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Sit
Stand
& Walk
**CECO’s Mission:**

The mission of the Conductive Education Center of Orlando is to combine physical and social educational methods to meet the unique needs of motor disabled children, to enable them to maximize their individual potential of functionality and independence in a safe, caring, group environment.

**Why CECO Stands Apart:**

- We offer Conductive Education Classes
- Small classes (usually 5 students max)
- One-to-one staff student ratio
- Physical and cognitive stimulation for your child all through the day
- Caring and experienced instructors
- After school programs for children in public school
- Programs for children at several developmental levels
- Resources for Families to reach necessary services
- Affordable alternative to traditional therapy
- On campus O/T P/T and Speech therapy
Imagine being told that your child may never stand…may never walk. Now imagine witnessing that same child take their first independent steps. Everyday at CECO, students diagnosed with motor disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, are taking their first steps, steps doctors and their families thought they may never take.

The Conductive Education Center of Orlando (CECO) opened its doors in 2001 with the support of Florida families who wanted a program that would challenge their children with motor disabilities to acquire new skills. CECO’s mission is to combine physical and social educational methods to meet the unique needs of children with motor and cognitive disabilities. Over the past 9 years, CECO has expanded our programs to include services needed by Florida children and families. We provide the following programs to children across the state of Florida: a full school day program, early intervention program, summer camp and after school programs. All of our programs feature a one-to-one staff student ratio, experienced instructors and a unique blend of therapy and education. CECO’s programs focus on teaching children with disabilities the self care skills required to live as independently as possible.

“We believe that no child should spend their day in a wheelchair, and we need your help to make this happen”.

There are thousands of children in Florida with motor disabilities resulting in limited mobility. For many of these children, their diagnosis can mean a lifetime of assisted living and wheelchair dependency. However, CECO is working hard to change that through our programs.

We believe that no child should spend their day in a wheelchair, and we need your help to make this happen.

Without our programs, many children with disabilities will be limited to only 1 or 2 hours of therapy each week; over the course of a year this could cause loss of strength, decreased range of motion and a lack of self esteem. At CECO, these same children will be actively participating in conductive therapy for 5 hours a day. They will learn to eat independently, use the potty, sit, stand and even walk on their own. All contributions directly cover the cost of these programs.
CECO’s Programs:

FULL SCHOOL DAY PROGRAM
- Age group: 4 years to 21 years
- Operates daily on the Orange County FL Public School Schedule
- Offer McKay Scholarship
- Serving highly to moderately involved children
- Class meets from 8:30 am - 2:00 pm or 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

This program incorporates a Conductive Education based program or an Occupational Therapy based program and a special education program. Each student works to accomplish individual goals set by their IEP. The children are constantly stimulated throughout the entire day with self-care skill training, motor skill building, sensory processing and group and individual educational activities. The Conductors and teacher adapt unique lessons to address the needs, goals and abilities of each student.

WALKING CHALLENGE—AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
- Age Group: 4 years to 18 years
- Monday and Wednesday 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm (varies by session)

CECO’s walking challenge program serves students who are cognitively high functioning. The Walking Challenge Program is a program for students who attend public school during that day, but require Conductive Education to help them develop to the physical and cognitive potential. The Walking Challenge focuses primarily on long-term physical independence (daily skills such as feeding and using the potty) and developmental goals. This program is an extension of the child’s developmental plan from their teacher’s IEP goals, the OT, PT and other developmental professional’s plans for the child. Walking Challenge ensures that the students are maintaining their skills, and moving to the next level of independence.

YOUNGSTER PROGRAM (PARENT INVOLVED)
- Age group: birth to 3 years
- Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 pm — 5:00 pm (varies by session)
- All levels of development

The youngster program is for children who have never participated in Conductive Education, or children who require parent involvement to participate. Early intervention is essential for these children to reach developmental milestones, and the youngster program is designed to provide both parent and child with the tools to meet those milestones. There is a strong emphasis on the senses, concentration, mobility, positioning, manipulation skills, intellectual and emotional development and speech.

INDIVIDUAL TUTORIAL PROGRAMS
- Scheduled apart from regular class time
- Serves any level of child
- Designed for children who’s needs can not be met in one of our classes

Individual tutoring with a conductor is available to any child assessed as being able to benefit from Conductive Education. Tutoring is a 1:1 intense program that lasts 4-6 weeks. The child and conductor (and parent) can work together on a daily basis for a maximum of 6 hours a week. Generally tutoring takes place for 1-2 hours per day. Areas of specific development will be discussed, a plan created, goals set and individual program carefully planned. We will create individual programs as determined effective by the Conductor’s assessment of a specific individual. A plan will be created to meet the child's specific needs.

