

NYCLI News

Building the future for children with autism



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When I Met Lew Dite - page 2

Josh S. tells us about his trip to Canada to meet his YouTube hero.

Letter from the Director

Our Apprenticeship Program: The Successes of Our Young Adults

The challenges that young children with autism face are enormous. For those of us who do not have a child with special needs, we cannot begin to understand the financial and emotional burdens that the family faces. Nevertheless, we need to offer hope. We need to look ahead and create a bright future, one in which the children that we love will thrive. (Continued on Page 5.)

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Working on making progress in the first year.

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WHEN I MET LEW DITE

BY JOSH S., MODULE B

Lew Dite is a singer who plays instruments that he makes himself. He also plays the guitar and ukulele. I like to watch his videos on YouTube.

The first time I met Lew Dite was on August 26, 2014. He met me in my garden. The second time I met Lew Dite was on August 16, 2015. This time I met Lew Dite at his country home in Montreal, Canada.

This is a story about the time I went to Canada.

First I went to the BioDome. The BioDome is an inside zoo in Canada. The BioDome is fun. I saw otters.

Then we went to Lew Dite's country home in Montreal, Canada. We sat down talking. Then we had a campfire.

I had a good time. I went out in a canoe 3 times. It was Lew Dite and Dad and me for time 1 and time 2. And it was Lew Dite and Mom and me for time 3.



“Lew Dite is a singer who plays... the guitar and the ukulele.”

At night, Lew Dite's band mates named Leo Lepore, John Petronko, and Jean Arseneault came to the campfire. They played songs along with Lew Dite.

Leo Lepore played “Oh Mary, Don't You Weep”. We had two jam sessions all to ourselves. I chose the songs a lot of times.

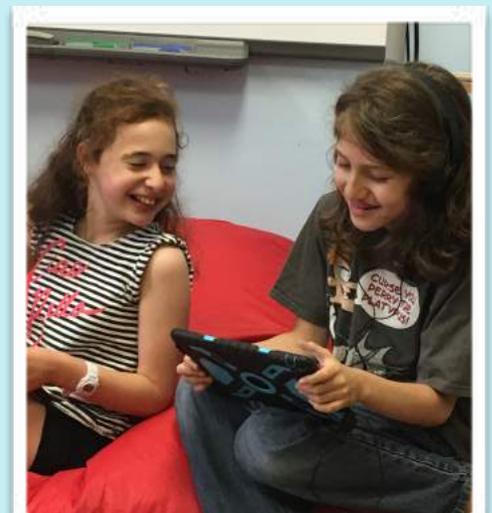
Lew Dite is my number one fan and I'm his number one fan. I hope I see him again soon.

The End.

<http://dearlewdite.com>

MODULE B GOES TO TOWN

“Work hard, play hard” is Module B's motto! We've been hard at work this school year learning to count and use money, and to improve our handwriting, reading, and spelling skills - just to name a few! This summer, we are using what we have learned to go on class trips while acquiring new skills in the community! We love our weekly class trips dining at different restaurants for lunch. We have also been working on shopping for our own groceries in stores within the College Point neighborhood, as well as using money to pay for our purchases. All in all, our favorite summer activity has been playing together at the park!





“We couldn’t have done it without the help of your learners.”

At Old Navy, our learners are working on folding clothes, hanging clothing, cleaning clearance racks, labeling hangers with the correct size, and organizing the clothing racks. Because they have made so much progress, they are now sorting clothing by size, color, and even sleeve length! The staff at Old Navy have been super helpful and are always challenging our learners with new tasks to increase their skill set! The managers at Old Navy have been so complimentary of their work. During a walk through of the store a Regional Manager noted the cleanliness and organization of the clothing racks. The manager of Old Navy mentioned that they couldn’t have done it without the help of our learners. (Continued on Page 4.)

Module D

Getting to Work!

This summer Module D has been focusing on vocational training, social skills training, and community outings. The learners in Module D are working at three different job sites: Old Navy; Petco; and AABR.

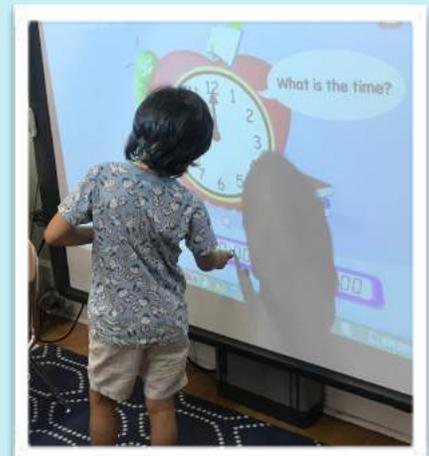
MODULE A - YOUNG KIDS, EARLY PROGRESS

What an exciting year! We have welcomed two new students into our classroom over the past few months. At present, we serve NYCLI’s youngest population, a total of seven young students, all of whom are acquiring skills in many target areas.

