



Family Enrichment Network, Inc.

News & Views

September/October 2013 Edition

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To subscribe to this bi-monthly newsletter, please call:

(607) 723-8313, Ext. 815.

From the Desk of the Executive Director

It's hard to believe the new school year is less than a month away. It seems like summer just started. It continues to be an exciting time at the agency; Family Enrichment Network continues to grow and change.

The economy is picking up, but families continue to struggle. We do not see the trend changing in the near future. We continue to be active in our grant writing and program development to help meet the community needs identified in our Community Assessment and Strategic Plan. We appreciate everyone's effort, input, and support. It appears that housing for targeted groups and services to teens are priority areas that need to be addressed.

We have purchased a two-family housing unit. When it opens in the near future, we will begin looking to add other units. We are also looking at state and federal funding for a new multi-unit, low-income housing project in the near future. We are working on the application and should have it ready for submission this fall. We will keep everyone apprised of our progress.

We continue actively looking for financial resources to develop teen programs. The need is clearly documented.

As I have said before, we can no longer assume that our currently funded programs will continue. Quality and accountability are expected. Program evaluation and assessment must be a priority. Are we doing what we are funded for? Are customers happy with the service we are providing? We need to know.

Last year we expanded our Special Education Services program into Chenango County and the program is doing very well. We are fully staffed and fully enrolled.

Early Intervention (EI) continues to be an issue everywhere in the state. Services are available, however funding and providers continue to be an issue. When we look at EI financial viability, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to provide those services. Nonetheless, we will continue our advocacy in this area.

We thank the entire community for their continued support to our agency and the people we support. We look forward to the coming year.

*Darrell R. Newvine,
Executive Director*



Growing Tomorrow's Leaders ... Today.

Enriching the Community.

Adapting to Change: Bring it On vs. Give Me Some Time



September is the month many children begin a preschool program or parent-child class for the first time. For some, this transition is an easy one because their basic temperament—or way of experiencing the world—means that they find approaching new people easy and fun. For other children, adapting to these new settings, filled with new people and new routines, is more difficult.

Some children are hesitant and shy around people they don't know. **Children who are slow-to-warm-up** tend to:

- need time and support from trusted caregivers to warm up before they feel comfortable enough to interact;
- be very happy playing on their own or with just one familiar friend or adult;
- prefer hanging out with you; and
- are likely to be just as content as more social and outgoing children.

Other children approach new people—adults and children—eagerly. **"Glad-to-Meet-You" kids** tend to engage newcomers by smiling, cooing, and looking them in the eye, even as babies. They often project a sense of openness and ease, which elicits warm, positive responses from those they meet.

Most children fall somewhere in the middle. Sometimes they're hesitant and need some help and support around new people, and sometimes, they jump right in.

Parenting Strategies for a Child Who Likes to Take it Slow

- Think of yourself as a safe home base. Introduce your child to new people from the safety of your arms. Place him/her on your lap near another child and talk about what the other child is doing in a soothing, reassuring voice.
- Communicate positive feelings toward others nonverbally. Use your facial expressions and body language. Your child looks to you for cues.
- Suggest that new people take it slow when they interact with your child. Give them your child's favorite toy or book, and let them use it as a bridge to connect with him/her.
- Whenever possible, prepare your child to meet new people ahead of time, and give her lots of time to get used to places such as a new child care center. Share something about the new situation or person that will help your child know what to expect and also might interest him/her: "We're going to a new friend's house together. They have a dog." The more he/she knows ahead of time, the more comfortable your child will feel.
- Use children's books and photographs to help your child know what to expect. Books about meeting new people, going to a new school, or other encounters with the unknown can help your child have an idea of what to expect in a new situation. Showing your child pictures of the people he/she will be seeing can also help him/her to prepare and feel more familiar with them.
- Don't label your child as "shy." Labels can stick and aren't helpful to your child. You can just explain to your child and to others that he/she likes to take things slow.



