The Sun Shines on... 
Sunshine’s Newest Additions to the Rehabilitation Department

This month, we shine a light on Sunshine’s newest additions to the Rehab Department, Kristen Gizzzi, COTA/L, Lisa Serrone, M.S., CCC-SLP, TSSLD, and Rhonda Dier, PT. Each brings valuable expertise to enhance our dynamic Rehab Department. Says Lisa, “What I like most is that my daily routine differs as I go and it always includes collaborating with my team. Everyday brings new learning experiences. My goal is to always embrace and heighten the children’s individual skill sets.” Kristen is not really a newcomer to Sunshine, as she previously worked here from 2013 to 2017 as a Rehab Tech. She has now returned as a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant. What brought Kristen back to Sunshine was her love for our children and the positive working environment that Sunshine provides. Kristen shares, “Originally, I chose to work at Sunshine because I have always loved working with children. I chose to return years later after receiving my certification as I had thoroughly enjoyed my previous experience and would love to continue working with the children to further help improve their overall well-being.” Rhonda, our newest Physical Therapist, has a similar story -- she has returned to Sunshine after years of working at BOCES and now works with her team to ensure that the children receive their individual services and have fun while strengthening their skills. For these dedicated staff members, Sunshine is not just a place to work -- Sunshine is a place for growth and joy. Lisa said, “Working at Sunshine allows me to learn and grow both personally and professionally.” As Kristen perfectly describes, “Working at Sunshine is like working with one big family. The staff is welcoming and everyone is always willing to help one another to accomplish a common goal. The children are so sweet and being a part of their rehabilitation is an amazing experience!”

Welcome
Introducing Sunshine’s New Psychiatrist: Dr. Hilary Berlin!

Sunshine welcomes our new Psychiatrist consultant, Dr. Hilary Berlin! Psychiatrists are physicians who specialize in helping patients with disabilities. Their focus is on rehabilitation, restoration of function and a return to a high quality of life. Patients may have muscle, bone, soft tissue or nervous system injuries. Dr. Berlin first started her career in Physiatry, also known as Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R), over 33 years ago when completing her residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Currently, she works as a Pediatric Rehabilitation Specialist at St. Mary’s Hospital for Children in Bayside, NY. At Sunshine, Dr. Berlin works with our Rehabilitation Team as a consultant in order to enhance our children’s abilities, as well as improve the quality of their daily lives. Sunshine is grateful for the expertise and knowledge that Dr. Berlin brings to Sunshine!
Preparing for Flu Season

The flu (influenza) is a respiratory illness caused by a virus. Flu infections are highly contagious. They spread easily when children are in a group with other children.

Flu is more dangerous than the common cold for children and can lead to serious health conditions, like pneumonia or bacterial infections. Each year, many children are hospitalized and some die from the flu. It is possible to have a co-infection of BOTH the flu AND COVID-19.

This year, it is even MORE important to get the flu vaccine. The flu vaccine is approved for use in children 6 months and older, including both healthy children and those with chronic health problems. Because children with chronic health conditions are at a higher risk of getting flu-related complications, it is especially important that they get a flu shot.

**HOW CAN I PROTECT MY CHILD AGAINST THE FLU?**

**FLU VACCINES**
It's extremely important that your child gets a flu vaccine every year. People who care for them should be vaccinated as well.

**HAND WASHING**
Wash hands often with soap and running water (for as long as it takes to sing the “Happy Birthday” song). If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Make sure all family members are also doing this.

**DISTANCE**
Your child should avoid close contact with people who are sick.

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Visitation Guidelines

1. Sunshine has resumed limited visits and activities under NYS DOH and CMS guidelines, having met the requirements and compliance standards set forth.
2. The visitation policy will remain in effect absent any new nursing home onset of COVID-19 for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days.
3. Visitation is limited to parents/legal guardians or authorized representatives of the child, and adult siblings (>18 years). No more than two (2) visitors per child will be permitted at any time.
4. COVID-19 testing is required. Parent(s) may opt to obtain testing privately with negative results submitted to social work within 3-5 days of the test, or provided at Sunshine prior to the visit.
5. Pre-visit screening will continue on the morning of the visit. Parents will come to the Family Resource Room for a temperature check, testing, if needed, and mandated PPE use (cloth gown, mask, gloves).
6. Visits are to be pre-scheduled with social work for Monday-Friday, 9-5 for a maximum of 90-minutes. Visit times will be 10-11:30; 12-1:30; 2-3:30.
7. Visits will be held outside of the main residence, either on the front patio or on the back patio, weather permitting. During inclement weather and/or by clinical assessment, visits can occur in the Conference Room. Visitation in a child’s room is prohibited except when a parent wishes to inventory their child’s clothing, bring in new clothing, and/or decorate the room. In these instances, Sunshine must assure that roommates are not inconvenienced and can be otherwise occupied in a common area. These visits will be allowed for a maximum of one (1) hour.
8. Per DOH, if any visitor fails to adhere to the established protocols, he/she will be prohibited from visiting during the duration of the COVID public health emergency.