

ENRICHING THE COMMUNITY

A monthly publication for friends of Family Enrichment Network

FEN Special Education Services Continue to Grow

In an effort to accommodate more students in the eastern portion of Broome County, Family Enrichment Network opened an integrated classroom in the Harpursville School District this school year. The classroom is located in the W. A. Olmstead Elementary School and consists of ten full-day UPK and eight SES half-day (four in the morning, four in the afternoon) students. The FEN special needs students are integrated with Harpursville UPK students. Students that have therapy are able to be given their full range of therapies (speech, occupational, and physical) right at the school. The classroom follows all OCFS and NYS Education regulations with an emphasis on social-emotional skills, literacy and math. Students have art, music, and PE classes; playground time; and both a meal (either breakfast or lunch) and snack. They are also invited to participate in many of the Harpursville School activities. The classroom supports the Pre-K students academically and socially and it is a partnership we hope to continue for many years to come.

Additionally, Special Education Services with the help of April Ramsey, the Program Development Director, was awarded a grant from The Early Childhood Education Capacity Building Fund housed at the Community Foundation for South Central NY. This enabled us to expand our therapeutic offerings, for which we are very appreciative. We were able to purchase the following therapeutic items to use with our students:

- Full Support Swing: Used on the playground to allow children with decreased muscle tone and strength due to various causes to be able to participate in swinging.
- Pango Activity Chair: Allows children with decreased muscle tone and strength to participate with other children at the table by providing adequate support and positioning. Used to engage in table tasks and feeding.
- Variable Axis Swing: Provides supported positioning and reclines to fit the needs of various needs to allow children to participate in therapeutic activities via swinging.
- Jelly Bean Twist: Provides children the ability to participate in self-generated, active engagement. Helps children to learn cause and effect type play. Allows children with decreased fine motor skills the ability to engage in play. Example: activating bubble machine.
- Tumbleform Scooter: Provides support via positioning wedges to engage in prone activities to increase strength, coordination, and tolerance of the position.

Working together with the classrooms, therapists, parents, and the community we hope to offer the best support possible to our students to help prepare them for their start in kindergarten and the beginning of their academic careers.

For more information about Family Enrichment Network Programs, please visit us at www.familyenrichment.org or call (607) 723-8313.



The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families. We believe in coordinating children and family services using a comprehensive and collaborative approach to improve their quality of life while ensuring the greatest value for our investment in child, adult, and parent development.