

The Early Edition June 2005

MATRIX PARENT NETWORK AND RESOURCE CENTER 800-578-2592

Matrix Parent Network and Resource Center welcomes you to contact us anytime at **800-578-2592**. Matrix parents can assist you with parent support, resources, information, referrals, education and the lending library.

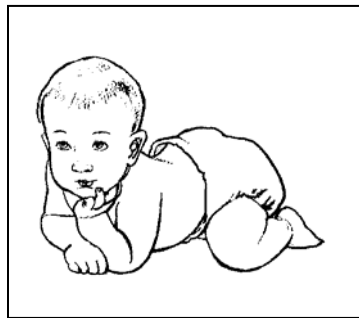


Matrix has experienced parent advisors that understand, because they are also parents of children with special needs. Give us a call, you are not alone.

EARLY START SERVICES

There are a variety of services available to your child and your family based on your child's developmental needs. Some of the services are as follows:

- Assistive Technology, including devices or services
- Audiology or hearing services
- Family Training, counseling and home visits
- Health services necessary for the child to benefit from other early intervention services
- Medical services for diagnosis and evaluation only
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Respite services
- Service coordination
- Social work services
- Special instruction
- Speech and language services
- Transportation and related costs necessary for a child to receive services
- Vision services



Empowering families of children with special needs to successfully understand and access the systems that serve them.

One Person's Story

Welcome To Holland

by Emily Perl Kingsley

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I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this.....

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.

So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss.

But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.

