



## Clinician of the Month



Amy Blanchette, M.S., CCC-SLP and Co-owner

Co-owner Amy Blanchette, MS, CCC-SLP has just completed DIR 101 Introduction to DIRFloortime® coursework and will now be completing DIR 201 training to gain Basic Level DIRFloortime® Certification.

## Ask a Clinician



**Question:** What is DIRFloortime® and who benefits most from this style of therapy?

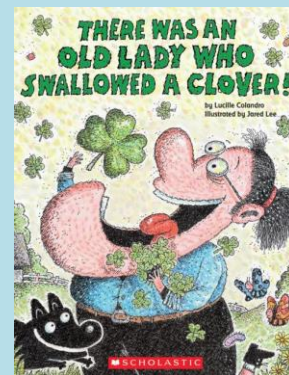
**Answer:** The Developmental, Individual-differences, & Relationship-based (DIR®) model was developed by Dr. Stanley Greenspan and his colleagues to serve as a framework for assessing and understanding each child's individual strengths and challenges.

Floortime is the application of the DIR® model into practice. The Floortime approach emphasizes following the child's lead and building powerful, meaningful connections in play. Per the Interdisciplinary Council on Development and Learning (ICDL) website <[www.icdl.com](http://www.icdl.com)>, "DIRFloortime® (also known as Floortime) is an intervention that is used to promote an individual's development through a respectful, playful, joyful, and engaging process. It uses the power of relationships and human connections to promote engagement, communication, positive behaviors, and thinking."

The Floortime approach is beneficial for a variety of children including but not limited to those with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Social Communication Disorders, and Sensory Processing Disorders. This approach can be integrated and used within 1:1 therapy sessions at this Center. It will also be incorporated into many of the social communication group sessions that we offer going forward.

Check our website <[www.ltspeech.com](http://www.ltspeech.com)> and Facebook page for notifications on upcoming group offerings! Please also feel free to email Amy with any questions: [ablanchette@LTspeech.com](mailto:ablanchette@LTspeech.com)

## Book of the Month



There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Clover! By Lucille Colandro

The "Old Lady" series are fun interactive books filled with seasonal vocabulary, and multiple opportunities for speech/language practice. You can target receptive/expressive vocabulary, articulation sounds in words/phrases/sentences, answering WH-questions, pronouns, verbs, and so much more! See what crazy objects the old lady is swallowing in this book!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Reading and Understanding the IEP and Educational Assessment:**

**What:** Does an IEP confuse you? Do you sometimes sit in an IEP meeting wishing you understood the conversation better? Do you feel you don't know enough about the special education tests, how they work, and what you can learn from them? Join Dr. Jon Cash, assistant professor of special education at Bridgewater State University and a father to a child with special needs, as he makes the IEP and testing processes accessible for us. Free admission!

**When:** Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 pm

**Where:** 155 W Center Street West Bridgewater, MA

### **Summer Camp Resource Fairs:**

- Somerville: East Somerville Community School: March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Taunton: Friedman Middle School: March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Greater Lowell area: Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center: March 4<sup>th</sup>

Please visit the events Facebook/event websites for more information!

### **Lego Time for Children with Special Needs:**

**What:** For children on the autism spectrum or with other special-needs and challenges ages 4 and older. Join in on a morning of building with Legos and making new friends. For children of all abilities – those that can work independently and those that need lots of hand over hand help from their grownups. Stay the entire session or as long as your child wants. Siblings are always welcome.

**When:** March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 10am-11am

**Where:** Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell, MA

### **Special Easter Egg Hunt:**

**What:** If you have a child that has special needs, your family is invited to a Special Easter Egg Hunt. This is a smaller version of our Community Easter Egg Hunt, including face painting, games, crafts, bounce houses and an Easter egg hunt. Reservations are required as they are limiting the number of people that can attend this event, in order to provide a less chaotic environment for the children.

