

PRESS RELEASE  
*For Immediate Release*

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## **New Parent Support Group** *Speak Up Long Island*

Marni Schlectman took over the parent support group Speak Up Long Island. Previously run as Hear Us Long Island run by Laura Miller. Use anecdote/quote

Speak Up Long Island is a support group for families of deaf or hard-of-hearing children, run by parents.

Ms. Schlectman was inspired to ...quote When Ms. Schlectman's son, now 51/2, was about a year old, she and Ms. Miller met. She took over the support group January, 2011. Determined to "pay it forward" because of the support she received for her son. More info on him here.

Under Ms. Schlectman's leadership, Speak Up Long Island held its first event last month on April 14. From 6-8 pm, children enjoyed a magic show and pizza, while their parents had a chance to meet other parents and discuss topics of interest. The event was attended by approximately 30-35 families. Speak Up Long Island is looking to host its second event in June featuring a potluck barbeque. The group hopes to hold an event every other month.

Some of the goals Ms. Schlectman would like to achieve include seeking out other parents to help, finding speakers for various discussion topics for parents, and finding resources. She believes there is a strong interest, a need for this type of support group.

To get the word out: mailing lists from Mill Neck Manor, referrals from speech pathologists and audiologists, Facebook, Cleary School? Word of mouth.

the emotional impact of hearing loss on family members and friends.

*Photo Captions:*

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