



California Children Services (CCS) Medical Therapy Unit (MTU) Newsletter



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CCS

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Medical Therapy Units are Closed:

April 26th—R & I Meeting

May 28th—Memorial Day

July 4th—Independence Day



Please fill out the Patient/Family Comment Cards and place them in the blue boxes that are located in the waiting areas of all our MTU's. We really do want your feedback so that we can be responsive to your needs.

Thank you!

Your MTU Staff

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Many Thanks To:

Toni Kimber, Brad Senti, Marleah Moore, Elaine Bauman, Dr Schoene, and

Judy Vigil-Montaña,

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Spring Fever: Welcome to Silly Season.



By Terri Mauro @ About.com

Wacky kid behavior often comes in waves. If spring has brought on a bad case of the sillies for your special child, here are some possible explanations -- and what to do about them.

Allergies

Your child may not have the body awareness or language skills necessary to explain to you about the tingle in his nose or the pressure in her sinuses, but the lightheadedness and "spacey" feeling that often accompanies allergies can leave kids feeling distracted and disoriented. If itchy eyes, sniffles or headaches accompany the onset of silliness at your house, check with your pediatrician about the possibility of an allergy diagnosis.

Weather

The wild swings in weather that often come with the onset of spring can represent a disruption of routine for kids who are sensitive to change. Changes in climate can bring changes of air pressure that can have a kid feeling out of sorts for no good reason, too. Long days of rain and the lack of outdoor play that brings can make kids antsy, and staring out a classroom window at a beautiful sunny day can make them restless. Try to keep routines as consistent as possible, and have a stash of fun rainy-day activities at hand.

Clothes

Changing from one set of clothes to another can be a challenge to kids with tactile sensitivity -- getting used to different fabrics and styles, having more skin exposed, dealing with stiff new togs or mourning the loss of outgrown outfits. Make sure to keep your child's sensory-related clothing preferences in mind when buying new stuff for the new season, and do whatever customizing is needed, such as cutting out tags, before your child has to wear them.

Vacations

School vacations, although beloved by kids, can also lead to stress due to changes in routine and large blocks of unstructured time. Travel during those vacations brings with it a whole additional level of routine-disruption stress. Try to keep things as normal and planned as possible, and give your child plenty of preparation for new and unusual activities or places. Provide maximum support and hold minimum expectations for these often hard-to-handle periods.

Growth spurt

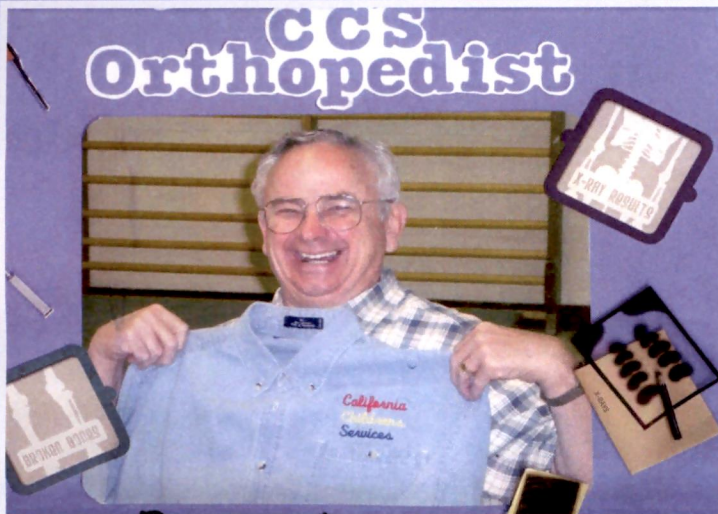
If your child tends to shoot up in height around this time of year, be aware that this can be a profoundly disorganizing process for him or her. Children with sensory integration and motor planning problems may find the difference in length of limbs and distance to the floor confusing and frustrating, and may have to completely revise their already blurry body awareness. Clumsiness, anger, regression of motor skills, tears for no reason, and an attitude of "giving up" can all be signs that your child is coping with a growth spurt badly. Explaining the situation may help, and extra support and lowered expectations will likely be called for.

Developmental leap

At this point, about three-quarters of the way through the school year, kids may be making major developmental leaps. They may be speaking more, reading more, understanding more, processing more, moving more, sensing more, feeling more. Those are all good things. And they're bad things, because when children with special needs jump to a new developmental level, everything has to come apart and get put back together again in a stronger and more advanced form. That falling-apart time can be difficult for everyone, but hold on: Things will be so much better when it's over.

