



Family Enrichment Network, Inc.

News & Views

March/April 2012 Edition

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Family Enrichment Network Membership
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or to become a member, please call:
(607) 723-8313, Ext. 815.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Southern Tier Economic Development Council's Strategic Plan Lacking an Important Component

After reviewing the Southern Tier Economic Development Council's final Strategic Plan, I am disappointed and concerned by the lack of attention to the early childhood years. In the plan, one of the critical issues to be addressed in the Southern Tier is workforce development. Upon review, I keep asking one major question: "Where is early childhood education in this discussion?" The plan addresses the need to recruit or attract a qualified workforce of professionals. The plan also calls for an increase in the number of new jobs created and maintained. Early childhood education needs to be brought to the forefront of these discussions.

First, if we want to stop the out-migration of our young educated talent, we need to make the area more attractive for young families. This is where the plan is accurate. What is not addressed is one of the most important ways to make the area attractive for young professionals. If we want to recruit or maintain the age 25-44 population, we need to make it family-friendly; child-friendly. One of the first things many working parents with young children look for when moving to a new area or returning to the workforce is child care programs, not just school districts starting at kindergarten through grade 12. Our area needs to support and invest in high quality early care and education programs. I do not think it is coincidence the population trends in the Southern Tier show age cohort 25-44 dropping 15% from 2000 to 2010 and similarly age cohort 0-14 dropping 20.9% during the same time frame while all other age cohorts increased. As such, this shows the young educated workforce with children were not attracted to this area and investing in high quality early care and education programs is the change our region needs.

Second, while I think not many will argue against the need to create more jobs in the community, we also need to consider these new workers will most likely be parents. Children will need to attend an early care and education or childcare program. If the five year goal to create and maintain 12,000 new jobs is achieved, the current capacity of child care programs can not support even a fraction of that many new children. Investments must be made to create new high quality early childhood programs so that parents can focus on productivity while at work.

What I am most concerned about in the plan is the lack of recognition that the best way to increase the quality of the workforce is to invest in the early years. Education does not start at kindergarten when children enter school. If our children do not receive quality early childhood environments starting at birth, not kindergarten, then this will affect the work force for years to come. The foundation of skills required to be an accomplished, high performing workforce are built in the earliest years of life before the age of 5. Over 85% of our brains are developed by the age of 3. This is where our focus should be made to get the highest return for our investment. By investing in our children now, we can build the workforce we need to keep the Southern Tier competitive in the years ahead. According to Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman, "The quality of our workforce is not what it should be and it is not improving. The United States invests relatively little at the starting point-in early childhood development- and as a consequence pays dearly for this neglect at every point thereafter."

I urge our community and the Southern Tier Economic Development Council to make the Southern Tier stronger by investing in our future – our children.

Darrell R. Newvine,
Executive Director





Great News!!!

Since July 2011, the Kinship Care Program (which helps any adult who is raising someone else's child) has been operating part-time, providing advocacy services for kinship families. However, in January 2012, Family Enrichment Network was awarded a TANF Prevention grant for \$297,358 from the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). This funding will allow the Kinship Care program to operate fulltime from May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013.

The purpose of the TANF Prevention grant is to provide enough support and assistance to kinship families to keep kinship children from being placed into the formal foster care system. This funding will allow the kinship program services to expand to provide advocacy, community referrals, case management, workshops, counseling services and support groups to kinship families in **Broome and Tioga Counties**. The LoveU2 curriculum/program to help teenagers explore healthy relationships has also been added to the kinship program and will be offered to kinship teenagers in both counties. Funding will also help provide Kinship Clinics in some of our smaller rural communities, to offer kinship support services to rural kinship families so they do not have to travel to Binghamton or Owego.

We are very excited to receive this funding as the number of Kinship families in our community continues to grow. If you are raising someone else's child or know someone who is, and you need any information, please call our Kinship Advocate, Diane LaTorrey at 607-723-8313 x 831 or Deb Faulks, Family Support Services Director at 607-723-8313 ext. 821.



Are You Raising Someone Else's Child?

Are you an aunt, uncle, grandparent, other relative or family friend raising someone's child in your home?



Did you know that...

