LYME DISEASE IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

IDENTIFYING IT IN THE SCHOOLS

How might a child or adolescent with undiagnosed Lyme Disease present to:

**The Teacher**

- Lethargy, fatigue
- Moodiness, depression, anxiety
- Withdrawal from peers
- Headaches
- Other physical complaints
- Behavioral problems
- Difficulty with speech and writing
- Declining school attendance
- Missing classes, particularly early in the day
- Erratic academic performance
- Declining grades
- Attentional problems
- Poor concentration and memory
- Difficulty remaining in class

**The School Nurse**

- Frequent headaches
- Joint pain, twitching
- Dizziness
- Sleep disturbance
- Sensitivity to sound, light or other stimulation
- Gastrointestinal problems
- Fatigue
- Mood swings
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Severe PMS
- Disorientation
- Vision problems

**The Guidance Counselor**

- Difficulty maintaining a full schedule
- Erratic pattern of attendance
- Difficulty remaining in class
- Behavior problems
- Decline in academic performance, over a short or long period of time
- Persistent lateness
- Withdrawal from peers
- Change to lower functioning peer group

*Note: Lyme disease symptoms may persist, or they may come and go.*

*Sandy Berenbaum, CSW-R, BCD
Family Connections Center for Counseling
Wappingers Falls, NY*