The same, for parents

Kids aren't the only ones to react to these springtime stressors. Parents do, too. If you're suffering from allergies, feeling the changes in weather, going crazy with closet changes, agonizing over the way your spring clothes fit, getting caught up in vacation plans, worrying about what to do with your child over spring break, all of these things will up your stress level and lower your levels of patience, understanding, and time to spend with kids. Your child is likely to react to that very, very badly. Stop and take a look at whether your stress may be contagious. And then smell the flowers. Help your child smell them, too. [too](#)



Interview with Dr. Herman Schoene, CCS Pediatric Orthopedist

By Toni Kimber, Occupational Therapist,
Siegrist MTU

Following our Siegrist Medical Therapy Unit (MTU) Orthopedic Clinic in March 2012, I had the pleasure of interviewing Dr. Herman

Schoene. I learned several things about him professionally and personally. He stated he enjoyed all aspects of his medical training and could envision himself specializing in each one. His initial goal was to open a general medical practice with a partner in New York. However, an orthopedic surgeon took an interest in him, mentored him and taught him the value of orthopedics. Following this, he joined the Air Force. I learned that he began his Orthopedic residency 50 years ago (1962) at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Dr. Schoene says that years ago, medical professionals were encouraged to volunteer their services. In 1967 Dr. Schoene met Dr. J. C. Carmack, who was the pioneering physician for California Children Services in the early days. Dr. Carmack practiced Orthopaedic Surgery in Redlands. Dr. Schoene believes that Dr. Carmack was the first Orthopaedic Surgeon in the Inland Empire to cover the CCS clinics. Usually, when surgery was needed, an Orthopaedic Surgeon from Los Angeles would come out to San Bernardino. Dr. Schoene traveled to Barstow with an Elks therapist where he and Dr. Carmack would conduct the clinic. Eventually Dr. Carmack retired and enjoyed Ham radio operation.

Dr. Schoene continued staffing the CCS clinics. He brought Dr. Hohl and Dr. Hurley into the program soon after they arrived in the Inland Empire. Both had an interest in Pediatric Orthopaedics. The therapists at that time were from the Elks Club, who travelled long distances in a van full of therapy equipment and provided wonderful services to the children. He had great respect for the dedication of these therapists. They were funded from the piggy banks the Elks members would fill every year.

When asked what the most challenging aspect of the CCS experience was, he stated it was the fact that specialty services are not readily available. In a hospital or medical office setting, x-rays and reports can be readily obtained, whereas in this outpatient setting, it may take months or longer for a requested X-ray to get to the MTU.

And of course, “the most rewarding aspect of attending the Orthopedic Clinics has to be the therapists”, Dr. Schoene immediately responded. “It is a kick, it is fun and I thoroughly enjoy the personal interaction with the staff and parents. Of course, I can’t stand the kids!!” he laughs. He claims that he does not talk to his grandchildren until they are at least 7 years old!

I asked Dr. Schoene whether there was ever a client who made a huge impact on him; either positively or negatively. He mentioned that a young boy once needed a heel cord lengthening, but his behavior (the child) was out of control. He was angry and would rage. There was concern as to whether he would destroy his cast during the healing process. All went well in the end. Another boy received surgery and Dr. Schoene realized post operatively that he was over-corrected. This emphasized to him the unpredictability of surgical results.

Reading is something the doctor enjoys doing in his spare time. He recently wrote an eBook entitled, “How to Lose Weight – After All the Diets Have Failed”. In the next five years, he would like to write 10-20 more books. He and his wife, Barbara, are leaders in relationship improvement seminars entitled, SPARKS. SPARKS, basically means putting the pizzazz back into any relationship. They have incorporated this into a teenage group which was very successful. They hope to go nationwide with these courses, in order to help many relationships survive.

Dr. Schoene was asked what keeps him motivated and inspired in life. In responding, he states that feels he has a purpose in life to support others who are going through difficult times. Years ago, Dr. Schoene chose a role model; a man in the Old Testament named Caleb. He chose him because in his 80’s he was as strong, or stronger than he was in his 40’s. However, he worked harder in his 80’s than he did in his 40’s. Bummer! Caleb faithfully endured forty years of wanderings in the wilderness due to other people’s disobedience. He fought for years after that with Joshua and the new generation in conquering Canaan. Yet, rather than ask to relax or to retire, he asked Joshua to send him to the hardest place, to do the hardest task. While others wanted glory without effort, determination or sacrifice, Caleb was the exact opposite. He prevailed and won. Just like Caleb, Dr. Schoene says, “I want to finish strong and well”.