- You may be eligible for monies to care for this child
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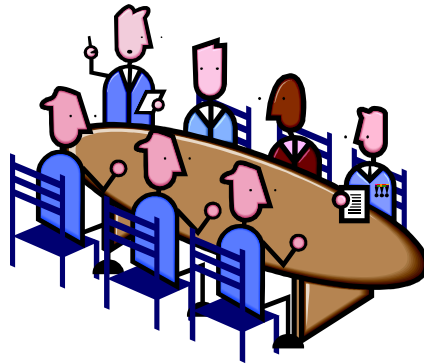
Our services are free regardless of income

Call: Diane LaTorrey,
Kinship Advocate
Family Enrichment Network's
KINSHIP HELP LINE (607) 352-1729



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Head Start/Early Head Start 2012 Policy Council Membership

Federal Program Performance Standards dictate that annually 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 2012, and they began serving their one year term at the December 13th Policy Council Meeting. At that meeting, a new Policy Council Executive Committee was elected, and your new Policy Council and Executive Committee include the following:

Executive Committee:

Chairperson:	Salka Valerio
Vice Chairperson:	Widmy Leveille-Orion
Treasurer:	Christina Roseburgh
Recording Secretary:	Christy Taylor
Corresponding Secretary:	Marie Soto

Policy Council Parent Members:

Representatives:

Sarah Barton	Elizabeth Conklin	Jennifer Ferline
Jill Goodnough	Kelly Hinton	Kenneth Lincoln
Amber Lowe	April Midyette	Cheryl Ottavianni
Karline Palacios	Judy Parks	Connie Purdom
Jeremy Purdom	Angeline Rivera	Nancy Sulzynski
Luis Trinidad	Ashlie VanDuzer	Al-hassan Wahab
Gigi Williams		

Alternates:

Anh Le	Karen Lincoln	Nathaniel Roseburgh
Sephiratu Wahab		

Policy Council Community Members:

Andre Abaya	Susan Hendery	Megan Heslin
Sarah Reid	Theresa Walsh	Christopher Polson





**Shop at MaineSource
on Upper Front Street to raise funds for
Family Enrichment Network**

Maines Give Back program rebates 5% of purchases to
Family Enrichment
Network when shoppers use the Family Enrichment
Fundraiser Card.

If you would like cards for yourself and anyone you know that shops at
MaineSource, stop by and see Joanne Jones in room 203 on Cherry St.,
or call her at 723-8313 Ext. 871.



**2012 Binghamton Mets
Welcome Back Dinner**

Benefiting Family Enrichment Network

**Tuesday April 3, 2012 at
The Riverwalk Hotel & Conference Center
225 Water Street, Binghamton, NY**

Autograph Session begins at 5:30 & Dinner begins at 7:00

Tickets are \$20 per person

This event sells out quickly, so reserve your tickets soon.

**\$250 Sponsorships include:
4 dinner tickets at a reserved table and
20 tickets to a B-Mets game.**



**To purchase tickets or become a Sponsor
contact Amy Fancher at the Binghamton Mets (607) 723-6387.**

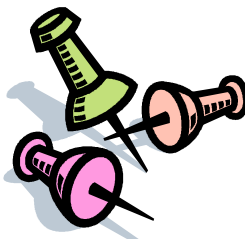
**Join us for a fun family evening with your
Binghamton Mets Baseball Team.**



Advertisements

Advertising Space Available

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 by becoming a member of Family Enrichment Network at the cost of \$15 per year and with 3 issues of "free" advertising. For more information on available space or to set up your membership, please call Shaloam at (607) 723-8313 Ext. 815.



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Advertisements



JUST ASK YOUR KIDS.

The more tobacco ads kids see, the more likely they are to smoke. For more information about tobacco product display's effect on youth and to find out how you can get involved, contact Tobacco Free Broome & Tioga, a Community Partner of the New York State Tobacco Control Program at (607) 778-3068.



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Child Care Resource and Referral

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Celebrate Screen- Free Week April 30 - May 6

We know that children are spending way too much time with screens—a staggering 32 hours a week for preschoolers and even more for older kids. The costs of excessive screen time are enormous—poor school performance, childhood obesity, and problems with attention are just a few. **Screen-Free Week is a fun and innovative way to improve children’s well-being by reducing dependence on entertainment screen media, including television, video games, computers, and hand-held devices.** It’s a time for children to play outside, read, daydream, create, explore, and spend more time having fun with family and friends. And, of course, Screen-Free Week isn’t just about snubbing screens for seven days; it’s a springboard for important lifestyle changes that will improve well-being and quality of life all year round.

Saturday Seminar Child Care Provider Professional Development Day

Saturday, March 24, 2012
8:00am-3:30pm

Earn 7 hours of training in one day and network with other providers. Breakfast and lunch are included. You may choose either Option 1: CPR & First Aid or Option 2: four workshops. Register and apply for Educational Incentive Program (EIP) or a Family Enrichment scholarship by calling Crystal at 723-8313 Ext. 825.

