

A NOTE FROM PAMELA ELY MARTINS, MS CCC-SLP

As we get ready to begin our fall semester 2006, I find myself reflecting on the past. In 1999, my friend and colleague Elsa Abele first invited me to observe a social skills group she was facilitating, at Boston University. Second, Elsa called and said she would be so appreciative if I could see my way clear to having a high school girls group out of my house one evening a week. Next thing I know, I had added 3 more social skills groups per week, out of my basement. I was busy interviewing many other students who became the ground floor of my "wait list." Finally, in the summer of 2000, the floodgates open and I had decided to renovate space in my home to accommodate the now 4 social groups I have on-going and to provide a space for an office and the potential for "a few more" groups. By the fall of 2003, Mary Lewis had offered to "help" with the office work and pick up phone calls and I had 8 groups of students who met 2 afternoons per week. The numbers (students and staff) continued to creep up from there and the Ely Center was founded. The Center has grown steadily since opening our "new" doors (October 1, 2005) thanks to the support of our Center families, my family and extended family/friends, local support services, and our fabulous staff! When we open for the fall semester, September 18, 2006, we will offer 23 groups a week, 5 days/week (Mon.-Thu & Sat) plus a number of drop-in and other class offerings serving 95 families in the metro/Boston area with 9 staff members.

CONTACT US

Phone: (617)795-1755

Messages are generally checked twice daily @ 9:30am and between 2-4pm. Although we try to respond promptly, it may take up to 48 hours to return a call.

Email: pely6@hotmail.com

Website: www.elycenter.com

REMINDER

Group Leaders have limited time before and after group for "chatting." However, you can expect a detailed group feedback email following the weekly sessions. If you require more specific information or wish to provide the group leader with facts about your child, please request this or provide the information, well in advance of group time via a cell phone message or email. This helps group time run smoothly and ensures that your child's specific needs are met.

STAFF UPDATES

Please see www.elycenter.com for more detailed staff information

Speech-Language Pathologists

Pamela Ely Martins, CCC-SLP/Founder

Sean Sweeney, CCC-SLP

Amanda Burke, CCC-SLP

Noelle Morealle, CCC-SLP is our newest team member. She is a Speech-Language Pathologist in the Brookline Public Schools who trained at Boston University under the watchful eye of our colleague and friend, Elsa Abele.

Alex Laufer, CF-SLP officially joined the Ely Center this spring upon completion of her graduate work at Boston University. She has been with the Ely team as a student intern since January 2005. Alex works at the School for Accelerated Learning in Waltham.

Occupational Therapist

Trevor Taylor, OTRL

Counselor

Tom Sheehan, Med./Counselor

Office Support

Mary Lewis, Administrative Assistant

Beth Ganem, Financial Assistant joined our team this summer. She is currently enrolled in the Education Program at Framingham State College.

ELY CENTER CONDUCT

Groups/group members are our top priority. Please stay with your child until your group leader has gathered the group and plan to pick up your child on time. This greatly helps with smooth transitioning from group to group so that all group members receive the time and attention allotted to him/her.

Please limit trips to the bathroom/kitchen trash can to those minutes immediately before group end or after group start to reduce distractions in the Center.

Food and beverage consumption is discouraged in the waiting area. There are many places nearby that you can go to and enjoy a snack. Group members are limited to eating/drinking in the kitchen only. If you must have food or a beverage please dispose of the trash in the kitchen trash ONLY. If a spill should occur, please bring it to the attention of the group leader at the end of the session. They are responsible for making sure the center is clean before they leave.

No one should walk behind the reception desk or utilize the sensory gym area (balls and bounce area) unless accompanied by a staff member.

NEW FALL OFFERINGS

- Friday night drop-in for high school and young adult group members (Tentatively Scheduled for October 13, December 1)
- Scheduled Saturday groups/1:1 sessions
- Open Art class w/Kathy Clarke (Saturday October 14-Saturday November 18)
- Cooking Class

Staff, con't

Interns

Melodie Dustin

Beth Harmon

Becca Parish

Interns may be high school or college students, graduate students, or other professionals interested in our unique and varied treatment approaches to social skill development. We are fortunate at the Ely Center to be affiliated with Boston University, as a training center for speech and language pathology student interns. These young men and women are the highest caliber graduate students who are carefully selected to fulfill a practicum at our center. Graduate student interns may observe, help, or facilitate group/individual sessions and may interface with parents and caregivers. However, at the Ely Center, a certified professional group leader will be on site and in charge at all times.

CHECK IT OUT!

Entertaining video created by an Ely Center client

Log onto www.youtube.com and search for "Extreme Makeover: Canine Edition," those words exactly to watch for free. No downloading required but be sure your computer has speakers. The video is about dog owners struggling to groom and bathe their 11-year-old Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Max. It is about 10 minutes long. Produced and directed by Adam Miller.

For Young Adults: AANE Pizza and Games Night... All young adults welcome!!

On Thursday, September 21, the Asperger's Association of New England will host a young adult pizza and games night at its Watertown, MA office. The event will run from 7:00 to 9:00 pm and will cost \$7 per person. RSVP to Jamie Freed (617-393-3824 or aane.msw@rcn.com) by the preceding Monday if interested in attending. For more information about AANE and for directions, go to www.aane.org.

SOME SOCIAL SKILL BUZZ WORDS YOU MIGHT HEAR THIS SEMESTER

- € Mind Filing
- € Expected vs. Unexpected Behavior
- € Talk Time
- € Bubble Thoughts
- € Social Spy
- € Topic Umbrella

Our web site www.elycenter.com will change periodically. Look for updates and events scheduled at the center.