We closed the interview with Dr. Schoene referring to a Bible scripture; known as the Prayer of Jabez:

I Chronicles 4:10: “And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that you would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!” So God granted him what he requested.

Dr. Schoene was struck by the last sentence; if God answered Jabez, perhaps God would answer him. There is always HOPE!





A Gift Discovered



By Brad Senti, Occupational Therapist, Redlands MTU

Sometimes a gift is hidden. Sometimes, once that gift is discovered, perspectives on a life are dramatically changed.

Jeffrey Kenison is an 18 year old student at Redlands High School who happens to be confined to a wheelchair due to Spastic Cerebral Palsy (CP) that affects nearly every muscle in his body. Jeff and his family have been known to CCS soon after his birth on Christmas Eve. Initially a patient at the Smith Medical Therapy Unit (MTU), Jeff and his twin brother Peter, who also has CP, are now followed for treatment here at the Redlands MTU.

Despite the severe condition that hinders his every movement, Jeff is a happy young man who is eager to socialize with anyone who would take the time to sit with him. He is a big fan of the California Angels and American Idol (particularly Scotty McCreery).

Most of Jeff's school day is spent in his Orthopedically Handicapped classroom, but he is mainstreamed into a few classes that are suitable for his needs and ability. This is where Jeff's story takes its remarkable turn.

Jeff was put in Mr. Regalado's art class. He had never done much with art aside from the small classroom projects in his earlier years. Mr. Regalado asked Jeff if he would like to try his hand at painting. Holding a brush proved to be an unviable option. It was decided then that he would use his fingers as the instruments to paint his works. Jeff's Mom, Susie, speaks very highly of the work that Mr. Regalado has done with Jeff. "It's been such a blessing that he has invested so much time into Jeff's discovery of his art".

There's a big smile on his face when Jeff talks about his artwork. He prefers to work with acrylics on canvases two by three ft., although he has done much larger pieces. His paintings usually take about three class periods or roughly three hours. When asked where he gets his inspiration for his pieces, Jeff responds that he leaves that up to God. He also tries to give a name to each piece.

Jeff tells me that he will be having a show here in the near future at a local coffee shop. Proceeds of his work will go to help fund more supplies for his art class. He has already sold some of his pieces; one in fact was bought by David DiMichele, a famous artist. Jeff says, "this is my first big step to becoming a famous artist myself." Right now he is creating a painting for us that will soon hang in the Redlands MTU.

I have yet to see Jeff in artistic action. Hopefully this will be soon. He tells me that he doesn't know how long he will keep painting. "We'll leave that up to God" is a regular reply for many questions about his future plans. He has said in his blog that he would like to be a sportscaster or a missionary. For now he is content with his art and the other activities of his school and church. He will say that he is grateful that God gave him this gift. Once you get to know Jeff, you will see that that this is one of many gifts that this young man is blessed with. I'm sure that there are a few more gifts left to be discovered. It will be exciting to watch when that discovery happens.

(If you would like to see more of Jeff's work, please contact the Redlands MTU 909-307-2441 for information on his blog)





Inland Empire Disabilities Collaborative
Disability Resources expo

Saturday September 15, 2012 9am - 2pm

Exhibits on:

- Health
- Housing
- Transportation
- Advocacy
- Employment
- Assistive Technology
- Education
- Recreation
- Youth Services
- Senior Services

Cost: FREE with registration

Where:

Ontario Convention Center
2000 East Convention Center Way
Ontario, CA 91764

Online at www.IEDisabilitiesExpo.org

Call (909) 890-1150, (909) 890-1623 for TTY users



Grandmothers Raising Grandchildren

**Are you a grandmother raising a grandchild aged 4-12?
Would you like to take part in a learning support group?**

You may be eligible to participate in a new exciting learning program delivered by California State University, San Bernardino. The purpose is to foster the well-being of custodial grandmothers raising grandchildren. The training sessions are free and they will enhance your skills to reduce stress, improve communication with the grandchildren and access to local services. The goal is to compare different ways of helping grandmothers who are raising a grandchild between ages 4 to 12 in the absence of the grandchild's birth parents. You will receive a \$35 compensation for interviews, plus free on-site babysitting and free meal.

COPE: Caring for Others as a Positive Experience

For more information,
Call Julian Montoro-Rodriguez, Ph.D.
toll free 1-855-537-5580
E-mail: cope@csusb.edu



For specific information regarding locations please contact the toll free number.

Locations: San Bernardino, Riverside and Palm Desert