



News & Views

MAY/JUNE, 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

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From the Desk of the Executive Director



Darrell Newvine
Family Enrichment Network

Spring has sprung. It is a little wet, but after the huge snowstorm and significant rain it is a good spring.

As the economy struggles, so does the community and, as a result, requests for services are ever expanding. We do not see that trend changing any time in the near future. As a community Agency, we need to look at doing things differently. As the community changes we need to change also. Community needs continue to increase and resources to meet those needs continue to be more difficult to attract. The proposed federal budget for human services programs is in doubt; we won't know for a couple of months what the outcome will be. The Network continues to prepare for the future even in an era of uncertainty.

No matter what happens at the government level there will be people that need assistance and we will figure out a way to make that happen.

We are always looking at diverse program areas in need. This past year, we significantly expanded our Developmental Disabilities program to add Community Habilitation and added the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver. These services were developed based on identified community needs.

Spring is typically a busy time of year and this year is no different. The annual employee survey is complete and I will be

meeting with all the staff to review the results. The results were as expected: we do a lot of stuff really well, but there are areas we need to attend to. These meetings should be complete by June. We are still working through the NYS minimum wage, workers compensation and unemployment insurance increases. They continue to be a challenge.

As always, we thank our staff, the Governing Board and the entire community. We thank you for your past support of our Agency and look forward to future partnership opportunities and another productive and prosperous year.

Employee Spotlight



Our New Pathways for Fathers Fatherhood Specialist is Mr. Erik Lasky. Mr. Lasky has worked for Family Enrichment Network since January, 2017. Mr. Lasky is also a Professor of Fine Art at SUNY Broome. As one of our fatherhood facilitators, he provides information to our participants through creative instruction. Erik has also enthusiastically developed a jail based re-entry program, a program designed for Veterans—particularly those with PTSD, and participated in the development of a youth engagement and intervention program entitled, Boys II Men. Mr. Lasky is also an active recruiter for our Fatherhood Program attending various community outreach events, designing marketing tools, and connecting with various community organizations. When not working at FEN, Erik is an active figurative painter, obtaining both a Bachelors and Master degree in Fine Art and Education. As a former professional ice hockey goaltender for the Elmira Jackals, he enjoys coaching youth hockey in the area. He also enjoys outdoor activities, reading, volunteering, gardening, and horseback riding. He has a Border Collie named Athena.

Child Care Resource and Referral

Let's increase quality awareness in New York!
Family Enrichment Network has joined the statewide campaign, United to Promote Quality, whose goal is to get communities to support high quality early learning experiences. If you are interested in writing a letter to the editor, we have a template for you! Contact CCR&R Director, Jennifer Perney, at (607) 723-8313 ext. 872 or email jperney@familyenrichment.org. For more information on the state-wide campaign, visit: <http://bit.ly/QIC-NY>





A Message from Nurse Michelle

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

The following is an adaptation of a fact sheet from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders:



How do speech and language develop?

The first 3 years of life, when the brain is developing and maturing, is the most intensive period for acquiring speech and language skills. These skills develop best in a world that is rich with sounds, sights, and consistent exposure to the speech and language of others. There appear to be critical periods for speech and language development in infants and young children when the brain is best able to absorb language. If these critical periods are allowed to pass without exposure to language, it will be more difficult to learn.

What are the milestones for speech and language development?

The first signs of communication occur when an infant learns that a cry will bring food, comfort, and companionship. Newborns also begin to recognize important sounds in their environment, such as the voice of their mother or primary caretaker. As they grow, babies begin to sort out the speech sounds that compose the words of their language. By 6 months of age, most babies recognize the basic sounds of their native language. Children vary in their development of speech and language skills. However, they follow a natural progression or timetable for mastering the skills of language. The identified milestones help doctors and other health professionals determine if a child is on track or if he or she may need extra help. Sometimes a delay may be caused by hearing loss, while other times it may be due to a speech or language disorder.

What is the difference between a speech disorder and a language disorder?

Children who have trouble understanding what others say (receptive language) or difficulty sharing their thoughts (expressive language) may have a language disorder. Specific language impairment (SLI) is a language disorder that delays the mastery of language skills. Some children with SLI may not begin to talk until their third or fourth year. Children who have trouble producing speech sounds correctly or who hesitate or stutter when talking may have a speech disorder. Apraxia of speech is a speech disorder that makes it difficult to put sounds and syllables together in the correct order to form words.

What are voice, speech, and language?

Voice, speech, and language are the tools we use to communicate with each other.

Voice is the sound we make as air from our lungs is pushed between vocal folds in our larynx, causing them to vibrate.

Speech is talking, which is one way to express language. It involves the precisely coordinated muscle actions of the tongue, lips, jaw, and vocal tract to produce the recognizable sounds that make up language.

Language is a set of shared rules that allow people to express their ideas in a meaningful way. Language may be expressed verbally or by writing, signing, or making other gestures, such as eye blinking or mouth movements.

Contact Nurse Michelle at 723-8313, extension 862 or mcodner@familyenrichment.org if you would like a checklist of milestones for the normal development of speech and language skills in children from birth to 5 years of age.

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Kansas City BBQ Society Competitors Series Contest



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Family Enrichment Network Offers Families a Free Summer Food Program

For the past ten summers, Family Enrichment Network has hosted a summer snack and lunch program, and the program has provided families with a nutritious morning snack and a lunch.

Hunger is a local, state-wide, and national challenge that our families deal with on a daily basis, and providing these services allows families to better stretch their food dollars; offers them an opportunity to eat as a family; and provides them with nutrition and healthy meal ideas that they can prepare for their children at home.

