



Family Enrichment Network, Inc.

News & Views

March/April 2016 Edition

Inside This Issue:

Head Start	2-3
CCR&R	4
NOEP	5
Advertisements	6-7
Employee Spotlights	8
Special Events	9
Did You Know...	10
Calendar of Events	11



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From the Desk of the Executive Director

It appears that we are in for a very unusual year, not necessarily a good year or a bad year - just different. (Think "different" like this winter.) This may be year of a lot of advocacy. There are a lot of state and federal rules and regulations that have been approved or are nearing approval that could have a significant impact on our programs and services. These changes include an increased minimum wage, increased financial thresholds for employee exempt status, and many others.

Our completed 2015 employee survey revealed our need for increased and improved internal and external communication. To address this need, we have created the position of Communications Coordinator. Our first priority is to improve internal communication with all staff on a regular basis to provide them with as much information as possible. Our second priority will be to increase our external communication with other agencies and the community at large. We have compelling services and a compelling message we need to get out.

We continue to grow and expand as new opportunities present themselves and we will take advantage of them. We moved some departments to Fayette Street last year and there is a possibility that we may occupy the entire building in the very near future.

Our looming battle is the reimbursement rates for our programs and services. There appears to be plenty of money for new program slots, but not for increased funding for our existing slots. It makes no sense to add additional services when we are financially struggling to maintain current services.

Moreover, we need to tune in to the elections this year. The 2016 election cycle is different than other years. The outcome of this year elections may have a profound impact on future funding.

Again we would like to thank our staff, board members and community volunteers for their dedication to and support of our agency and the people we provide services to. Without you, none of what we do would be possible.

Darrell R. Newvine,
Executive Director

Growing Tomorrow's Leaders ... Today.

Enriching the Commu-

Head Start

At times, fathers in our community can face a number of barriers that can interfere with their parenting, including poor relationships with their children's mother(s), a lack of positive parenting skills, legal issues, unemployment, financial difficulties, and low levels of education. Often, these issues are exacerbated among noncustodial fathers and/or fathers who are incarcerated. In this environment, there is an increasing demand for fatherhood services to enhance their relationships with their children and Family Enrichment Network was lucky to receive a 5-year federal grant to fill this void.

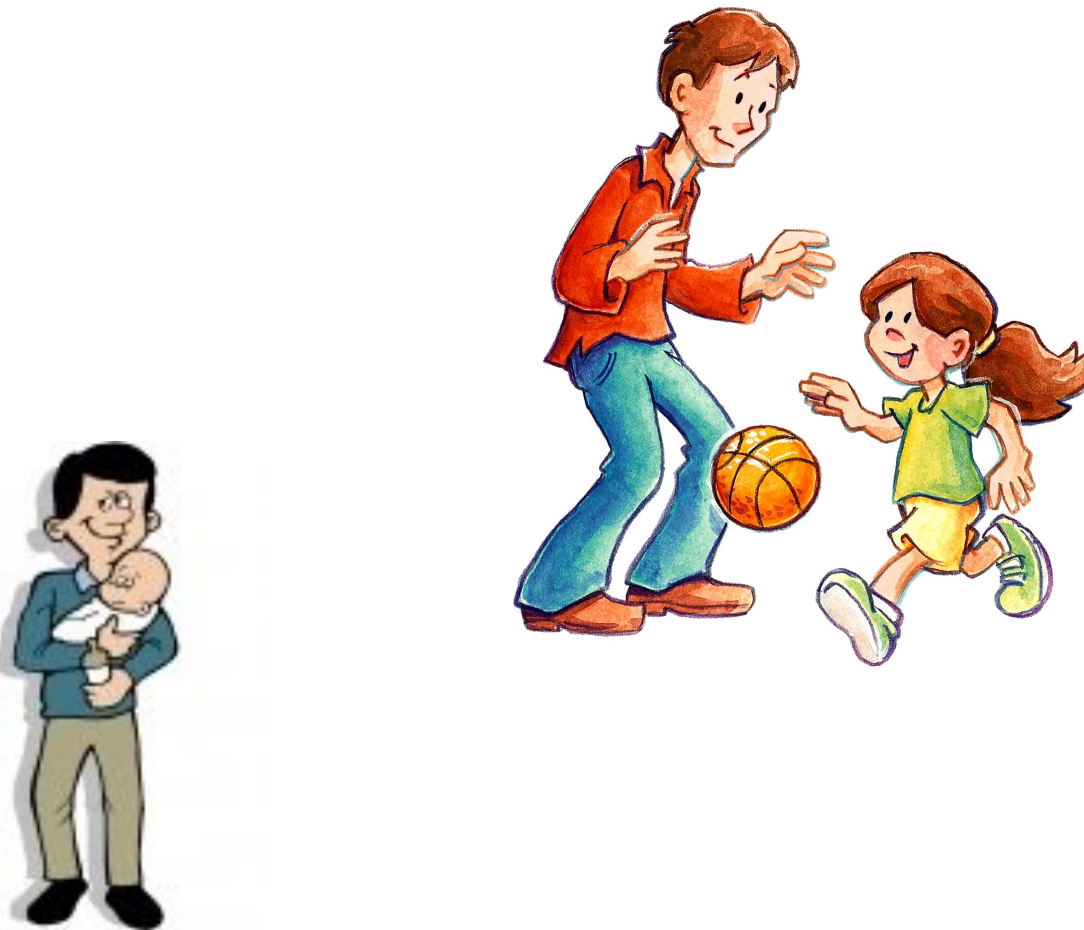
The New Pathways for Fathers Program will work hard to meet the family needs of approximately 250 low-income men in Broome and Tioga Counties. Services will include relationship, parenting skills, and education and career advancement activities to promote economic stability and self-sufficiency of participants. Men in the New Pathways for Fathers Program will learn skills to improve their ability to compete in the workforce, communicate more effectively, and pass on a legacy of success to their children.

