

Helping Kids Succeed



Teachers interact closely with students.

Created in a culture of caring, Child Development Center is a unique special needs school in which students with behavioral and emotional disabilities are taught to face their issues so that they can have productive, fulfilling lives.

The CDC's progressive approach maintains a structured environment that is still warm and nurturing – one day, one student at a time – to support each student's well-being. CDC is accredited by the State of New Jersey to serve students from public schools in New Jersey.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Self-Sufficiency

Every child can learn and progress if given the right support.

Self-Worth

Every student deserves to find his or her niche in society. No child is written off as unworthy of learning or growing.

Caring

It's at the core of all we do. The staff cares about the well-being of the students and puts students' needs first.

Supportive Environment

When students have a supportive environment, they are more likely to succeed.

Collaboration

Communication and partnership with the family are integral to a child's success.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Lee Buchanan
Student Services Coordinator

Lee Buchanan's roots with the CDC stretch back to its founding in 1973. While she left to raise her family, Lee came back in the early 1990s and has been here ever since.

An experienced social worker, Lee manages the delicate work of student "intake" – meeting with students, parents and child study teams to introduce the school and explore whether CDC is the appropriate environment for these students. She also leads annual review meetings, which assess student progress, provide information to parents and school districts, and explain how CDC's unique resources and approach are meeting each student's needs.

"It's my job to generate a dialogue with parents and school district representatives to make sure students are getting the best and most from us," Lee explains.

You can reach Lee at leeb@thecdncj.org.



The cleanest school in NJ?

So we've been told. You decide. Visit CDC and check out our gleaming classrooms.

Child Development Center

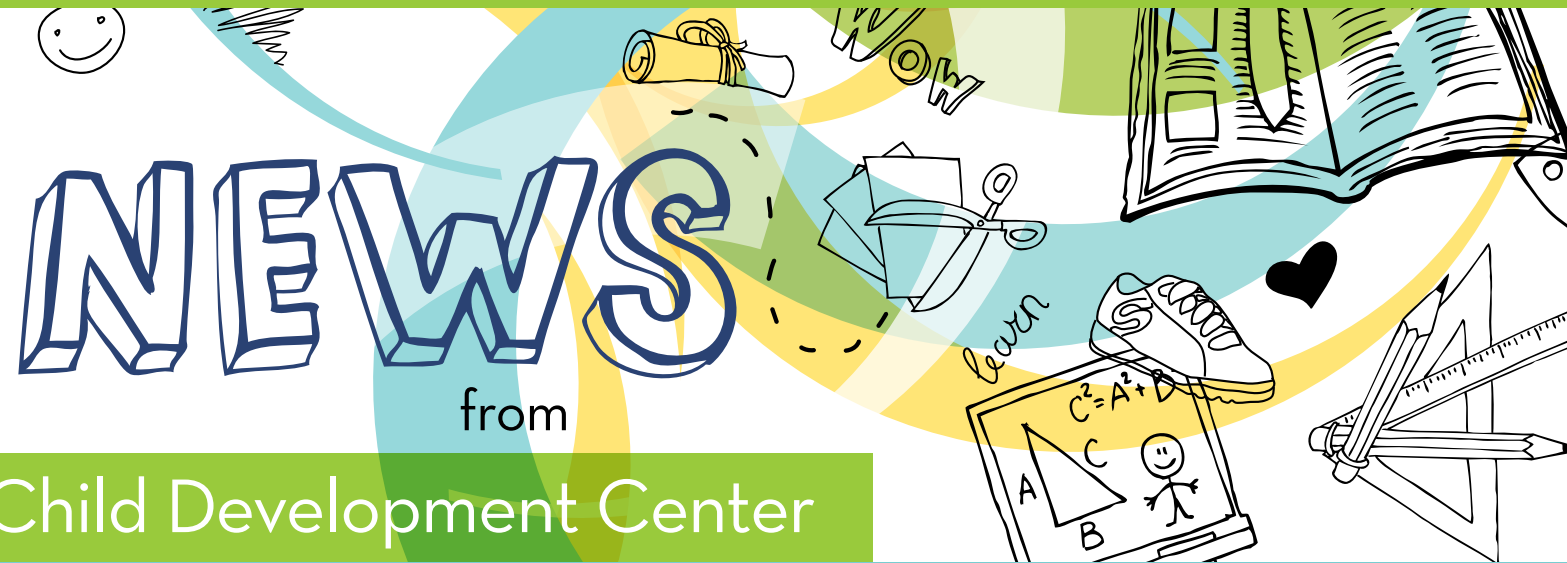
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Have a question, want to refer a student or visit the school? We'd love to hear from you.