The Food and Nutrition Services, USDA Summer Food Services Program assists families in obtaining **FREE** nutritious meals and snacks for their children when school is out.

The program runs from July 5, 2017 through August 25, 2017. Morning snack will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday each week (except Tuesday, July 4th) at Family Enrichment Network in the Cafeteria.

Parents attending our program with their children will be invited to enjoy a free meal, too. The adult meals are paid for through local contributions secured specifically for these adult meals.

For more information contact Network Offices at (607) 723-8313.

The New York State Education Department in accordance with Federal Law and USDA policy is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Bathtub Finger Paints

Most toddlers and preschoolers love to get messy. What better place for a messy activity than the bathtub?

Use this fun recipe from the staff at the Courthouse Children's Center to make easy homemade finger paints so your child can paint while in the tub!

Age group: From 18 months for children who WILL NOT eat the mixture.

Material for One Paint Color:

2 tablespoons liquid soap

1 tablespoon cornstarch

Food coloring of your choice

Directions

Mix all ingredients together for each color and store in covered containers.

Mixture will last for a few weeks.

Let your child use the paints to paint on his/her body or on the tub tiles.

When bath time is over, the paint will rinse away.

The Courthouse Children's Center provides free drop-in child care for families with business in Broome County Family or Drug Court. For more information please call **(607) 240-5818**



<https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/bath-time-activities/bathtub-finger-paints>



Get Prepared for Screen Free Week!



May 1st – 7th, 2017 people around the country (and world!) turned OFF TV, video and mobile games, and other screens they use for entertainment, and turn ON the world around them! Join the fun!

Take the pledge at www.screenfree.org and commit to going screen free for the week.

Here are some family-friendly activities to do besides watching television or playing on electronic devices.

- Play board games.
- Have some friends over and let the children play.
- Let the kids take the cushions off the couch and build a fort. Crawl through once or twice yourself too.
- Read! Take a trip to the library to stock up on some new books. You can also get books on tape to listen to.
- Share a skill with your child. Do you like to knit or play an instrument? Teach your child something new.
- Take a class together. Is there something new you both want to learn?
- Get lots of good dress up clothes and let the kids dress each other up.
- Go roller skating/ blading.
- Go to a park, take a walk, or play a game of kick ball.
- Play outside. Time spent outside everyday is the key to life beyond television.
- Bake something together. Even the youngest kids can help with simple cookie recipes.
- Fix something. Now is the time to get caught up on those home projects you have been putting off.
- Make up stories together. Don't forget to write them down.
- Make a scrap book or look through old photos.
- Get crafty.
- Have a dance party in your living room.
- Fill up the sink and let the kids "wash" toys or dishes. They love to splash in the sink or help clean. You can also play "Will it sink or float?" with items.
- Build a block tower and then knock it down. Don't have blocks? Use other items like old tissue or food boxes.
- Get some window crayons or markers and draw on the windows.
- Make homemade play dough.
- Pretend to be animals and hop, crawl, slither, or skip.
- Play with music instruments. Make your own with pots and wooden spoons or put a few beans or rice in a bottle or can and seal to shake.
- Go into a dark room and play with a flashlight. Make hand shadows. Toss bean bags, or folded socks, into a laundry basket.



Community Habilitation

Community Habilitation consists of services designed to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in acquiring, retaining, and improving the self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills necessary to reside successfully in home and community-based settings. Habilitation may be provided for several hours a day based on the needs of the individual, to ensure the individual's health and welfare.

Through the provision of this service individuals learn, maintain, or improve skills through their participation in a variety of everyday life activities. They learn and use skills in the context of these activities; this can be considered a functional approach to the delivery of services. These activities must be necessary for individuals to live in the community, to live more independently, or to be more productive and participatory in community life. Services must be provided in a manner that ensures the person's health and welfare.

In addition to supporting individuals in activities typically associated with those occurring in their homes and the immediate community, Community Habilitation service may also be used to provide staff assistance to support individuals in the following ways:

1. Support that enables the individual to access and use community resources such as instruction in using transportation, translator and communication assistance, and companion services to assist the individual in shopping and other necessary activities of community life.
2. Support that assists the individual in developing financial stability and security, such as assistance in arranging for disability-related work incentives and plans for achieving self-support; general banking; balancing accounts; preparing income taxes; and recordkeeping.
3. Support that enables an individual to participate in community projects, associations, groups, and functions, such as support that assists an individual to participate in a volunteer association or a community work project.
4. Support that enables an individual to visit with friends and family in the community, such as the support of a personal care worker.
5. Support that enables the individual to exercise rights as a citizen, such as assistance in exercising civic responsibilities.
6. Support that enables the individual to benefit from the participation of friends, relatives, and advocates as part of the individual's support planning team.

Family Enrichment Network established Community Habilitation in November 2016.

We currently employ 4 full time staff. They provide 130 hours of direct service care to 22 individuals. We are presently carrying a waiting list of over 50 hours of direct service.



2nd Annual

Walk for Diversity

Come together in recognition and celebration of our diverse community, while supporting a great cause. The Family Enrichment Network Parent's Fund covers expenses that aren't provided for by grants or federal funding. Please join us in support of the Parent Fund's efforts to assist FEN in providing continued services to children and families throughout the Southern Tier.

Otsiningo Park

Date: Saturday, June 3, 2017

Time of Event: 9:00-10:30am

Light Refreshments will be served.

A bottle drive will also be held at the event.

Please wear FEN colors: Blue, White, Yellow, or Red in support for our cause.

For more information contact
Jean Barnett: 723-8313 ext.857
jbarnett@familyenrichment.org



24 Cherry Street
Johnson City, NY
13790



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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Space is now available to send your valuable message to OVER 1,000 community members.

“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.