

**To reserve a space, please complete registration form and send to :**

**Arts For Healing  
24 Grove St.  
New Canaan, CT 06840**

**or go to**

**<http://artsforhealingserenawieder.eventbrite.com/>  
to register online**

**or call Carol at  
(203) 972-2982**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check:**

\_\_\_ Early childhood and special education professional or paraprofessional.

\_\_\_ Occupational, physical & speech therapists

\_\_\_ Psychologists, social workers

\_\_\_ Family members of children with autism spectrum and related disorders

\_\_\_ Medical professionals

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CEU'S will be available**

**This workshop was underwritten by a grant from the New Canaan Community Foundation and is free and open to the public.**

# **Invest Wisely: The Emotional Foundations For Learning - For Life**

**A DIR®/Floortime™  
Workshop for Parents &  
Professionals**

**Presented by**

**Serena Wieder, Ph.D.**

**Sponsored by**

*Arts for Healing*

**in conjunction with**

*Family First Early Intervention Project*

**Monday, May 11, 2009**

**9:00 am -12:00 pm**

**Norwalk Community College**

**East Campus**

**188 Richards Ave.**

**Norwalk, CT 06854**

## **WHAT IS DIR®?**

DIR is the Developmental, Individual Differences, Relationship-based model, developed by Stanley Greenspan, M.D. and Serena Wieder PhD, with contributions from professionals in a variety of fields, among them, speech and language specialists, occupational and physical therapists, educators and neurologists.

**The D** - The model focuses on the functional developmental levels a child must master including: Shared Attention, Engagement, Two-Way Purposeful Communication, Emotional Ideas and Abstract Thinking.

**The I** - Because processing difficulties can be at the root of a child's problems with relationships, learning, and interactions, the child's unique biology and processing capacities are considered and addressed.

**The R** - Special emphasis is placed on developing and strengthening the child's special relationships.

## **WHAT IS FLOORTIME™?**

One important component of the DIR model is Floortime, a strategic, goal-oriented, emotion-driven way of playing and interacting with a child that helps a child initiate and respond at higher and higher developmental levels.

## **SERENA WEIDER, Ph.D.**

Dr. Wieder is a well known clinical psychologist who has pioneered the foremost approaches to diagnosing and treating infants and toddlers with infant mental health disorders and developmental challenge. She is the Co- Founder of the Interdisciplinary Council on Developmental and Learning Disorders (ICDL)

Dr. Wieder publishes extensively including the recently published **Engaging Autism**, as well as **The Child with Special Needs, and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health**, co-authored with Stanley Greenspan. They also chaired and edited the recent **ICDL Diagnostic Manual for Infants and Young Children** and the earlier **Zero to Three Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy**. Her research has focused on early intervention with high risk infants and families and she is currently conducting outcome studies on children with developmental and spectrum challenges. Dr. Wieder continues to practice in Maryland, lectures extensively both nationally and internationally, and provides consultation to clinical and educational settings starting DIR® programs.

### **Arts for Healing**

Arts for Healing is a non-profit agency which provides integrated art and music therapy for the special needs community.

**[www.artsforhealing.org](http://www.artsforhealing.org)**

### **Family First Early Intervention Project**

Family first is a non-profit program that promotes early identification and intervention for very young children with autism and other developmental challenges, using the DIR®/ Floortime™ approach.

**[www.familyfirstct.org](http://www.familyfirstct.org)**

## **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION**

All families need a roadmap to help their children, develop the foundations necessary for learning and realizing their best potential for life. Social, emotional, language, and cognitive capacities are all learned through interactive relationships that involve emotional interchanges which help children learn to read and respond to emotional and social signals that enable them to organize their behavior, mood and impulses, and become logical and abstract thinkers.

Children on the Autism Spectrum need the very same roadmap to develop the foundation which will support and sustain a fundamental sense of relatedness which includes warmth and security, regulation, engagement, emotional signaling and gesturing, shared social problem solving, the use of ideas in a meaningful and functional way and logical thinking and reasoning.

Dr. Wieder will present the DIR® Model with special focus on emotional development and symbolic thinking.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Participants will learn the six building blocks (developmental capacities) which provide the foundation for learning and relating and how affect based interactions help children develop
2. Participants will learn how individual differences impact on development and intersect each other as a result of poor interconnectivity in the brain.
3. Participants will learn how symbols and symbolic play reflect emotional development and self-regulation