IN HOME THERAPY PROGRAM
- Scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Serves children at any developmental level
- Designed for children who can not attend one of our center based programs

Generally in home therapy takes place for 1-2 hours per day. Areas of specific development will be discussed, a plan created, goals set and individual program carefully planned. We will create individual programs as determined effective by the Conductor’s assessment of a specific individual. A plan will be created to meet the child's specific needs.

SUMMER CAMP
CECO’s annual Summer Camp is an intensive Conductive Education program with the focus on increasing physical and social independence. The daily routine includes programs to develop new skills and improve existing gross motor; fine motor and self care skills in a group environment. Students from around the world join us for this great program that is held for 5 hours Monday - Friday, in an 8 week period.
Program and Building Expansion:

CECO Programs Have Expanded to Include:

- Four (4) school day classes
- Four (4) summer camp classes for 8 weeks each
- Assistive Technology Lab
- A Occupational Therapy based class
- Extended day programs
- New 5,000sqft facility

CECO Satellite Center:

- Conductive Education Center of Sarasota–Bradenton located in Sarasota, FL.

Serving More Children Each Year:

Children Served in CECO Programs Each Day

CECO Students in front of CECO’s new facility, thanking the sponsors who made our new home possible. CECO students especially thank DiPasqua Enterprises (Subway Restaurants) and Winter Park Construction for their generous support of CECO’s facility.
All contributions to CECO are allocated judiciously, and ninety percent of all income directly funds programs for children with motor disabilities.*

* Funds from the Florida Department of Education are awarded through our participation in the McKay Scholarship program. These funds help to supplement CECO’s school day program, and allow CECO to provide this program at little to no cost for Florida families.
I originally started CECO because I was one of the many frustrated parents that were tired of hearing their doctors and therapist tell them what their child will never be able to do.

When my son was born 3 months premature, he opened me up to a whole world that I had only been exposed to as an outsider. I would see children with motor disabilities, and I would feel sorry for them. Before my son, I never saw these children for who they truly are: gifted, talented, smart, funny, caring and compassionate children eager to learn and grow. My son showed me that children with disabilities deserve to have the same opportunities as everyone else.

As my son developed in his early years with multiple complications, I became more and more frustrated with his developmental growth options. The school systems were not equipped to deal with his needs, and therapies only offered a couple of visits per week. The available services were not nearly enough to see sustainable results.

When my son was approximately 4 years old my wife’s family from Hungary told us to look into a program called Conductive Education. The program was based in Budapest, and trained professionals to work specifically with motor disabled children. When I researched it, I was completely amazed by their approach. We had finally found a program that focused on what our son could do.

Conductive Education incorporates physical, cognitive, and social disciplines into a well organized, structured and intense program for children with motor disabilities. Conductive Education’s integrated approach was designed for children to participate every day. Children entered Conductive Education programs unable to crawl, walk, eat or accomplish self care activities and low self esteem. These same children left the program walking with their heads held high.

I knew my son needed to experience the opportunity Conductive Education had opened for children, and I did not want it to be a one time experience in Hungary. Instead, we brought the program to Central Florida. We hired a Hungarian Conductive Education instructor called a conductor and she led a 6 week summer class for five kids in a classroom provided by our church. All the parents helped out by providing and making all of the equipment and supplies needed. It was an eye opening experience.

Our kids worked so hard in the program, and we could all tell it was very challenging for them. Then they all began doing things that we had never seen them do. The conductor had them accomplishing things we had never even seen a teacher or therapist try with them. Conductive Education instilled a can do attitude in the children and in us. The camp was such a success that we transitioned immediately into a year round. It became something I was not doing just for my son, but for all children with motor disabilities.

To me, CECO is a life long commitment to helping all children with motor disabilities reach their maximum potential. It is a commitment to provide a safe, caring learning environment which will help their kids be more independent at home. CECO is a place to share experiences with people in similar situations and a place to find comfort.

CECO has provided me an unbelievable wake up call to how good it feels to help people and how important it is to help your community. I have been blessed with a great family and life and it is important that I help as many people as I can to experience the same. CECO gave me this opportunity to give back.

