

THERAPY TIMES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

School Based
Therapy Services

Center for
Children's Therapy

Providing Occupational, Physical
Speech and Behavioral Therapy
Counseling and Child Study Team Services

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www.schoolbasedtherapyservices.com
www.childrens-therapy.com

Established in 2000 to meet the growing demand for highly skilled pediatric therapists
in both the school and community settings.

Written by: School Based Therapy Services
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Who Are We?

School Based Therapy Services is the leading provider of educationally relevant occupational, speech, physical and behavioral therapy (BCBA). In addition, we staff child study professionals, such as school psychologists, LDTC's and social workers.



**What's new for
Fall?**

Another busy school year has just started! SBTS is in full swing providing occupational, speech, physical, and behavioral therapies and child study team services in all of our school buildings. The Center for Children's Therapy is bustling with little learners coming in and out for private therapies.

As school districts welcome back students and schedule services, you may find yourself short on coverage. Or, perhaps you are planning to expand and develop in district preschool disabled or Autistic Programs. This is a perfect time to call SBTS and speak to us about your unique district's need. SBTS are experts in program development and providing the necessary staff to provide therapies and support services.

What's New !!

The Counseling Center of Essex, has just moved upstairs to SBTS! The Center provides mental health counseling for children, adolescents, families, adults and couples.

The Counseling Center of Essex

1425 Pompton Ave.

Building 3-2nd floor

Cedar Grove , NJ 07009

973-890-8800 www.EssexCounselingCenter1425.com



AUTISUM IN THE NEWS

This great article recently appeared in The Star Ledger. It highlights the imperative role paraprofessionals play in educating student's with disabilities, particularly, Autism. I have attached the link and article below.

http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/09/applauding_the_unsung_heroes_of_njs_autism_community_opinion.html

Applauding the unsung heroes of N.J.'s autism community | Opinion

By Peter Bell

If you ask Shabazz Kelly from Trenton how she spends her days, she will tell you that she has one of the most important jobs in the state of New Jersey.

Shabazz is a direct support professional, also known as a DSP, and it is her responsibility to help some very special adults who live with autism spectrum disorder be active and contributing members of our community.

What does a DSP do? In essence, they provide direct care and support to individuals who need extra help. In some cases, it might be with daily activities that most of us take for granted such as getting dressed in the morning, eating a meal, or taking care of personal hygiene routines. In other situations, DSPs might handle more complex tasks like visiting the doctor's office, shopping for groceries or even holding down a part-time job.

In almost all cases, DSPs are the cornerstone of another person's life. Without them, these individuals would inevitably require far more restrictive or isolated settings. At Princeton-based Eden Autism, she specializes as a community job coach, alongside another 171 DSPs. In New Jersey, there are some 30,000 direct support professionals providing critical support to hundreds of thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities.



Shabazz Kelly a DSP -- or direct support professional -- at Eden Autism with two of her clients with autism. There are 30,000 individuals in New Jersey who work as direct support professionals who provide critical services to hundreds of thousands of children and adults with developmental disabilities, helping them live as independently as possible. (Photo courtesy of Eden Autism)

Shabazz specializes in helping adults with autism maintain competitive employment. Her day typically begins at one of Eden's Employment Centers where she meets up with her clients, Michael and Sheldon, two adult men living with autism. The three of them first meet to talk about the day's schedule and then hop in a vehicle to head to the Hyatt Regency in Princeton where the two men work in the kitchen as dishwashers.

As a job coach, Shabazz is there to make sure they stay on task, understand their responsibilities and perform to the standards of their employer. Due to limited communication skills that are a hallmark of individuals with autism, Shabazz acts as Michael and Sheldon's liaison with the hotel and is a critical reason why they can be successful employees. The Hyatt Regency Princeton also employs four other adults from Eden and was recognized by NJ APSE in 2015 as Employer of the Year for their strong commitment to employing individuals with disabilities. Shabazz has supported Michael and Sheldon at the Hyatt for over two years. They have a special bond, she knows their personalities and without her they might not be able to navigate through their work day. After each shift, Shabazz knows that Sheldon wants to hear how successful he was at work that day and that Michael wants to stop for his favorite cup of coffee. These are their rewards and Shabazz is rewarded by the pride she has in seeing them flourish.

Supporting individuals with special needs is a profession that frequently gets overlooked.



DSPs can work long and hard hours and the monetary rewards are not significant (New Jersey only provides 87 percent of the cost of such programs). However, DSPs are an extremely dedicated group who make it their mission to provide assistance to individuals, helping them to live meaningful lives.

They are there to lift up this often dismissed population, helping them to meet the myriad of challenges adults with autism face in their homes, at their jobs, or in the community.

Last month, Gov. Chris Christie signed a proclamation declaring the week of Sept. 11-17 as Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. His proclamation states:

"Every day, New Jersey's Direct Support Professionals make a tremendous difference in the lives of people with disabilities, strengthening our communities and supporting our most vulnerable citizens, for which they deserve our respect and deepest admiration."

DSPs are the pillar of organizations like ours; and during this week of national recognition, we acknowledge and celebrate you not just today but every day of the year.

Peter Bell is president and CEO of Eden Autism, a not-for-profit organization based in Princeton with a mission to improve the lives of children and adults with autism.

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