Special Education Services

Adapting to Change: Bring it On vs. Give Me Some Time, continued

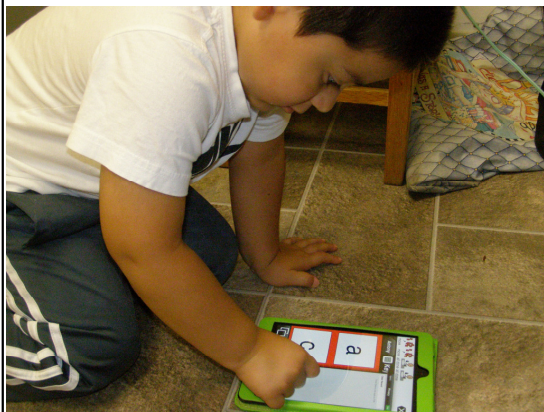
Parenting Strategies for a “Glad-to-Meet-You” Child

- Provide lots of opportunity for social interaction. The glad-to-meet-you child thrives on it.
- Be ready to step in when needed. Even the most sociable child can find himself/herself in situations where a helping hand is needed to resolve an argument or soothe hurt feelings. By stepping in when needed, you help ensure that time spent with peers is safe and enjoyable.
- Watch for well-intended over enthusiasm. Sometimes, children’s feelings of excitement about being around other children are so strong they may end up knocking over another child with a big hug or even biting another child. Help your child learn to express excitement in less physical ways. For example, make a game of taking turns hugging each other to help him/her learn what feels good and what is too rough.
- Read your child's cues. Even the most social child has moments when he/she is unsure, frightened or tentative. Offer some extra time and support when he/she needs it.
- Give your child some time to play on his own. Playing alone gives your child the chance to use his/her own resources and imagination.

FEN Special Education Services Receives Technology Grant

Family Enrichment Network’s Special Education Services (SES) Department has been awarded a technology grant from the Community Foundation for South Central New York. The Community Foundation’s mission is to “connect donors who care with causes that matter.” These grants are very competitive and the SES department is very honored to be a grant recipient. It is estimated that well over 200 children receiving therapy services during the next year will benefit from the technology that this grant provides.

The grant of \$7,451 has been used to purchase a Smart Board, Wii Gaming System, activity software, and three iPads with apps to enhance our occupational, physical and speech therapy services. Children are able to utilize the Smart Board and Wii Gaming System to improve eye-hand coordination, overall coordination, balance, and strength for fine and gross motor skills in a motivating and cooperative manner.



The iPads provide creative and motivating apps for children who are non-verbal or who have other developmental delays in communication. The grant also includes funds for purchasing iPad apps in order to create a high tech communication system that will “speak” for children who are totally non-verbal. This will provide them a means to comment, make requests, and increase their communication with others in a meaningful way.



Head Start

Getting Geared-Up for a Great “Head Start”



Head Start teachers, advocates, food service, and transportation staff return to the Agency in August and September to begin preparing for the 2013-2014 program year. They spend August/September participating in educational instruction, team building, and program start-up activities.

The Head Start Pre-Service Calendar is comprised of early childhood, special services, family partnership, health, nutrition, and program operations professional development opportunities. This August/September’s Pre-Service Calendar of activities include: Recognition and Reporting of Child Abuse/Maltreatment; Understanding the Importance of Confidentiality; Understanding the Special Services in Head Start; Implementing Head Start Performance Standards to Provide a Comprehensive Early Childhood Program; Understanding OCFS Licensing Regulations; Medication Administration Training; CPR, AED and First Aid Certification; CACFP and Food Safety; and Parent Involvement in Head Start. Bus Drivers, Bus Monitors, and Food Service Workers return in August or September to begin their specialized pre-service training. All Head Start staff are required to participate in relevant trainings.

Throughout their pre-service months, teachers will prepare their classrooms for children; family advocates will meet with parents to complete necessary enrollment paperwork; drivers and monitors will develop their bus runs and prepare their buses for children; and food service staff will plan menus and prepare their site kitchens for the new program year.

Pre-Service is an exciting time for staff, parents, and children; for more information about this year’s pre-service or for a complete calendar of events, contact us at (607) 723-8313 or visit us at 24 Cherry Street in Johnson City.



Employee Spotlight

Emily Tobias and Rachel Faulks



Emily Tobias is the Receptionist for Family Enrichment Network. She has been with the Agency since February, 2013. Before that, Emily was a Head Start parent. Outside of work, Emily enjoys spending time with her three children. She recently adopted a dog, Beefy T.

