

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
OFFERED IN A NEW LOCATION**

December 19, 2008, Wappingers Falls, NY – Abilities First, Inc. (formerly REHAB Programs, Inc.) has announced the opening of a new location for its Preschool and its Medical Rehabilitation Clinic, featuring the *Sensory Adventure Program*.

Sensory Adventure is a therapeutic treatment program for children with sensory processing problems. Sensory processing is the ability to take in information through our senses, organize it, and make a meaningful response. Effective sensory processing influences our behaviors and allows us to perform our daily activities, from simple tasks such as sitting in a chair to complex ones like mathematical equations. People with sensory processing problems often have difficulty making sense of this input and may develop problems relating appropriately to others and to the environment. These problems can make it difficult or impossible for affected children to respond appropriately to touch, sound, smell, and interaction with people around them. This often causes them to be labeled as “difficult” in school, and puts them at high risk for social and educational problems.

At Sensory Adventure, therapists guide the child through a variety of sensory activities that use specialized equipment, allowing the child to swing, spin, jump, and climb, all while channeling their energy and processing of sensory information. The following testimonials

from parents indicate the effectiveness of this therapeutic program:

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“Eight months ago, my daughter started weekly therapy at the Sensory Adventure. Since then, her ability to initiate play and her overall body awareness [have] increased dramatically. Her social skills are emerging, and the once reluctant and hesitant girl is no longer! We both love coming here because my daughter feels good about her progress, and I gain a much better understanding of my daughter’s sensory needs.”

“I cannot begin to explain the difference this therapy has made in the quality of our lives ...”

Abilities First’s new site, located at 167 Myers Corners Road, Suite 104, Wappingers Falls, NY, is home to its Preschool (serving children ages 3-5 with special needs), Medical Rehabilitation Clinic and the Sensory Adventure Program. A ribbon cutting and Open House will be held on January 21, 2009. Call 845-298-2090 for additional information.

Abilities First, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that provides a wide range of educational, vocational, residential and clinical programs and services to over 2,000 people with disabilities of all ages and their families, in the Mid Hudson Valley region of NY.

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