THE GALAXY GALA WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Thanks to all of those who attended, volunteered, and donated to help make our 25th Annual Auction Gala a dazzling success! We were able to raise $640,000 for our kiddos! Because of our generous donors, we are able to make sure all of our kids and families receive the support that they need.

Thank you for helping our kids reach for the stars!

SPEAKER SERIES

Wednesday, May 1st – Location: Kindering 19801 North Creek Parkway #200 BOTHELL
Planning for the Future: Guardianship, Special Needs Trusts & other Issues for Families
Matthew Parker, Thompson & Howle Attorneys at Law
When children have a disability, it is crucial to plan for their financial future so that when they become adults they will have the necessary financial assistance to live independently and with dignity. Families will not have to worry about who will take care of their child if they are not there. This workshop will give an overview of what a special needs trust is all about, provide insights on guardianships, and identify a framework for families as they plan for the future.

Wednesday, May 15th – Location: Verdant Health Commission 4710 196th St SW LYNNWOOD
Sensory Processing Workshop
Alex Neukirch, Kindering Occupational Therapist
Do you have a child who struggles to stay focused in crowded environments, stay calm in unexpected situations or transitioning at home or school? Join this evening to hear from a professional Occupational Therapist who will provide a variety of information and strategies to try with children having Sensory Processing challenges. During the evening you will also meet other parents who are facing similar behavior concerns. There will be ample time for questions. You are sure to come away with new ideas and a fresh perspective.

Wednesday, May 29th – Location: 16120 NE 8th Street BELLEVUE
Feeding a Toddler: Parent Tested & Pediatrician Approved - Tips for frustrated parents
Dr. Richard Keeler, Allegro Pediatrics
What foods are appropriate for a toddler? Why won’t my toddler eat? Should I purchase organic foods? Does my toddler need a vitamin or supplement? Figuring out what foods are right for a toddler can be confusing. Actually getting them to eat those foods can be even more problematic. In this talk, we will cover which foods are ideal for toddlers, how to get them to eat that food and how to keep them safe at the dinner table.

Come as early as 6pm for mingling and light refreshments. The presentation is 6:30-8:30pm. NO COST but please RSVP to Colleen Willis at Colleen.Willis@kindering.org or leave a message at 425.289.7527 so we can ensure space is available. Childcare is not available for these speaker series.

"Kindering embraces children of diverse abilities and their families by providing the finest education and therapies to nurture hope, courage, and the skills to soar."
ALL IN FOR AUTISM
5K/10K RUN/WALK AND KIDS DASH
April is Autism Awareness Month! Join at the All in for Autism 5k/10k Run/Walk and Kids’ Dash at Bellevue Downtown Park on Sunday, April 29 at 8:00 a.m. This is a great community event from the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club that benefits Kindering and our kiddos. Bring your family and be on the Kindering Team or help out as a volunteer. Registration is open until April 25 and we are offering you a discount code! Make sure to register as part of the Kindering Team and use “Kindering” (with a capital K) for a $5 discount.

If you're interested in volunteering, visit allinforautism.org/volunteers and sign up for a specific volunteer opportunity. Make sure you list Kindering as your Volunteer Organization.

If you have questions, please contact Anne Acker at anne.acker@kindering.org or 425.289.7506.

PARENT RECRUITMENT FOR WASHINGTON STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (SICC)
The Department of Children, Youth, and Families is seeking applications for appointments to the Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families. Council members advise and assist the Department of Children, Youth, and Families in implementing the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program per the federal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C.

Applications are currently being sought for representation in the following vacancies on the Council:
- Early Intervention Service Provider
- Head Start
- Tribal/Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Parent Representative

Interested persons are encouraged to apply by completing the application at the Governor’s website link Application. In the drop-down list, the SICC is titled "Infants & Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families."

If you have any questions about SICC membership, please contact Sue Rose, ESIT Stakeholder Engagement Manager at sue.rose@dcyf.wa.gov

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR TODDLER’S DEVELOPMENT?
IF YOU HAVE A TODDLER BETWEEN 16 AND 30 MONTHS OLD, YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A NEW RESEARCH STUDY!

Dear Families,

We are working with the University of Washington on a research study that aims to increase early detection of developmental concerns and early access to specialized services, when needed. This study is funded by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

- We are looking for parents of toddlers between 16 and 30 months old, who...
- Are worried about their child’s social interactions or play, or...
- Are worried about their child’s language development, or...
- Are worried about autism, or...
- Have an older child with an autism diagnosis

If you choose to participate in the study, you will be asked to visit the University of Washington and fill out a set of questionnaires twice during a 3-month period. During the visit, you and your child will participate in behavioral assessments that last about 1½ hours. The questionnaires ask about your child’s behavior, your own well-being, the services your child receives, and your satisfaction with the care you receive from health and service providers. The University of Washington will compensate you for your time and can cover most travel-related costs for these assessment visits.

The flyer accompanying this email contains information about how to contact the Research Coordinator at the University of Washington for additional details about participating in this study. Alternatively, you may provide your contact information at the following link, and the Research Coordinator for this project will contact you directly.

https://redcap.iths.org/surveys/?s=CDALLYTCY3

Feel free to ask your early intervention provider if you have questions about the study!
NOVEMBER NEWS
FOR THE PARENTS OF KINDERING CHILDREN

BABY STEPS CLASS IN RENTON NOW ENROLLING!

