



News & Views

MARCH/APRIL, 2017

The mission of Family Enrichment Network is to provide supportive services for the optimal development of children and families.

The vision is that all children, adults and families in our service area have the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential.

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Johnson City
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13790
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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Darrell Newvine
Family Enrichment Network

2016 was another great year of growth, development and financial stability. We are busy planning 2017 and beyond. The election is over and uncertainty abounds, while time will tell.

Here at the agency, we are in the process of developing a new 3-5 year Strategic Plan and our annual Community Assessment is in progress; these documents will help us plan our future. Our annual employee survey should be complete by April and we use that as a guide as well.

The Board has been hard at work restructuring our Board meetings and committee structure. The most significant changes will be the Governing Board meeting every other month and committees meeting on alternate months. This will allow the Board members more time

to review specific areas in depth such as fiscal, organizational development, and fund development.

This year we will be expanding our waiver programs to add Community Habilitation and Traumatic Brain Injury. We continue to consider diverse program areas that align with our mission. We are looking at other options including full day programming for all Head Start and Special Services children. We are determining how to deal with the minimum wage increase and other increases such as workers compensation and unemployment insurance and the short and long-term impact on our Agency.

The long-term answer continues to be a cooperative effort between government, not-for-profits, and the business community. This cooperation continues to be a struggle and the competition for resources is ever-increasing but collaboration is fundamental.

We thank the staff, the Governing Board and the entire community for their continued support. Our staff works tirelessly to assist us in moving this Agency forward and meeting the needs of children and families. We look forward to future partnership opportunities and another productive and prosperous year.

Clinic Plus Program



It is natural to measure your child's height and weight or to assess their hearing, vision or other health concerns. Emotional health issues can affect how children perform in school, how they relate to family members, and their ability to make friends. Family Enrichment Network with Broome County Mental Health are pleased to provide a ***free, voluntary, and confidential*** questionnaire available to help you assess your child's emotional health.

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire will be distributed to parents of Head Start students via their Family Advocate, and all 12 Broome County school districts will be distributing packets to students in grades K-8. Parents/guardians should take a moment to review the packet, complete the questionnaire, and return the survey to school or via postal mail in the envelope provided. The Clinic Plus Coordinator will score the assessments and return results ***only to the parent/guardian***, unless they have provided consent to share the results with school staff.

Questions about the assessment can be directed to 607-778-1111 or kdutcher@familyenrichment.org.

Employee Spotlight

My name is Norma Bergmann and I am the Child Care Referral Specialist in the



CCR&R office at Fayette Street. I help parents/guardians who are looking for child care for their children. This August I will be celebrating thirty years with Family Enrichment Network. I have been doing my job for so long I am now receiving calls from the adult children whose parents called me when their children were little! I have a degree in Early Childhood Education which I received when I went back to college at the same time my daughter was attending SUNY Cortland – we actually graduated at the same time. I also am a veteran having served in the Army during the Vietnam War era. I am a single parent with a daughter who is a first grade teacher in the Binghamton School District. She

was married this summer to a Special Ed teacher in the Chenango Forks School District. My hobbies are reading, coloring and visiting the library every week!



Provider Appreciation Day is Friday, May 12, 2017!

Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize and thank the child care work force, which includes family child care providers, child care center teachers, and other educators of young children everywhere.

Child care professionals are truly among the ranks of the unsung heroes in today's society. Child care providers are notoriously underpaid, yet have one of the most important jobs. Early childhood is one of the most critical periods of development in a person's life. With little recognition, early childhood providers make a difference in the lives of children every day. Provider Appreciation Day offers an opportunity to let your child care provider know how much you appreciate their tireless and dedicated commitment to your child!