Rachel Faulks is the Secretary for Family Enrichment Network. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College in May 2012 and has been working at Family Enrichment since June 2012. Before that, Rachel volunteered at FEN during the summer. Outside of work, Rachel has one dog, one cat, and one fish. She likes baking, science fiction, and walking the Rail Trail.





*Save the date for the Don Thomas Memorial Golf Classic
Friday September 27, 2013 @ Endwell Greens*

Family Enrichment Network has dedicated this event in memory of Donford Thomas. Don passed away unexpectedly in December 2011, he was employed by FEN for 9+ years. In his memory we have commemorated this annual event to honor a dedicated employee, avid golfer, and great friend.

Team space and Sponsorship opportunities still available

\$500 Team Package Includes

- Golf & cart for 4
- Lunch & Dinner for 4
- Acknowledgement in Event Program
- 2 Cocktail tickets/player

\$125 Individual Package Includes

- Golf & Cart for 1
- Lunch and Dinner for 1
- 2 Cocktail tickets

To register a team or for sponsorship information please contact Kelly Weiss,
Director of Special Events & Projects at 607-723-8313 Ext.847 or
kweiss@familyenrichment.cc



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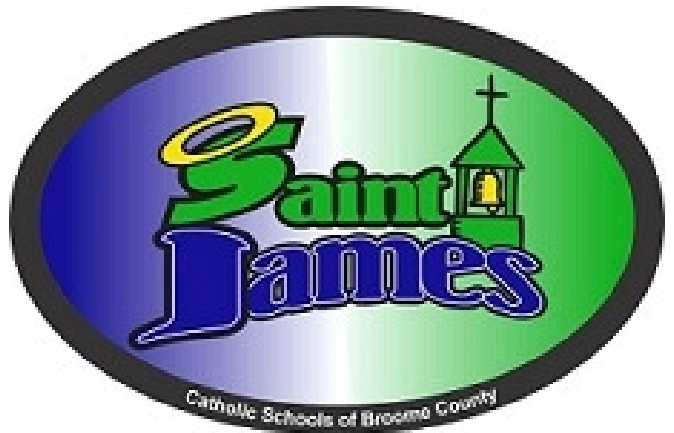
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Child Care Resource and Referral

National Car Seat Week

DID YOU KNOW:

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children age 1 through 12 years old.
- According to a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study, 3 out of 4 kids are not as secure in the car as they should be because their car seats are not being used correctly.
- From 2006 to 2010, 4028 children (age 12 and younger in a passenger vehicle) were killed and an estimated 660,000 children were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes – that’s more than the entire population of Boston, Massachusetts.
- In 2010, on average, almost 2 children (age 12 and younger in a passenger vehicle) were killed and 325 children were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes each day. This fatality rate could be reduced by about half if the correct child safety seats were always used.



Birth - 12 months



Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.



1 - 3 years



Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.



4 - 7 years



Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.



8 - 12 years



Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

AGE



Child Care Resource and Referral

Congratulations!

Family Enrichment Network and the CCR&R Department have received national accreditation!

Child Care Aware of America (formerly National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies) validates CCR&Rs who meet Best Practice Criteria in the services offered to child care providers, parents, businesses, and the community.

Our CCR&R is now considered one of the best in the country.

Congratulations!



Quality Improvement Partnership

Applications are now available for the second year of our *Quality Improvement Partnership*. This is an opportunity to help you learn about the importance of quality child care, what it looks like, and what areas of your program could be improved. We have a limited number of openings in each county for registered or licensed child care providers.

How does it work? After applications are received, they will be reviewed by a committee to be accepted into the project. Selected programs will come together to start the project sometime in the fall. Programs will attend a training session and network with other programs involved in the project. A program assessment will be conducted by an unbiased evaluator. This assessment will be used to develop a Quality Improvement Plan. Onsite coaching, mentoring, and training will take place to work on areas of the Quality Improvement Plan. Grant money will be available to help purchase equipment and supplies needed as identified in the Quality Improvement Plan as well. At the end of the project, a final assessment will be conducted to show the program improvement. All of this is free!

Visit our website to request an application, or call one of our Specialists today!

Broome County: Linda Miller at 723-8313, Ext. 894

Chenango County: Sarah Ryan at 373-3555

Tioga County: Ann Shear at 687-6721



Chenango County Fall Conference

“Making A Difference: One at a Time!”

