

“Cerebral Palsy of Westchester Begins Saturday Explorer Program for Children with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities”

Program: Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW) is pleased to announce the start of its new Saturday Explorer Program for Children with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities. Children from the ages of five to nine will have the chance to increase their socialization with an emphasis on structured play. The program takes place from 10am-2pm two Saturdays each month.

The occurrence of Autism is increasing and with the increasing demands for services there are several benefits to this program for both the children involved and their parents. Many parents of children with disabilities express interest in finding more recreational activities for their child, especially during the weekend. While giving the parent and other members of the family time away from the child to complete chores or have personal time, children in the program will benefit greatly from the structured activities.

Behavioral benefits for children in the program include; more play at home, exhibiting more sophisticated play behaviors at home and during scheduled play sessions, an increased attention span and more focus during play and non-play activities, and an increase in social and interpersonal skills.

The program will be based on the Lekotek play therapy model. Lekotek is an approach to play therapy for children with disabilities that uses play and the learning that results to promote the inclusion of children with special needs into family and community life. In January 2007 CPW opened its Lekotek Center, the first of its kind in New York State. CPW's Lekotek facility will be used to enhance the Saturday Explorer Program.

The Saturday Explorer Program began on Saturday, June 9th and is directed by CPW's Children's Services Director, Annabelle Strozza and also Lisa Fisher, CPW's Assistive Technology Coordinator and certified Lekotek Leader. Additional staff for the program will include teachers, aides and substitute aides.

Day/Time: Two Saturday's Each Month from 10am-2pm

Location: Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, 1186 King Street, Rye Brook, NY 10573



About Cerebral Palsy of Westchester:

Our organization's mission is to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people with Cerebral Palsy and other developmental disabilities. We are a non-profit organization that provides essential educational services, vocational training, recreation, rehabilitation and advocacy to thousands of children and adults in Westchester County. We are an organization proud to say that we Realize Tomorrow's Potential...Today! For more information about Cerebral Palsy of Westchester, visit our web site at www.cpwestchester.org

For more information about this program or how to support CP/W

please contact:

Lauren Bulakowski

Development and Public Relations Coordinator

914-937-3800 ext. 209

Lauren.Bulakowski@cpwestchester.org

www.cpwestchester.org