OPTION 1: CPR & First Aid

OR

OPTION 2: 3 Workshops

Emergency Preparedness, Presented by Ann Shear, Family Enrichment Network trainer
Learn strategies to prepare for non-medical emergencies, with a closer look at natural disasters. Also learn about "sheltering in place", what it is, when to use it, and how to be prepared to do it.

Labor Laws for Daycare, Presented by Bob Crouse, NYS Department of Labor
Not sure what your responsibilities are about hiring an assistant or a substitute for your program? Come learn about the available resources and ask questions of the expert!

Natural Environments, Presented by Deborah Borie, NYS Early Intervention
This training focuses on identifying daily routines that are natural learning opportunities for children with disabilities. Caregivers, parents, and therapists can work together to help children be successful in these daily routines, thereby enhancing their ability to play and to be active participants in their day.

Registration deadline:

Friday, March 9, 2012

Registration fee: \$10

Plus EIP or FEN scholarship application

To Register Call:



Special Education Services

The Development of Imitation Skills

Excerpts from the article by Rebecca D. Yeatts, M.S., CCC-Sp.

What is imitation?

Imitation is the ability to copy the actions, sounds, words, or facial expressions of another person. The ability to imitate appears very early in life and is refined for many years.

Imitation involves paying attention to something another person is doing or saying, then trying and gradually learning to copy the action, sound, or words accurately.

Why are imitation skills important?

Children learn to use language by imitating the people around them. Imitation also helps us learn the customs, accepted gestures, and body language of our culture, and how to interact with other people.

Development of imitation skills

Imitation skills develop in steps. One step builds on the one before it, until the child no longer imitates but uses skills spontaneously.

At a few months of age: Babies first learn to imitate eye contact and to pay attention. They take turns in interactions with their parents; they smile, frown, and use other facial expressions.

7 to 8 months: Babies learn to make many different sounds and begin to imitate the sounds of others.

12 months: Children begin to imitate intonation; sometimes they sound like they are using words and sentences. When you drop something and say “uh oh,” your child may copy your gestures and say “uh oh.”

After age 1: children become better imitators and begin to imitate actions and words. At first, the imitation may be inaccurate (such as “gog” for “dog”).

After age 2: Children continue to imitate words, longer sentences, more precise sounds, and household routines, and more complex songs, dances, and finger plays.

How can I help my baby develop imitation skills?

Talk face-to-face with your baby from about 12 inches away. This helps the child see your face clearly and watch your facial expressions and eye contact. To hold your baby’s interest, change your pitch from high to low and your loudness from whispering to normal voice. Alternate between funny sounds and speech sounds. Don’t be afraid to look silly and have fun! Babies like funny faces and funny noises and can become bored more easily than we think. Hold your baby in front of a mirror and encourage a conversation with the “baby” in the mirror. When your baby makes a sound or face, imitate it. Turn-taking can go on for a long time and will help your baby learn that communicating is fun.

Employee Spotlight



Jessica Toole has worked for Family Enrichment Network as the Head Start Child Development Coordinator and the Director of the Early Achievers Day Care since November of 2010. Jessica received her Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood and Childhood Education from Plattsburgh State University. After college Jessica began teaching in a Head Start classroom and fell in love with the program. Ever since that first year teaching, she knew that her passion was in early childhood, and more specifically the Head Start Program. Jessica is very proud to be a part of such a comprehensive, quality, early childhood program, and to be making a difference in the lives of so many children during these crucial years of development.

Jessica lives in Appalachin with her husband Andrew and their three furry pets; two German Sheppard mixes, Rylie and Alley, and Garfield the cat. Besides working with children

Jessica’s other passion is for animals, especially dogs. Since 2006, no matter what town she was living in, she has volunteered at the local animal shelter. She regularly walks the shelter dogs and when time allows trains and socializes dogs so they have a greater chance of being adopted. Jessica’s hobbies include reading, swimming, shopping, and hiking in the Adirondacks. She also loves football and the Minnesota Vikings. In the summer Jessica spends as much time as possible at her favorite place, her summer house in the Thousand Islands.





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Nurturing Fathers— is a parenting and relationship skill building program just for dads. Class meets every Tuesday and Thursday starting on April 24th from 5:45p.m-8:15p.m.

Teens: LoveU2—is a relationship skill building program just for teens ages 12-18. Topics to be discussed are; peer pressure, bullying, love vs. infatuation, dating violence, breaking up, and effective communication. This class will be offered to East and West Middle students in the Spring.