Saturday, September 14, 2013

8:00am-3:00pm

SUNY Morrisville, Norwich Campus

Registration Fee: \$100

For information or to register call (607) 723-8313, Ext. 825



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
- We will help with applications and community referrals
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Call: Diane LaTorrey,
Kinship Advocate
Family Enrichment Network's
KINSHIP HELP LINE (607) 352-1729



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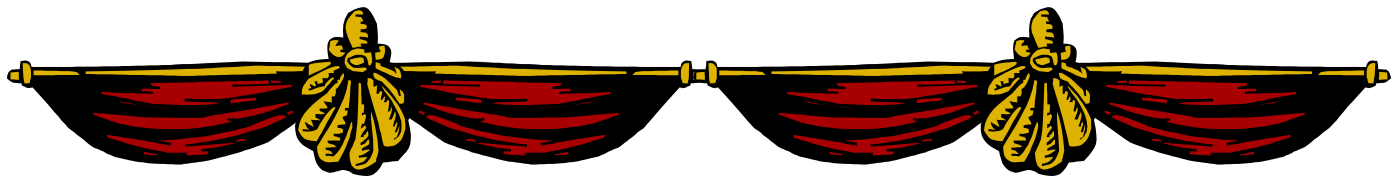


Calendar of Events

Key
Head Start
CCR&R
CACFP
Other

September Events

3	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training: Responsive Caregiving	Cherry St., JC	17	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Provider Training: Sensory Processing Activities	Cherry St., JC
10	6:00 pm–8:00 pm	Policy Council	Cherry St., JC	18	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training: Boys in Child Care	Cherry St., JC
11	6:30—8:30	Provider Training: Active Play!	JC	25	6:30 pm-7:30 pm	Small Talk: Blting	Cherry St., JC
12	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training: Child Abuse	Taylor Rd, Owego	26	6:45 pm–9:15 pm	Videoconference: Health, Safety, & Nutrition	JC, Owego, Norwich
14	8:00 am–3:00 pm	Provider Training: Fall Conference	South Broad St, Norwich	27	11:00am Shotgun Start	Golf Tournament	Endwell Greens



October Events

1	6:30 pm-8:30 pm	Provider Training: Reading Food Labels	Taylor Rd, Owego	16	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training: Alternatives to TV	Cherry St., JC
5	9:00 am-1:00 pm	Provider Training: Emergency Planning and Beyond	Cherry St., JC	17	6:45 pm-9:15 pm	Videoconference: Family & Community Relationships	JC, Owego, & Norwich
8	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training: Providing Social-Emotional Competence in Infants and Toddlers	Cherry St., JC	23	6:00 pm–9:00 pm	Annual Meeting	Holiday Inn, Hawley St., Binghamton
8	6:00 pm–8:00 pm	Policy Council	Cherry St., JC	23	6:30 pm–7:30 pm	Small Talk: Halloween Safety	Cherry St., JC
9	6:30 pm-9:00 pm	Provider Training: Child Abuse Prevention & SBS	Cherry St., JC	26	9:00 am–1:00 pm	CPR/First Aid for Child Care Providers	South Broad St, Norwich





Family Enrichment Network
24 Cherry Street
Johnson City, NY 13790

DID YOU KNOW ...

- The Summer Lunch Program ran from June 24th through August 28th and was, again, a great success feeding children and their parents; in conjunction with the Lunch Program, library books were loaned to children to encourage reading during the summer.
- FEN holds Blood Drives for the American Red Cross several times during the school year; watch for signs or contact Michelle Codner, at 723-8313 Ext. 862, for more info and to sign up.
- On July 31st, FEN sponsored our second Mobile Food Pantry of the year in the visitor's parking lot. FEN staff handed out food and groceries to 164 families. Both events were very successful.
- FEN held our Annual Backpack Giveaway from August 26th-29th; local children received backpacks and supplies to start school in September.
- Our Annual Don Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at Endwell Greens on Friday, September 27th; contact Kelly Weiss, Director of Special Events & Projects by email kweiss@familyenrichment.cc or phone (607) 723-8313 Ext 847 for more info; we are looking for sponsors and golfers.

That's how we're Growing Tomorrow's Leaders... Today