Here are some ideas for parents from Child Care Aware of America:

- Get together with other parents to create a surprise
- Send flowers, cards or a handwritten note of appreciation
- Prepare and deliver a healthy meal or snack.
- Work with your child to create a special remembrance
- Buy something for your provider's play area
- Give your provider a paid day off, a raise, or a bonus
- Key in on your provider's hobby and buy an appropriate gift
- Check to see if your employer provides scholarships for toys, equipment or training that you can sponsor as a parent

It doesn't really matter what you do, the point is to recognize and say thank you! Do not let this day go by without a special thank you to this person who is so important to you and your child!

New Providers:

Broome Family Child Care: Amara Arshad

Tioga Family Child Care: Valarie Bowen Judson

Tioga Family Child Care: Christine's Family Daycare - Christine Rathke

Chenango Group Family Child Care: Page Brook Child Care and Learning Center - Josephine Roselle

Chenango Child Care Center: Opportunities for Chenango, Inc.-Norwich

From the Health Office



Important Information About Head Lice for Families and the Community

By Krista Lauer, M.D.

No school leader or parent wants to get the dreaded news that head lice are affecting students. People fear head lice more than spiders, bed bugs and even serious health concerns like Lyme disease and influenza.

It is unfortunate that something so tiny (an adult head louse is 2-3 millimeters in size) generates such a disproportionate amount of fear. Myths and misconceptions seem omnipresent in conversations about head lice.

Here is some information to ensure your school policies are based on facts, not fear.

How common are cases of head lice?

It is estimated that there are 6 to 12 million new cases of head lice diagnosed in children ages 3 to 11 each year. This often results in school absences, lost time from work for parents or caregivers, and social isolation for the affected child and their extended family.

Are head lice a serious health threat?

No. Head lice do not transmit infections and they are not a communicable disease.

How do infestations occur?

First, let's bust the myth involving transmission through inanimate objects such as combs, brushes, hats, headphones or helmets. That's possible, but rare. Hatched lice (the singular is louse) feed on blood, and they cannot survive off the scalp for more than two days. In the vast majority of cases involving children, transmission occurs after they touch each other (particularly head-to-head contact) when interacting at sleepovers, play dates, etc. If a child has head lice, family members and people who share a bed should be checked. But there is no basis to treat a person's environment such as car seats or stuffed toys.

Do infestations of head lice coincide with bad hygiene?

Another myth! The truth is that an infestation has nothing to do with personal hygiene. Head lice do not discriminate. Infestations can be found in all socioeconomic groups. They affect men, women, boys and girls.

What should we tell children to do - or not do - to avoid head lice?

To minimize chances of becoming infested with head lice, children should avoid head-to-head contact during play or social interaction. However, in the age of selfies, this is challenging.

Should children with head lice be prevented from attending school?

No, for three reasons. First, it is not uncommon for a child to be misdiagnosed as having lice. Dandruff and hair products are frequently misidentified as lice. Second, by the time a child is found to have a head lice infestation, peers have already been exposed; keeping the child home is pointless. Finally, there is no evidence that keeping a child with nits or lice out of school prevents other children from becoming infested.

What do relevant medical organizations have to say?

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) updated its recommendations in 2010 and suggested that schools adopt a "do not exclude" policy. The following year, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) followed suit. It is now recommended that children not be sent home if they have lice eggs (nits) and even if they have live lice. (Editor's note: NYSSBA's Policy Services team recommends districts follow the NASN recommendations.)

What's wrong with having a 'no nit' policy?

A "no nit" policy means that children are not allowed to return to school or the classroom until they have no remaining evidence of infestation, which isolates them and deprives them of learning opportunities. Although such policies are common, they have no basis in science or medicine and create many problems. First, such policies set parents on a quest to remove nits, and it's a fool's errand; nits are firmly cemented to the hair shaft and are not easily dislodged. Second, the mere presence of nits does not indicate active infestation; only nits that are located a half an inch or less from the scalp are likely to be viable. Third, there is no way to tell, using the naked eye, if a nit is viable or dead.

What are 'super lice'?

