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## New York Zero-to-Three Network

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

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## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

FULL CALENDAR [CLICK HERE](#)

Want to add your event to our calendar? Email [newsletter@nyzt.org](mailto:newsletter@nyzt.org)

Highlights:

**Oct. 2, [Parent Network of Western New York Conference](#)**

**Oct. 4-5, [Sackler Institute Parent-Infant Project Lecture and Meeting on Infant Research, NYC](#)**

**Oct. 8, Inaugural [Brooklyn ILC group meeting](#)**

**Oct. 22, [NYS Parenting Education Partnership Training on Vicarious Trauma, Elmira; other dates and locations available](#)**

### Task Force to Study Social-Emotional Development in Early Intervention Program

The NYS Department of Health in June agreed to develop a joint Task Force to make recommendations to address the social emotional domain in the NYS Early Intervention (EI) Program. Members of the Task Force will be appointed from the Early Intervention Coordinating Council (EICC) and the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC).

The decision to form the Task Force was made by the state EICC at its June 13 meeting in Albany after a presentation by Evelyn Blanck, co-president of New York Zero-to-Three Network and Associate Executive Director of the New York Center for Child Development, and Roy Grant, director of evaluation, Children's Health Fund and member of the state EICC. The presentation was made on behalf of the ECAC.

Early Intervention, says Ms. Blanck, "is uniquely positioned to address the social emotional needs of infants and toddlers." She explained that EI's family focus reflects an important understanding about early childhood: "that relationships are key to how infants and toddlers develop."

Ms. Blanck continues, social emotional development is one of the five domains for which children are evaluated for developmental disabilities. Even though delays in this area can determine eligibility for services, children are seldom found eligible for services based solely on social emotional concerns, or authorized psychology and counseling services. Ms. Blanck pointed to the comments of Gilbert Foley and Jane Hochman in their [2006 book](#) on this topic that "early intervention often fails to fully recognize the foundational importance for the social emotional domain, the co-occurrence of mental health and developmental disorders and in general, the need for greater integration of early intervention and mental health services" (Foley & Hochman, 2006).

"Look what the research of Kathleen Hebbeler, Donna Spiker, Don Bailey, and others for the [National Early Intervention Longitudinal Study](#) released in 2007 is showing us, says Ms. Blanck: "Parents of up to 25 percent of children receiving EI services reporting their children were over anxious, hyperactive, exhibited signs of depression and/or had problems with social interactions." And, she added, "more than 30 percent of parents of children receiving EI services report having problems managing their children's behaviors." (Hebbeler, Spiker, Bailery, et al 2007).

Over the last decade, scientists have documented the [impact of early relationships on the architecture of the brain and the](#)



**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS:**

Better for Babies:  
[A Study of State Infant and Toddler Child Care Policies](#)

CLASP:  
[Tips for Promoting Health Insurance Coverage through Children's Public Benefits Programs](#)

Children's Health Watch:  
[Research Brief Too Hungry to Learn](#)

imagine.magazine:  
[Early childhood music therapy](#)

New York Times Magazine:  
[Can Emotional Intelligence be Taught?](#)

James Heckman op ed, NYT:  
[Lifelines for Poor Children](#)

Brookings Institution Report:  
[The Parenting Gap](#)

Public News Service Audio report- NY "[Better Than Most](#)" At Caring for Abused Toddlers quotes NYZTT board member Marcy Safyer, head of the Institute for Parenting at Adelphi University, commenting on [new report from Zero to Three](#).

**ILC SELECTED RESOURCES**

- [ILC 2011-2013: Building on Our Success](#)
- [ILC How to Guidelines](#)
- [ILC Brochure](#)
- [Niagara County](#)
- [Resource Directory for New Parents](#)
- [Recipes for Playbook](#)
- [I Taught My Child Today messages](#)

Click [here](#) for additional resources.

deleterious impact of toxic stress on young children, says Ms. Blanck.

According to Sharon Fox, Pat Levitt, & Charles Nelson writing in 2010, we know now that "genes provide the initial blueprint for building brain architecture and that [environmental influences](#) affect how the neural circuitry actually gets wired." Researchers Michael Meaney in 2010, and others, have also shown us that "[reciprocal interactions among genetic predispositions and early experience](#) affect the extent to which the foundations of learning, behavior, and both physical and mental health will be [strong or weak](#)" (Fox, Levitt, & Nelson, 2010; Meaney, 2010).

For more research articles on the importance of early relationships, see the 2010 special issue of *Child Development* on the [Effects of Early Experience on Child Development](#).

## ILC Meetings-Sept-Oct

NYZTT has been building a network of Infancy Leadership Circles (ILC) to be the communications pipeline for the infancy movement in New York State and to promote coordinated, comprehensive services for infants and toddlers and their families. Each group brings together professionals from multiple disciplines and creates an action plan to help their community. To learn more click [here](#).

- New ILC Group Starts Oct. 8 in Brooklyn, NY, 6-8 pm

Join [Julia Travers](#) and [Carole Oshinsky](#) at the inaugural meeting of an Infancy Leadership Circle for Brooklyn, New York. Meeting is at the Brooklyn Public Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, in the Trustees Room. Please RSVP to Julia.

- See our [calendar](#) for ILC meetings throughout NYS each month
- To start a new ILC or ask a question about the Circles, please contact [Carole Oshinsky](#), Yonkers, NY, or [Jackie Jones](#), Buffalo, NY

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New York Zero-to-Three Network | 180 Riverside Drive | 6B | New York | NY | 10024-1048