

Welcome to the Summer 2008 Firefly Center Newsletter!



therapy services for children

FALL OT OPENINGS

A number of children are graduating

from our programs this June! We are now accepting referrals for new clients for individual and group Occupational Therapy.



WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE!

With warmer weather upon us, kids are getting ready for **summer activities**.

Water activities can

be excellent for working on self-regulation and building sensorimotor skills.

- Swimming is great for bilateral coordination, strength and endurance.
- For the sensory sensitive child, the pool can elicit visual, auditory and tactile overload. Choose swim times when the pool is less crowded, and prepare your child with heavy work/play activities to calm the nervous system prior to pool time.
- The seashore is a fantastic place for sensorimotor exploration. The ocean, tide pools, beach combing and building sand castles all offer opportunities for skill building and fun.
- Ride A Wave provides amazing surf/beach days for children with special needs: www.rideawave.org

SOCIAL SKILLS!

Learning to interact effectively with peers is extremely important for children's development. To help with this challenge, Firefly Center offers **social skills groups** for children of all ages. Our programs focus on conversational skill, sharing/ compromise/sportsmanship and building friendships, social awareness and self-confidence.

"PICKY" EATER AT HOME?

Did you know that it takes the "picky" eater 10 tries of a new food to decide whether he/she actually likes it? Professional help to promote good eating habits can be key to expanding your child's food repertoire. Firefly therapists recently completed training in the Sequential Oral Sensory (SOS) method of self-feeding for children with eating difficulties. We are currently offering **individual and group feeding therapy** for children that are picky or problem eaters.

MEET HANNAH THE THERAPY DOG!



Hannah has had great success in helping build children's sensorimotor skills, decrease dog-related anxieties and promote motivation and a sense of calm and well-being. Hannah is a certified therapy dog and a Canine Good Citizen. Being a poodle, she is also hypoallergenic!

FIREFLY NEWS

- Welcome OT Aishah Mohammed-Flissinger to our staff. Aishah has special training in feeding and sensory integration, as well as a background in Autism and behavioral therapy.
- Staff member Jennifer McLean has completed advanced training in Neurodevelopmental Treatment (NDT) to assist children with movement disorders.
- Firefly Center offers music therapy with certified music therapist Beth Robinson. Call 415-637-7281 for info.
- Firefly director Melisa Kaye has returned to school to pursue a post professional degree in Occupational Therapy. Following her conviction that children can provide us with great insight into their own lives, she will be completing research that elicits the voices of children on the Autism Spectrum.



ABOUT US



Firefly Center is a San Mateo based Occupational Therapy Clinic that provides effective and holistic evaluation, treatment and consultation services for children with a variety of needs.

Contact: 415-533-0324 or melisa@fireflycenter.com. Have a Great Summer!



19 South B St. San Mateo, CA 94114



www.fireflycenter.com