Over the past school year, children who were not able to sit with peers, are now participating in group activities with their classmates.

We are happy to report that we have successfully integrated music and dance into our group curriculum. Children are learning to sing songs and to dance to different types of music. We have also increased student opportunity to participate in art projects. In addition to developing the necessary pre-requisite skills, NYCLI is able to observe areas of strengths and interests that children were otherwise unable to display.

In the upcoming school year, we are planning to begin bringing our children on fieldtrips. There is much to do, and our children are rapidly acquiring the skills to do so!





MODULE D (Continued from page 3)

At Petco, our learners are working on stocking shelves, cleaning shelves, and checking for expired products and removing them from shelves to ensure the safety and quality of Petco products. We have also been working on cleaning rooms at the AABR main office.

Back at NYCLI, our learners have been practicing cooking and safety around the kitchen. Our learners are cutting, baking, frying, and making many different foods such as: pizza bagels, chicken cutlets, chicken parmesan, grilled cheese, and tacos! Each of the learners in our module have been working extremely hard this summer, but we still made time for fun! This summer we spent time socializing and learning at the Bronx Zoo, Queens County Farm, Buffalo Wild Wings and we even got to go bowling! We can't wait for new and exciting learning opportunities next year!

MODULE C - LEARNING TOGETHER

We have been working on so many amazing things in our classroom! While we have been working on the usual academics: reading, writing, math, social studies, and science, we have also been trying to go out into the community a lot more to enjoy the beautiful weather! We have been working on community engagement at various locations around College Point. Some of these community activities include: going out to lunch, going to the movies, going to the park, and playing sports. We had an amazing kickball game with our older friends in Module D, which was so much fun!



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR (Continued from page 1)

We at the New York Child Learning Institute can do just that! When a young child first joins our program, we create an environment that sets the occasion for success. With careful programming and a skillful clinical team, the child acquires basic skills that enable him or her to learn in a classroom environment. As the child gains competency in many skill areas, we begin to arrange the environment to encourage peer interaction and group activities. Over the course of the child's educational career, pre-academic and academic responses are targeted. Some students will remain on an educational path that is parallel to that of a typical peer. Some students will set out on a course for employment.

Over the past few years, NYCLI has successfully created an apprenticeship program. Our young adults are successfully volunteering at various job sites throughout the College Point area. You have probably seen them, but just don't know it! Our young adults have received letters of appreciation from General Store Managers, requests to work more hours, and invitations to attend staff functions. Their work performance renders them helpful, indistinguishable from their peers, and allows them to give back to our community. The opportunities that these young men and women are being offered is unparalleled.

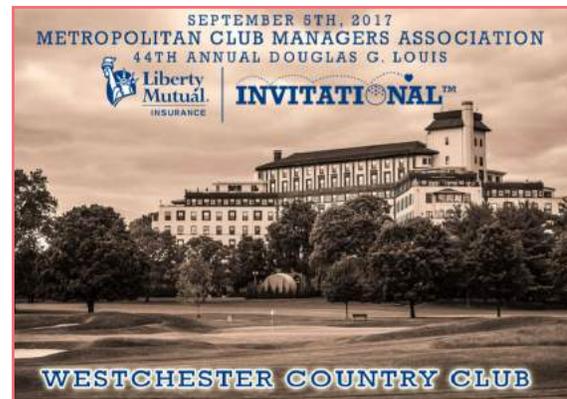
The cost of running our apprenticeship program is enormous. Young adults who are competent to work in larger groups in our school building, are suddenly in need of more intensive supervision in the community. To learn to take public transportation to and from a job site, to learn how to check in with an employer and find out the job task for the day, to learn how to manage your time during a break, and to

complete the job requirements at a level that is on par with a typical employee requires much oversight.

The programming is exciting. In the upcoming school year, we are planning to actively secure more job sites. NYCLI has become a fixture in its local community. We are so proud of the accomplishments of our young adults. We do have hope for a very bright future!

- Susan M. Vener, Ph.D., S.A.S.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



September 5 - The 44th Annual Douglas G. Louis Invitational for the benefit of the AABR and NYCLI



November 12 - Annual Fall Gala at Gargiulo's