**When:** March 23, 2018 from 6:00-7:00pm.

**Where:** Chapel of the Cross: 160 Flanders Road, Westborough, MA 01581



### **Autism Play Group and Parent Support Group:**

**What:** For those with children up to the age of 6, the NFI Family Resource Center of Lowell serves all family members and offers specialized services for youth who present with Child Requiring Assistance (CRA)-related issues. Families are assisted in accessing services and resolving their needs. The Autism Support Group has two components:

1. It is a UMass Lowell run socialization group for children up to age 6 that encourages social skills and play.
2. It is a support group for caregivers, where parents can connect with others who are facing a similar experience.

**When:** 3/7, 3/21, 4/4/18 4-5:30 pm

**Where:** NFI Family Resource Center of Lowell  
27 Prescott St, Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

### **Light It Up Blue for Autism:**

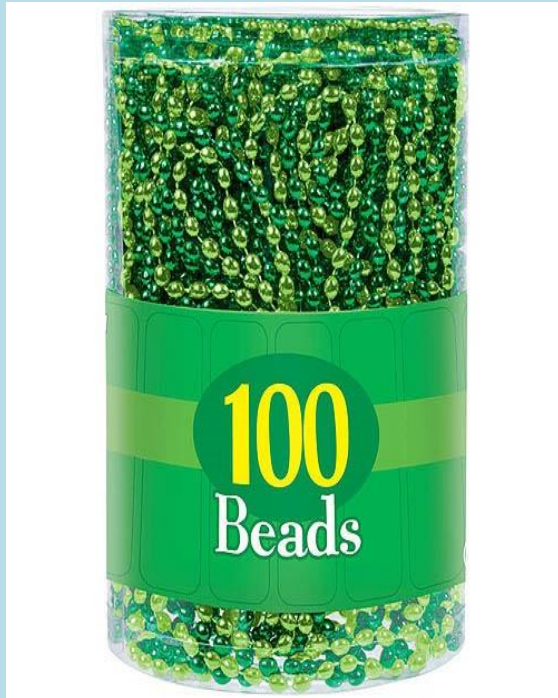
**What:** Autism Awareness & Acceptance Celebration hosted by UMass Medical School, Memorial HealthCare, and HMEA's Autism Resource Central. Hear experts update you with the welcoming remarks, and visit local resources and vendors at the activity fair, featuring interactive activities, games & music for all ages. Then everyone will gather to Light Up the Albert Sherman Center CUBE Blue.

**When:** Monday, April 2, 2018, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

**Where:** UMass Medical School, Albert Sherman Center 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester



## LEPRECHAN NECKLACE CHALLENGE



Another holiday, another contest! There will be a jar filled with leprechaun necklaces displayed in the waiting room. Each child is allowed one guess (siblings included). The child who correctly guesses the amount of green necklaces in the jar, or comes closest to that number without going over, will win! The prize is an Amazon gift card and a cute stuffed animal!

Let the guessing begin!

Thank you for reading our Let's Talk Newsletter! We appreciate your feedback about additional events, resources, advice, and information you may have. In addition, we welcome recommendations about the content of the newsletter.

Please email: [nscalera@ltspeech.com](mailto:nscalera@ltspeech.com) with suggestions/comments/concerns.



### Chocolates for a good cause!

Let's Talk is selling Hilliard's Chocolate candy bars to fundraise for this year's Boston Walk for Children with Apraxia of Speech! There are 5 flavors: milk chocolate crispy, pure rich milk chocolate, milk chocolate with caramel, milk chocolate with peanut butter, and pure rich dark chocolate. Each candy bar is \$2.00 and all proceeds go to this amazing cause! Ask Marcia, Brenda, or Hannah at the desk if you'd like to purchase any chocolates!

#### **\*\*Reminders\*\***

We are **OPEN** with normal hours on the following holidays:

- 3/30/18: Good Friday
- 4/1/18: Easter Monday



### Let's Talk Speech and Language Therapy Services LLC.

802 Washington St  
South Easton, MA 02375

Phone: (508)-230-8181

Website: [www.ltspeech.com](http://www.ltspeech.com)

