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New York Zero-to-Three Network

Fostering collaboration among those who work with infants, toddlers and their families

April 2012

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In the news.....

[Leaving Children to Chance 2012 Update](#)

NACCRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes. NYS ranked 13th.

[The Race may be back on!](#)

According to First Five Years Fund statements by Arne Duncan at the end of March, another early learning challenge grant by the Feds may be available soon.

[The Importance of Toddler's Make Believe Games](#)

BBC coverage of the English longitudinal [EPPE/EPPSE study](#).

[Lets put the child back together](#)

Ellen Galinsky's advice for thinking about the whole child at once.

Highlighted Events

Click [HERE](#) to see full Calendar of events

April Highlights:

Thursday, April 19, 2012: [Infant Toddler Forum at the NYSAEYC Conference](#).

Wednesday, April 25, 2012: Ron Lally, Co-Founder of the [FOR OUR BABIES Campaign](#) to speak at NYZTT Roundtable about the campaign and how to get involved

May Highlights:

Friday, May 4, 2012: [Annual New York Zero-to-Three Network Conference](#)

Holding Babies in Mind: Using Reflective Function to Transform Trauma and Build Relationships

8:30 am-3 pm

News

[Emily Fenichel Award for Excellence](#)

Please nominate a colleague, mentor, leader in the field today! [Click Here](#) to complete the online nomination.

Award will be presented at the New York Zero-to-Three Annual Conference on May 4th.

[Reach Out and Read Promotes NYZTT and Forming New Infancy Leadership Circles](#) [Long Island to be First](#)

[Reach Out and Read \(ROR\) of Greater New York City](#) recently invited NYZTT Infancy Leadership Circle representatives to speak about Circle activities and goals at the regional ROR meetings held in March in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Long Island, and Ossining. As a result, new Circles will be forming, starting with Long Island that will include more health professionals at the table.

ROR provides books and literacy counseling to families with young children during their pediatric visits with an emphasis on families in struggling communities across the United States. [Long term studies](#) show that the program improves family literacy practices and is cost-effective. ROR programs also

Little Kids, Big Questions

Zero to Three Podcast Series for Parents targets 12 of the most common issues faced by parents.

Extreme Poverty in NYC

NYC Citizen's Committee for Children reports on families living in communities with high concentrations of extreme poverty.

Become a member of NYZTT today!

We are a membership organization and need members' dues to continue to support professionals who work with infants, toddlers and their families.

If you are a current member:

THANKS!

If you are not, perhaps you might consider becoming a member this year?

[Click here](#) for more information on becoming a member today.

connect medical offices to local libraries and other partner organizations to reinforce participation in literacy activities.

When **Susan Rabinowicz**, a NYZTT Board Member and Physical Therapist, met with Reach Out and Read clinic staff at Stony Brook University Hospital last month along with ROR clinic staff from other Suffolk and Nassau County hospitals, she was impressed with the individuals involved: "The interest in forming an Infancy Leadership Circle on Long Island was apparent," she says.

Similar enthusiasm was seen by **Carole Oshinsky**, co-director of the ILC project, at the other ROR Greater NYC Regional Meetings that she attended. "We especially want to thank **Traci Lester**, Executive Director of the ROR NYC network, who also arranged for a description of NYZTT and our ILC project to appear in their monthly e-newsletter to ROR programs," adds Carole.

To help start the Long Island Circle or link to other new and existing Circles in your area, please email: infancycirclenys@nyzerotothree.org

Interview with Leader in the Field

WIC and Early Childhood Interview with Richard Kahn, PhD, RD

NYZTT: What related issues does the WIC nutritionist educate families on?

Richard: WIC is a gateway to services such as housing, food stamps and other social services. A good nutritionist makes all kinds of referrals to physical and mental health providers, vaccinations, and housing. This includes Early Intervention.

NYZTT: In your experience is there coordination between WIC and early childhood programs?

Richard: At the highest policy level, the National WIC Association and Zero to Three partner on issues of shared concern. I just wish it filtered down more.

From my perspective as a line nutritionist, there is little coordination on the ground. I was really surprised when I attended a Zero to Three webinar on capacity building for early childhood services and saw that in all three cases, no one included WIC. That's a pity.

WIC is a nearly universal provider in poor communities. The child development world is missing out on the opportunity to access and connect with 53% of all infants and 25% of all mothers and children in our nation.

NYZTT: What recommendations do you have to promote the developmental message of WIC? What final message about WIC would you like to express to our readers?

Richard: People across early childhood services should see WIC as a partner to be invited to planning projects.

To do this, we need to go beyond the view that WIC just dispenses food. WIC reaches nearly all low-income families with



infants, young children and mothers and provides them with biological foundations for optimal infant and child development. The most important of these are iron rich foods and breastfeeding promotion and support.

WIC nutritionists also give attention to aspects of family life that promote strong relationships such as family meals, decreasing TV time and supporting age-appropriate feeding. Even with these great public health interventions, WIC families need to hear more about practical aspects of attachment and child development.

Opportunities abound for training nutritionists in attachment and developmental theory and providing appropriately written materials for the parents to increase their appreciation of their role in their child's life.

To see the new look of WIC education go to <http://touchingheartstouchingminds.com>

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