

6/9/20

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Thank you for your interest in our e-Connections Program.

As a result of the current pandemic and the need to cancel our Community Connections and ADHD Summer Treatment Programs, we created an on-line adapted program called e-Connections. While we believed that the e-Connections program could provide both instructive and engaging activities that support social, emotional and behavioral skill acquisition, the interest in the program fell short of the necessary enrollment needed for us to run this program.

As a result, I'm disappointed to announce that we are **canceling the e-Connections summer program**. Any payments you have made will be returned promptly.

I know many children and their families were counting on our program to provide necessary skill development. As an alternative, please consider any of the following:

- **Individual or family psychotherapy through Summit's Behavioral Pediatric Clinic (BPC).** A group of psychologists at Summit have been providing services to children, adolescents, and their parents via a HIPAA approved telehealth platform called DOXY.ME. This has allowed us to maintain safe distance during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide support with skill building. If you are interested in having your child participate in weekly or bi-weekly virtual psychotherapy sessions to address social, emotional, or behavioral concerns, both Dr. Jennifer Toomey and I will be accepting new clients. Please respond to this message and provide the best contact number. A member of our team will call you to conduct a brief intake to ensure we accept your insurance and then to schedule a first appointment.
- **Summer Preparatory Teacher Workshop.** We will be moving our annual summer teacher workshop to a webinar format. During this free webinar for educators we will provide an overview of the key therapeutic components of our summer programs and discuss how these interventions can be adapted and extended into the classroom during the upcoming school year. Once our date and registration process are confirmed, details will be provided to you to share with your child's teachers.
- **Free On-Line Parent Workshops.** This spring I have recorded several webinars that are available on-line at no cost:

Building Skills vs. Doing Skills:

Considerations and Strategies for Reducing Adult Supports and Fostering Independence

Register at: <https://nysrcasd.org/events/694/registrations>

Redefining Consequences:

Considerations and Strategies for Reducing Challenging Behaviors

Register at: <https://nysrcasd.org/events/711/registrations/new>

- **ADHD Aspires Research Study.** For families with children with ADHD, I have attached a flyer for Dr. Gregory Fabiano's Aspires Research Study. Children accepted into the study will be randomly assigned during the school year to either an (1) assessment and progress monitoring group or to a (2) group with a behavioral skills coach who will work with teachers and families for the duration of the school year. Details regarding enrollment can be found on the flyer.

While I recognize that these options do not match the intensity of the instructional program that we had planned to run this summer, I do feel they can serve as helpful resources as you manage this summer and prepare for a successful 2020-2021 school year.

I sincerely wish you and your loved ones a safe and enjoyable summer vacation. Please know that we will continue to be available as a resource should your child, family, or next year's team of educators warrant support. Finally, I hope to see many of you next summer as we, hopefully, return to running our Summit Summer Programs.



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