At a paper presented at the 2015 conference of the American Chemical Society, researcher Kyong Yoon of Southern Illinois University reported that lice populations in at least 25 states had developed resistance to permethrin, an insecticide in many over-the-counter treatments as well as chemical cousins called pyrethroids. He tested lice for a trio of genetic mutations known collectively as kdr, which stands for "knock-down resistance." Samples from New York State all had at least one of the mutations.

Should students be permitted to not wear helmets during sporting activities based on concerns about contracting head lice?

Absolutely not! Unlike a head lice infestation, a head injury or concussion presents a serious health risk and has the potential for far-reaching, long-term health implications. Wearing protective helmets or equipment during a sports activity should never be discouraged due to fear of head lice infestation.

What should we tell children to do - or not do - to avoid head lice?

To minimize chances of becoming infested with head lice, children should avoid head-to-head contact during play or social interaction. However, in the age of selfies, this is challenging.

Dr. Krista Lauer is medical director of Lice Clinics of America. Owners of about 140 Lice Clinics in the U.S. (including Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Hudson Valley) use a FDA-cleared medical device called AirAll, to kill lice and eggs by dehydrating them with heated air. Lice Clinics of America and AirAll, are brands owned by Larada Sciences, Inc.

This Article is a revised version of one posted on the New York State School Boards Association website February 6 2017

MONTE CARLO

NIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017

6 - 10 PM

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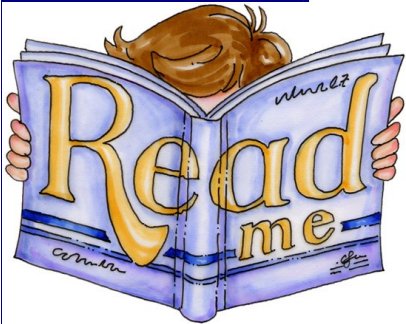
To purchase tickets: FamilyEnrichment.org
or call 607.723.8313 ext. 847


Family
Enrichment Network

Courthouse Children's Center

The Courthouse Children's Center is

Looking for Books!!!



Family Enrichment Network runs the Courthouse Children's Center located at Broome County Family Court.

This free drop-in child care center offers a safe, fun place for children to stay while their adults take care of business in Drug or Family Courts.

Each child who stays in the Center takes a book home with them when they leave as part of our Childhood Literacy Initiative. **Each year we give out around 1200 books**

Right now we need your help as we are running very low on infant and toddler books - those thick chunky books that toddlers can't tear and books for preschoolers.

Can you run a book drive at your work or school or with your scout troop or 4H Club? Do you have any of your children's old books to donate?



If you have books to donate, please call the Courthouse Children's Center at **(607) 240-5818** or the Family Support Services Director, Deb Faulks at **(607) 723-8313 x 821**

COLOR MIXING EXPERIMENT

The Courthouse Children's Center staff offer this fun experiment for you to do with your children.

The Center offers fun activities like this to children who stay in the Center while their adults take care of business in Drug or Family court.

If you need more information about the Courthouse Children's Center please call (607) 240-5818

Materials Needed:

- 3 cups
- paper towels
- food coloring
- water

Instructions:

Fill 2 cups with colored water: one yellow and one blue.

Only add a few drops of food coloring to each cup to make the colored water. Not too many drops or the experiment may not work!

Place paper towels from the full cups into an empty middle cup.

Check the cups in 2 to 4 hours, the colors will be absorbed by the towels and started to mix and make green water in the middle (empty) cup. How cool is that?

You can choose your own colors to mix.

This is a wonderful way for children to learn how colors combine to make new colors.



<http://playtolearnpreschool.us/mixing-colors/>



24 Cherry Street
Johnson City, NY
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We are a proud sponsor of Family Enrichment Network, and the positive changes they make in our community.

*Thank you
for all you do!*

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“Blocks” approximately 2 1/2” x 3 1/2” are now available, become an advertising partner of Family Enrichment Network for \$15 per year, and receive 3 issues of “free” advertising.

For more information on available space or to set up your ad,

please call Laura at (607) 723-8313 Ext. 815.