I will always be involved with CECO. I get no greater joy than going to the school to see the kids working so hard and having so much fun doing it. Nothing compares to the results children at CECO are seeing. Some kids will leave walking and others will leave with a smile. Both have a significant impact to the families of children with motor disabilities.

Another main reason to continue is our work is not done. We have children getting into their late teens. We need to develop programs for them. We need to develop programs for adults. We need to continue to provide opportunities for the motor disability community from young children through adulthood. We also need to understand with the advancement of medical science, premature babies survival rates are escalating. But it is also increasing the number of birth defects. We as a community will need to provide for these kids and give them the best opportunity to maximize their potential. CECO is one of those places that embraces this opportunity.
CECO’s Board of Directors:

The Conductive Education Center of Orlando is governed by a board of directors comprised of business and education professionals as well as parents of special needs children. They donate their time and expertise to ensure that CECO continues to maintain a high quality, comprehensive programs. Our 2009 Board of Directors and their affiliations are listed below:

**Joe Raymond Jr.**  
RVR Consulting Group

**Peter DiPasqua**  
DiPasqua Enterprises

**Don Davison, Ph.D.**  
Rollins College

**Lori Sims, CPA**  
LarsonAllen LLP.

**Larry Bond**  
Bayer Corporation

**Peter McAlindon, Ph.D.**  
Blue Orb, Inc.

**Vicky Raymond**  
CECO Education Consultant

**Tyler Kurau**  
City National Bank

**Nishad Khan Esquire**  
Nishad Khan Law P.L.

**Aixa Catala-Beauchap**  
FL Pediatric Associates

**Jeff Cousins**  
Wesh TV-channel 2

**James Parker**  
RSM McGladrey

**Michael McKee**  
Inspire Capital Management

**Troy Logan**  
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.

“The conductors [at CECO] are awesome and very motivated. Conductors as a whole have great educational expertise when they graduate. But there are big differences, as in every profession, in how they apply their knowledge in practice. The conductors at this center are truly exceptional at relating to, motivating and working with the children. The overall atmosphere is so upbeat. You know how they say Disneyworld is the happiest place on earth? Well that extends outside of Disney to the Center in Orlando,” (CECO Parent).
One of Our Students:


But if there is one thing that Roman — or Dylan, as he’s known to his friends — would love more than anything else, it would be to get out of his wheelchair and walk on his own.

Dylan has cerebral palsy, a neurological disorder that causes physical disability in development. Two to four births out of 1,000 are affected by the disorder in the United States. There is no cure, but there are a variety of treatments available to help people like Dylan lead normal, productive lives.

Dylan’s mom, Angela Martin, wants to do everything she can to help her son achieve his dream.

About two years ago, Martin learned about Conductive Education Centers of Florida while watching “60 Minutes.” The organization, based in Winter Park, helps children with motor disabilities gain social, physical and academic independence.

“My son wants to walk,” Martin said earlier this week. “He’s not content with being in a wheelchair.”

But sending Dylan to the center costs money and Martin, a single mom, can’t afford to pay the $5,000 tuition for the eight-week course.

In the past, Martin has helped others raise money for the Girl Scouts, the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Challenger Little League, a baseball league for disabled children.

“I thought it was going to be a little easier to raise the money for Dylan,” said Martin, who has already held a few fundraisers and has been out in the community passing out pamphlets and pleading for help. “I think it’s harder because it’s benefitting me personally. It’s been really difficult asking for the money. I’m not taking rejection very well.”

Martin needs to have the money by the first day of class on June 18. So far, she has collected $3,800 and is planning to hold what may be the last fundraiser — a yard sale across from Lehigh Regional Medical Center on June 10-11.

“We’re getting down to the wire,” she said. “A lot of people have been real helpful so far. Winn-Dixie let us come out this past weekend and the people who helped us out were great.”

One of those people who elected to help was Vicki Culver, owner of Culver Carpet & Vinyl. Culver explained that she was touched by Martin’s story.

“I get calls to help support something all the time, so when she (Martin) called I told her that I don’t do anything over the phone and asked her if she would send me the information about Dylan and the school,” Culver said.

Within a day or two, a package arrived and Culver responded.

“I get people asking for donations for everything … cheerleading squads, baseball teams … There are some things that should be a parent’s responsibility and there are some things that a parent can’t control,” said Culver, pointing to Martin’s situation.

“Those are the things people should get behind.”