What is it?
Baby Steps is a parent-child playgroup for infants with special needs and their families designed to provide parents with information and support; access to Kindering staff and resources; and a chance to get to know other parents and children in a similar situation.

In addition, a highly qualified special educator provides parents with coaching around how to support effective play, target new skills, and have positive responsive parent-infant interactions.

Who can join?
Baby Steps is for caregivers and their babies from birth through approximately 16-18 months of age who are eligible for Early Intervention services. Family members including parents, foster parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles, and/or siblings are welcome.

When?
Classes meet once a week for 1 hour on Wednesdays at noon.

How do I register?
Please contact your Family Resources Coordinator or your child’s therapist to discuss enrollment as space is limited and subject to availability.

FATHERS NETWORK

Join the Fathers Network mailing list to get monthly information about articles, workshops, conferences, classes and events. This is information about the community in general, not just about the Fathers Network. And, anyone, not just dads, is welcome to be on the mailing list.

SIBSHOPS

WHAT ARE SIBSHOPS?
Sibshops are fun, action-packed workshops in which siblings of children with special needs are encouraged to share challenges and celebrate joys with brothers and sisters in similar situations. It’s a celebration of the many contributions that brothers and sisters of children with special needs make to their families and communities.

WHAT HAPPENS AT SIBSHOPS?
Based on the Children’s Hospital program model designed by Don Meyer, each Sibshop mixes information and discussion activities with new games, active play, and art projects! Dinner and dessert will also be provided.

WHEN & WHERE ARE SIBSHOPS?
Kindering is pleased to offer Sibshops at the Bothell, Bellevue, and Renton locations. Sibshops will be hosted at the following locations/times:

Bellevue – 16120 NE 8th St, (behind Bellevue fire station 3)
October– June- 3rd Friday of each month from 4:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

Renton – Meadow Crest Early Learning Center
1800 Index Ave NE
October–June – 2nd Thursday of each month from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Bothell – coming soon!

WHO CAN ATTEND?
Typically developing 1st-6th graders. Groups may be split by age/grade for some activities.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?
$30 per session, per child. This includes dinner. Scholarship funds may be available upon request. Learn more and register online at www.kindering.org/sibshops, or contact Kindering Sibshops facilitators at sibshops@kindering.org.
ADVOCACY DAYS
The ARC of King and Snohomish county both offer advocacy days for families to learn more about the legislative process in person. It's a tool kit for learning how to make a difference! The theme this year is “Incredible Advocacy” as we encourage legislators to champion bills/budget items that are important to people with developmental disabilities.

What to expect at Advocacy Day
Advocacy Day begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays during the legislative session. We start with an hour and a half briefing on current issues and end with an afternoon of advocacy. While we feature a highlighted topic each week, the morning briefing will also cover late breaking news on budget items and bills of interest relating to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We meet at The United Churches (Across the street from the Capitol), 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia, 98501. If you need a guide for the day, please let us know by calling 1.888.754.8798, ext. 5, or e-mail bean@arcwa.org (King County residents) or autumn@arcsno.org (Snohomish county residents)

April 3rd—Incredible Autistics! Almost 50 years have passed since the first National Autism Awareness month in April of 1970. With the diagnosis rate of children with autism increasing from 1 in every 2000 children in the 1970’s to 1 in every 68 children today, we celebrate not just Awareness, but also Acceptance and Appreciation of the autistic community and those who support them. The Governor and the Legislature recognize the incredible value of autistic individuals to our communities. Join us for an Autism Rally at noon, more details to come!

April 10th—Incredible Messaging As the regular session is coming to a close, our incredible legislators are spending most of their time on the House or Senate floor voting on bills. You still have an incredibly important job to do! Many bills never get a chance to be voted on, not because they aren’t important, but because there is not enough time to vote on all of them. You can help move your bills up in importance by sending notes in to your legislator while they are on the floor.

WELCOME NEW STAFF
Hello! My name is Paige Riegel and I am a new occupational therapist here at Kindering. I grew up outside of St. Louis, Missouri and received my Occupational Therapy degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. I started my career in Chicago working at a large rehab hospital and later moved on to gain experience in the school system and pediatric rehabilitation, including NICU and cardiac units. After taking a few years off to be home with my two kids, I’m excited to be returning to my career and working at Kindering!

Hi! My name is April Smith, and I am the new assistant accountant here at Kindering. I grew up in Washington and earned my bachelor’s degree in Community Health Education from Central Washington University in Ellensburg. I enjoy working with people and with numbers, which comes in handy in my work life. In my free time I enjoy reading, square dancing, and going to the theatre.

ILLNESS EXCLUSION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY
Kindering is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff and other volunteers of the agency. We view parents as our partners in promoting the safety and health of others by preventing the spread of communicable disease. To that end, we consider the advice of the King County Health Department. Please take a minute to review the entire policy located in your parent handbook.

Thanks for your continued support in this area! Parent Handbook

VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED
Do you love taking photos? Do you love seeing our kids in action? We’re looking for volunteer photographers to help us capture the moments that happen in our classes. You can reach out to Carolyn Fritzsche at Carolyn.fritzsche@kindering.org with any questions and to talk about volunteering.