FEN is proud to have four full-time staff in the New Pathways for Fathers Program (NPF). Dan Lesch is the New Pathways for Fathers Program Coordinator and has worked in the field of adult education for many years. He has been a tireless advocate for fathers and families at FEN since 2009. Andrew Morrison and Paul Weckel are joining FEN as Fatherhood Specialists. Andrew has experience in corporate positions with IBM and Lockheed. He has also worked closely with student and faith-based groups as a life skills trainer. Paul has two decades of experience in human services, including managing and providing direct service to individuals with traumatic brain injuries. He and his wife reside in Ouaquaga, NY, and have three grown children. Heather Quigley is a Fatherhood Case Manager. She is a lifelong resident of Broome County and graduated in 2015 from SUNY Empire State College with a degree in Human & Community Services with an emphasis in Case Management. She is married with three step-daughters and three cats.

Direct services are scheduled to start in April 2016, with our program partner Family Planning of South Central New York, and we are excited to begin this work and assist fathers and father-figures. Programming will be offered at various times and locations throughout the year and incentives are available to encourage attendance (including meals, transportation, and childcare).



Head Start (continued)



Head Start/Early Head Start 2016 Policy Council Executive Committee

Federal Program Performance Standards require annually that Head Start and Early Head Start programs recruit and elect members to serve as representatives. At November's Parent Committee Meetings, a new Policy Council was elected for 2016, and they began serving their one year term at the December 8th Policy Council Meeting. At that meeting, a new Policy Council Executive Committee was elected; Executive Committee members include: Chairperson, Sonjah Howard; Vice Chair Person, Jennifer Clinton; Treasurer, Shobhana Sharma; Secretary, Gladys Rodriguez; and Corresponding Secretary, Angel Stringer. Executive Committee Elections were conducted by the Nominating Committee, which consisted of Christina Roseburgh and Abeeku Richards.



10 Things Every Parent Should Know about Play

by Laurel Bongiorno, www.families.naeyc.org

1. Children learn through their play. Don't underestimate the value of play. Children learn and develop:

- cognitive skills – like math and problem solving in a pretend grocery store
- physical abilities – like balancing blocks and running on the playground
- new vocabulary – like the words they need to play with toy dinosaurs
- social skills – like playing together in a pretend car wash
- literacy skills – like creating a menu for a pretend restaurant

2. Play is healthy. Play helps children grow strong and healthy. It also counteracts obesity issues facing many children today.

3. Play reduces stress. Play helps your children grow emotionally. It is joyful and provides an outlet for anxiety and stress.

4. Play is more than meets the eye. Play is simple and complex. There are many types of play: symbolic, sociodramatic, functional, and games with rules—to name just a few. Researchers study play's many aspects: how children learn through play, how outdoor play impacts children's health, the effects of screen time on play, to the need for recess in the school day.

5. Make time for play. As parents, you are the biggest supporters of your children's learning. You can make sure they have as much time to play as possible during the day to promote cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional development.

6. Play and learning go hand-in-hand. They are not separate activities. They are intertwined. Think about them as a science lecture with a lab. Play is the child's lab.

7. Play outside. Remember your own outdoor experiences of building forts, playing on the beach, sledding in the winter, or playing with other children in the neighborhood. Make sure your children create outdoor memories too.

8. There's a lot to learn about play. There's a lot written on children and play.

9. Trust your own playful instincts. Remember as a child how play just came naturally? Give your children time for play and see all that they are capable of when given the opportunity.