WEST MIDDLE: Class meets every Wednesday starting on April 25th from 3:45p.m.-6:15p.m.

EAST MIDDLE: Class meets every Thursday starting on April 26th from 3:45p.m.-6:15p.m.

Couples: Marriage and Parenting— is a relationship skill building program to attend with your partner focusing on parenting skills. Class meets every Wednesday starting on April 18th from 5:45p.m.-8:15p.m.

Individuals: Within My Reach— is a relationship skill building program for individuals who are either in a relationship or not to attend class by themselves. Class meets every Friday starting April 27th from 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

All classes are available to participants who are income eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start and have a child under 5 years old. Classes are free of charge and provide a meal, childcare, and transportation within our Head Start service area (Binghamton, Johnson City, & Susquehanna Valley).

For more information or to register for classes, please call Jessica Hyatt at 723-8313 Ext. 807.



Calendar of Events

March Events

13	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Policy Council Meeting	Cherry St., JC	27	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training- Eco-Friendly Child Care Part I	Cherry St., JC
21	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training- Turn Off TV Week	Taylor Rd., Owego	28	6:30 pm-7:30 pm	Provider Training- Small Talk: Screen-Free Week	Cherry St., JC
22	8:00 am-3:30 pm	SPRING FLING!	Cherry St., JC	Wednesday 21, 28		Teen Booster- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC
Tuesdays		CDA Class- CCR&R	Taylor Rd., Owego	Thursdays		CDA Class- CCR&R	Cherry St., JC
Tuesdays		Within Our Reach- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC	Thursdays		Love U2 Classes- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC
Tuesdays		Parent Literacy Training- Head Start	Cherry St., JC	Fridays		Fatherhood- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC
Wednesdays		Within My Reach- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC	Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays		GED Classes	Cherry St., JC

April Events

4	5:30 pm-7:30 pm	Financial Literacy Training- Head Start	Cherry St., JC	20	12:00 pm-2:00 pm	Tier 2 Literacy Training- Head Start	Cherry St., JC
10	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Policy Council Meeting	Cherry St., JC	25	6:30 pm-7:30 pm	Provider Training- Small Talk: Responding to "Families in Culturally Sensitive Ways"	Cherry St., JC
11	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training- More Than Going Outside	Taylor Rd., Owego	26	10:00 am-2:00 pm	Within My Reach- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC
16	6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Teen Booster- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC	26	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training- Striving for a Quality Program: Part 2	Cherry St., JC
18	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training- Eco-Healthy Child Care Part 2	Cherry St., JC	26	6:45 pm-9:15 pm	Provider Training- Video Conference: CCR&R	Taylor Rd., Owego
19	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training- Striving for a Quality Program: Part I	Cherry St., JC	26	6:45 pm-9:15 pm	Provider Training- Video Conference: CCR&R	Cherry St., JC
Tuesdays		CDA Class- CCR&R	Taylor Rd., Owego	Thursdays		CDA Class- CCR&R	Cherry St., JC
Wednesdays 18, 25		Ma & Pa- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC	Wednesday 25, Thursday 26		Love U2 Classes- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC
Tuesday 24, Thursday 26		Fatherhood- Families Together Program	Cherry St., JC	Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays		GED Classes	Cherry St., JC

**To Register for
Child Care Provider Trainings,
Call 723-8313 Ext. 825**

**To Register for
GED Classes contact the Literacy
Specialist, Call 723-8313 Ext. 875**





Family Enrichment Network
24 Cherry Street
Johnson City, NY 13790

DID YOU KNOW ...

- Family Enrichment Network helped over 1,600 families in 2011.
- There are 14 different languages (13 spoken & 1 sign language) used by the families that Family Enrichment Network serves.
- More than 20 community groups use the Family Enrichment Network building for their meetings.
- Family Enrichment Network assisted 47 families with filing their tax forms in the first 2 days of this year's tax season.
- One hundred forty seven (147) children had evaluations for speech through Family Enrichment Network last year.
- There have been 156 Child Care Providers in Broome & Tioga Counties who have received necessary trainings last year, with on-site technical assistance provided to 94 providers.
- We provided services to 222 registered & licensed providers in Broome, Tioga, and Chenango Counties last year.

The first 3 months of 2011, the Courthouse was open full time, but due to funding cuts the other 9 months we were only open part time. Despite these cuts:

- The Court House Children's Center served 1,262 children while their parents/guardians had courtroom appointments.
- One thousand, three hundred and one books were given out to the children at the Court House Children's Center last year.

What a Great Year!