Dr. Viviana Litovsky
DIRECTOR
973-429-8110
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Child Development Center

What's New

Child Development Center Selected for NJ TIPS Program



Child Development Center is one of the five schools in the state selected for the NJ TIPS program which teaches kids how to use public transportation.

Dare to Dream Program Empowers Students



The "Dare to Dream" Student Leadership Conference for High School Students provides an opportunity for students to learn self-determination skills and network with other students throughout the state. Participants will take part in workshops, many led by other students, dealing with topics such as goal setting, self-discovery, student self-advocacy, Individualized Education Program (IEP) development, and assistance with preparing students with disabilities for post-secondary education opportunities.

CDC Receives Horizon Grants



Given the Child Development Center's expertise in addressing a range of mental disabilities, the school was awarded a prestigious grant to partner with Horizon on developing an assessment tool for tracking depression.

BUILDING VOCATIONAL SKILLS

Community-Based Instruction Teaches Life Skills to Students



Even young students learn about careers at our Career Fair.

At the Child Development Center, when students attend our career fairs, they submit resumes that they created in the classroom and are ready to apply what they have learned about interviewing and other job search skills. It's part of our Community-Based Instruction (CBI) program which teaches real-world skills at every grade level.

In the younger grades, students take field trips market, post office, library, and fire station to they work. They also learn about different types accounts, how to effectively navigate and read and train schedules.

In the older grades, students participate in a simulated work environment in which they respond to posted ads for jobs, submit resumes that they created in the computer lab, and can get "hired" and "fired" from jobs. And then they will have the opportunity to apply this by participating in mini work experiences, where they work for a few hours at a local business to learn what it is like, get some training and, possibly be hired by the business.

To give high school students a taste of the college experience, we take field trips to Bloomfield College so they can see the campus and interact with the college students and get inspired.

Community-based learning is all about grounding the students' experiences in real-world learning so they can go on to be successful in their lives, and at the Child Development Center, we practice it every day. ■

In the older grades, students participate in a simulated work environment.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Franklin's Story

A student returns to school as a role model



*not his real name

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND. Those words have particular meaning when describing Franklin, a young man who started at CDC when he was seven years old. Eventually, Franklin went back to public school in the 11th grade, graduated from high school, and recently visited CDC as a member of the U.S. Marine Corp to share his story. His message to students was simple: "You can succeed, too!"

You could hear a pin drop. The students were enthralled and there wasn't a dry eye among the staff and teachers.

— Lee Buchanan, CDC Coordinator

Franklin was a foster child with severe ADHD. He was impulsive, easily distracted, defiant and disruptive. But over the years, with the help of his supportive foster mother, Franklin steadily developed the skills and discipline he needed.

"I want you to know," he said addressing CDC high school students, "that you have a future." After describing his early inability to control himself, he said, "I had the same goals you have, and you can reach them....Do what you need to do here."

With structure, consistency, rules, consequences, and a sense of safety, Franklin developed the internal controls he needed to succeed as a student and a friend. He also benefited from regular therapeutic counseling, where he could talk about his feelings and his emerging sense of self.

Perhaps most important for CDC students, he also felt the need to give back, to share his personal story. And for that, we thank him.

IMPROVING STUDENT PERFORMANCE

BEYOND THE REPORT CARD

Student Passport provides a fuller picture of a student's performance

A grade of B- in math or A in science is useful for understanding students' level of knowledge relative to other students. But letter grades are not accurate in capturing a student's sense of self, desire to learn and progress on emotional and social issues so critical to success in school.

Student's own assessment and work samples shows how the child has improved.

That's why Student Passport is valuable. This new ongoing approach to measurement comprises ten sections that provide a complete snapshot of the student's standing. It also includes work samples from the student, student's annual self-inventories, and state testing results.

