

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

### Kids Time Therapies Offers New Hope



(photos by Rebecca Harshbarger)

Dr. James Bianco, the vice president of Kids Time Therapies in Woodside, said that parents feel comfortable bringing their children to his center.

by Rebecca Harshbarger

Chronicle Contributor

Families with children with special needs now have a new community-based option for treatment in Queens.

Working with several children, a number of therapists at Kids Time Therapies have put the center's "hope is here" mission into practice since June.

"People are coming in, taking tours," said Dr. James Bianco, vice president of the Woodside center. "Parents feel comforted that there is a place like this where they can take their children."

Kids Times Therapies offers evaluations and therapies to children who may have neurological disorders, attention deficit or hyperactivity disorders, autism, Aspergers' syndrome, speech and auditory disorders and other similar conditions.

The clinic is also a resource for parents, linking them to other families whose children are seeking similar therapies. Families can meet at the center, located at the corner of 65th Place and Queens Boulevard. Their children can work in handwriting programs, therapeutic arts and crafts groups, socialization groups, fine motor enrichment programs, language enrichment and yoga classes.

Kids Time Therapies' President Anatoly Spektor, ORT, along with Dr. Bianco, opened the center because they felt there inadequate services for area children suffering from neurological disorders. Few clinics like Kids Time Therapies exist in the tri-state area. According to Spektor, the number of neurologists in New York State needs to increase by 20 percent to meet the public's need.

"A huge population of children has been under-served. Children are missing the opportunity to be treated," he said. "We don't make miracles, but we do everything. Whatever is possible to do."

Liz Missir, an occupational therapist at Kids Time, hopes that New York families will seek treatment for their children if they notice symptoms.

The work of Missir and her colleagues in Woodside has already produced results. One family reported that their child, who had never talked before, now feels comfortable opening up. Kids Time therapists believe that their work demonstrates that small changes can impact a parent or child's life greatly and that changes can result quickly.

If children are not properly diagnosed, their behavior can be misinterpreted, Missir explained. Children might be punished for things they cannot control, such as being unable to sit still.

Without treatment, children can find it difficult to socialize, attend class, or do other tasks appropriate for their age group.

"Some basic problems that patients face is that they take in information from the environment and are not processing it," Missir said. This, she added, makes it appear that they are misbehaving.

The center accepts most types of insurance and works with families to find ways to help them afford service.

While the center will serve any person who is younger than 21 years old, it has thus far predominantly worked with children who are between 4 and 12 years old.

"Hope is here," said Spektor. "We are not just dealing with kids; we are educating the parents."

Kids Time Therapies is located at 42-77 65th Place. For more information, call (718) 429-2000. □



Anatoly Spektor opened the business because not enough was being done for children with special needs.