10. Play is a child's context for learning. Children practice and reinforce their learning in multiple areas during play. It gives them a place and a time for learning that cannot be achieved through completing a worksheet. For example, in playing restaurant, children write and draw menus, set prices, take orders, and make out checks. Play provides rich learning opportunities and leads to children's success and self-esteem.

New Providers:

Broome Family Child Care: Valerie Cook
 Tioga Family Child Care: Next Generation Childcare (Kaitlyn Bailey)
 Broome Group Family Child Care: Donella Bracey
 Broome Child Care Center: Little Wonders, Northminster Preschool





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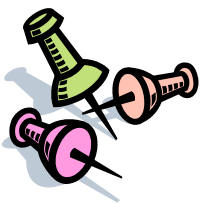
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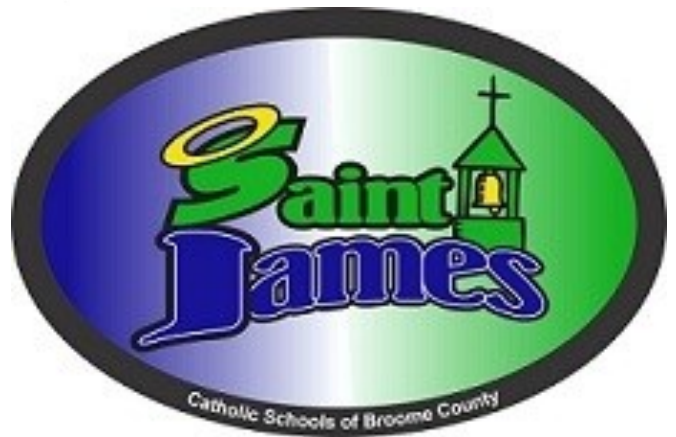


Advertisements



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Greg Parker *Independent Associate*

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Employee Spotlight

Shannon Fallon is the newly hired Director of Fund Development at the Family Enrichment Network. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality and Event Management from SUNY Oneonta, and before coming to FEN in January 2016, worked as the Special Events and Fundraising Coordinator for the Catholic Schools of Broome County.

She is responsible for planning and executing fundraising events and projects for the agency including; The Adopt a Family Program, Monte Carlo Night, The Coats for Kids Program and the "Chip in for FEN" Golf Tournament. Outside of work, Shannon enjoys reading, yoga, cooking, DIY projects and traveling whenever she can. She looks forward to getting to know everyone here at FEN!



Amy Levy



Amy Levy is excited to be a part of Family Enrichment! As the Volunteer Director she will be out in the community looking for motivated volunteers to assist with our mission. Amy comes with nonprofit experience as she is the founder of The Healing House that she has built with the help from many volunteers.

Amy loves working with dedicated volunteers and connecting with the community through outreach. Amy enjoys traveling and participating in outdoor activities, hiking, kayaking, and camping.





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Friday,
APRIL
22
6:00-10:00
PM



Did You Know We Have a Facebook page? Check it out for:

- Upcoming events
- Trainings and seminars
- Delays and closings
- Pictures of us and the fun things we do here
- Helpful hints on a wide range of topics

Like us on Facebook!!



Calendar of Events

March Events

Child Care Resource and Referral

1	6:30pm-8:30pm	Provider Training: Cavity Free Kids	JC
5	8:30am-4:30pm	Provider Training: MAT	JC
8	6:30pm-8:30pm	Provider CACFP Training: Minding Our Peas and Cues	Owego
10	6:30pm-8:30pm	Provider Training: Keeping Children Healthy	Owego
16	6:30pm-7:30pm	Provider Talker: Field Trips	Norwich
17	6:30pm-7:30pm	Provider Talk: Field Trips	Greene
22	6:30pm-7:30pm	Provider Talk: Field Trips	Sherburne
26	8:00am-10:00am	Provider Training: Tough Talks with Parents	Norwich
30	6:30pm-7:30pm	Provider Training: Small Talk: Music	JC

April Events

12	6:30pm-8:30pm	Provider Training: Keep Calm and Carry On	JC
14	6:30pm-7:30pm	Provider Talk: Free Stuff	Norwich
14	6:30pm-8:30pm	Provider Training: Introduction to Conscious Discipline	Owego
15	6:30pm-8:30pm	Provider Training: Rainy Day Activities	JC
18	6:30pm-7:30pm	Provider Talk: Free Stuff	Sherburne
19	6:30pm-7:30pm	Provider Talk: Free Stuff	Greene
20	6:30pm-8:30pm	Provider Training: Birth to Five Motor Development	JC
23	8:00am-10:00am	Provider Training: Kick the Regs Up a Notch	Norwich
27	6:30pm-7:30pm	Provider Training: Small Talk: Pinterest Snacks, Meals, & Activities	JC





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