Because Student Passport is very useful for showing the school districts how the child has improved, it plays a crucial role in IEP (Individualized Education Plans) meetings in which the accurate information about the student can be instrumental in shaping a successful path for the student.



Let us know if you would like more information about how **Student Passport** can help students.

Golf Outing – A Success!

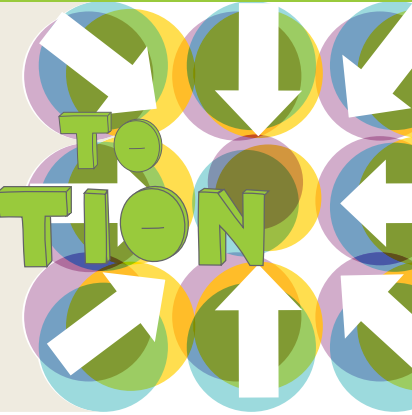


On May 6th, 2010, The Child Development Center held its Golf Outing marking a milestone of having helped nearly 3,000 students during the past 37 years. The event helped build relations with people and businesses in the community and raise money for the school's important work serving kids in the region. Thank you to all who supported us!

MANAGING DISABILITIES

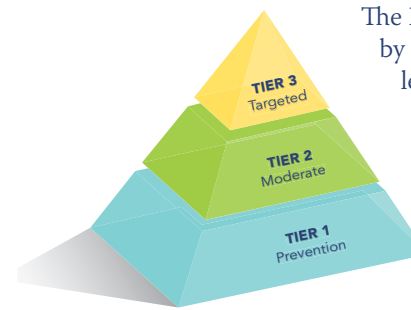
RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION

A proactive, three-tiered approach mitigates classroom disturbances



The Child Development Center's small classrooms of no more than six to a class, are specifically designed to reduce distractions from other students. The desks are positioned to allow each student to focus on their own work while allowing the teacher to monitor progress.

Nonetheless, when disruptions do occur, the key is to use the most appropriate response so the child can be managed or supported as needed.



The Response to Intervention (RTI) model addresses this need by classifying disturbances into three tiers based on their level of severity, from Tier 1 (prevention), to Tier 3 (the most severe, typically a physical outbreak). The RTI model prescribes solutions for these different scenarios.

At Child Development Center, we have been using the RTI model successfully in conjunction with our own crisis intervention methods. Given our close monitoring of students, we fully understand their unique issues and are ready to respond at the targeted

tiers with the appropriate level of help. Our highly trained Crisis Intervention Team is comprised of teachers, social workers and administrators. Using this evidence-based model, we focus on prevention, using frequent assessments and best practices to ensure our students' academic, social and emotional well-being. ■

IMPROVING SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Project ACHIEVE Helps Students Develop Self-Management Skills

When CDC was first founded 37 years ago as a pioneering school for special needs, we made the commitment to high standards for our own self-improvement as well as our students. That's why we're implementing Project ACHIEVE.

The program, which has been used in more than 40 states across the country, addresses three main areas:

- Improving students' ability to solve problems, strengthen their own resilience, and develop effective self-management skills so that they can break poor behavior patterns
- Improving staff professional development and instruction



Project ACHIEVE will build on CDC's personal approach to learning.

- Increasing the quality of parent and community engagement to help students

All CDC staff will be trained in the program in August and will begin applying it in the coming school year.

Did You Know?

Child Development Center...

- Has low termination and suspension rates that keeps kids in school to get the help they need.
- Has a bilingual program for Spanish speaking students.
- Conducts state testing right at the school so there is no need to transport the students to another venue.
- Has the room for occupational and physical therapists to work with students in the school.
- Has a multi-disciplinary Crisis Intervention Team to address all levels of emotional and behavioral issues.
- Hires only certified substitutes as aides, so they can step up as substitute teachers if needed to maintain a sense of continuity in the classroom for the students.
- Has a highly-trained and dedicated staff that receives ongoing training.
- Offers tutoring that helps students keep pace with their program.

What do you think of our new look?

Its part of the exciting new changes in revitalizing our brand, to help you better understand how we serve students with academic and behavioral challenges.

To learn more about CDC, or to schedule a visit, call us at 973-429-8110