy**

Wednesday, May 2, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Norwalk City Hall

Presented by: Lydia H. Soifer, PhD

Teachers and parents who work with children to help them read will enjoy this presentation and gain insight into the interaction between language development and reading. **Dr. Soifer**, a language pathologist with over thirty-five years' experience, is the Director of the Soifer Center for Learning and Child Development, Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, and faculty member in the Early Intervention Training Institute at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.