

Biographical Information

Cindy Schneider

Director/Consultant

Cindy Schneider earned a B.S. in Education from West Chester State University and a Master's Degree from Immaculata University. She is dually certified in Elementary and Special Education K-12. She has done additional graduate work at several universities, earning a Communication Specialist certification from Temple University and an Autism Specialist Certification from Penn State University. During her 20 years as a special educator with Chester County Intermediate Unit, Cindy was honored by the CCIU with two outstanding service awards. She was also awarded the "Annie Sullivan Award". The award, named for Helen Keller's teacher, honors educators who "go beyond their job duties to gain acceptance for children with disabilities in school and in the community".

Cindy then spent the 7 years as an Autism Consultant for the Chester County Intermediate Unit, focused on doing research, teaching professionals, and supporting teachers in implementing appropriate strategies for students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum and related disorders throughout Chester County, Pennsylvania. She presented the Antics program at numerous conferences including the National Autism Conference at Penn State University in the summers of 2006 and 2007, the National Autism Society Conference in Orlando Florida in 2008, and in Kamloops and Vancouver, Canada.

Additionally, Cindy has acted and directed in community theatre for 25 years. Having directed a children's theatre program for 20 years, Cindy initiated recreational and educational programs in the community for students on the spectrum. Programs include theatre workshops for children and adults diagnosed with HFA, Asperger Syndrome, learning and social disabilities as well as music and movement focused workshops for more developmentally delayed individuals. Cindy has run theatre workshops for this population in Delaware, Chester, Berks and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania. She also directed a theatre program for the Children's Institute at the National Autism Conference at Penn State University during the past four summers.

The Acting Antics Art Center, a non-profit art center, was opened by Cindy in January of 2007 in Chester County PA, and serves all levels and ages of individuals diagnosed with special needs. Jessica Kingsley Publishing released Cindy's book, *Acting Antics*, with a foreword written by Dr. Tony Attwood, in January 2007.