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New York Zero-to-Three Network

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

February 2014

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

FULL CALENDAR [CLICK HERE](#)

Save the date for NYZTT events:

- Wed., Mar 12, 6-8 pm, [Court Teams for Babies](#), JBFC
- Tues., Mar 25, 6-8 pm, [Impact of Past Trauma on Women's Experiences of Conception, Pregnancy, Birth, and Early Parenting: Potential Consequences for Their Developing Babies](#), Ackerman Institute
- Thurs., Apr 10, 1-4:30 pm: [Infant-Toddler Annual Leadership Forum: Opportunities for Health Promotion in Early Care and Education](#), Verona, NY, Cosponsored by Docs For Tots, Infant & Toddler Resource Network, and Early Care & Learning

Strategies to Ally With Families to Support Their Child's Development

By Greta Doctoroff, PhD

Editor's Note: Dr. Doctoroff is a licensed clinical psychologist, board member of NYZTT and Assistant Professor in the School-Clinical Child Psychology Program at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Yeshiva University

Providers working with young children and their families are in a unique position to promote healthy attachment and development. Maximizing this impact depends on providing culturally competent, family-centered care with an emphasis on collaboration. Without active parent involvement, the impact of developmental services may be constrained, as the dose of services will be limited to the time the provider is present. While providers may assume that parents are learning skills through modeling during sessions, without opportunities to practice skills with supportive guidance, generalization is unlikely. Through a focus on the child and then the child in the context of the family, providers have the opportunity to support parent-child relationships as engines for developmental progress.

In order to facilitate engagement and tailor services to family needs, providers should give parents an opportunity to share their stories and the strategies they have tried, and ask targeted questions to guide goal-setting. Ask, for example: "When you think about your daily routine, what would you like Danny to be able to do that he can't do yet?"

In providing feedback or making observations, describe what the child can do versus what they can't do, highlighting next developmental steps. Say, for example, "You mentioned you want Amy to work towards playing more independently. She is now much stronger in being able to sit up well on her own. Putting toys just out of her reach will help her have the chance to reach and learn to be more stable as she plays." This helps shape developmental expectations and builds motivation for parent engagement in services.

During sessions, help parents see how the strategies you use as a provider are linked to benefits for their child; model skills and be open to parent reactions while specifically praising parent efforts. Restrict observations and interpretations to those within your area of expertise, and communicate with intentionality and awareness of the goal of your communication. Finally, remember to solicit feedback from parents to empower them in their role as advocates.

For more information see:

Council. FREE. RSVP to [Evelyn Efinger](#).

- Fri, May 16, 8:30 am-5 pm. Annual Conference: Words of Love: The Critical Role of Language in the Social Emotional Development of Young Children. With Gil Foley & Sima Gerber. The Conference Center, NYC.

Other Calendar highlights:

Fri., Feb 28, 8-10 am: [Next Generation Legislative Breakfast](#), Westchester County, Greenburgh Public Library

Thurs., Mar 6: [Overview of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome](#), with [Amy Dickson](#), Adelphi University Alumni House, Nassau County

Sat., Mar 8: [NYCAEYC 2014 Annual Conference](#), 8 am-5 pm. New York City, Food & Finance High School

Wed., Mar 12, 8-10 am: [Westchester Children's Association Advocacy Breakfast with Marian Wright Edelman: The Power is in Our Hands](#), Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown

Thurs., Apr 10-Sat., Apr 12: [NYSAEYC Annual Conference on Early Care and Education](#), Verona, NY

Want to add your event to our calendar? Email newsletter@nyztt.org

[Kaiser, Ann P. & Hancock, Terry B. \(2003\). Teaching parents new skills to support their young children's development. *Infants & Young Children*, 16\(1\), 9-21.](#)

[Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center. *Family-Centered Principles and Practices*. Web page updated Feb. 26, 2013.](#)

[Appleyard, Karen & Berlin, Lisa J. \(2007\). *Supporting healthy relationships between young children and their parents: Lessons from attachment theory and research*. Durham, NC: Duke University, Center for Child and Family Policy.](#)

Policy Update—Legislation to Ensure Timely Payment for Early Intervention (EI) Providers

Editor's Note: This article was provided by Randi Levine, a lawyer at Advocates for Children, and co-chair of the [Early Intervention Subcommittee of WinningBeginningNY](#), New York State's voluntary statewide early childhood coalition of organizations and individuals that works to "inform policy makers and the public about the many benefits of early care and learning" and to "build a broad-based constituency to make investment in quality early care and learning a top public priority."

In April 2013, New York State shifted the responsibility for paying EI providers from county governments to a State Fiscal Agent. The law made the State Fiscal Agent responsible for collecting EI provider claims, waiting for Medicaid or commercial insurance companies to reimburse or deny the claims, and then paying providers. This new process has resulted in providers going months without receiving payment as they wait indefinitely for insurance companies to make decisions about whether or not to issue payment. As a result of this change, combined with recent cuts to the EI reimbursement rate, EI provider agencies have shut their doors. Most recently, St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children announced that it will close its EI program in May, after 20 years of providing EI services to thousands of children. The loss of providers around the state is making it increasingly difficult for young children with delays or disabilities to access the services they need in a timely manner.

The Assembly and Senate Health Committee Chairs have introduced a bill (S. 6002/ A. 8316) to address the delays in payment. The bill would require the State or State Fiscal Agent to pay EI providers within 30 days of receiving their claims. It would also charge the State or State Fiscal Agent with responsibility for seeking reimbursement from Medicaid and commercial insurance and filing any appeals since the State Fiscal Agent has expertise in this field that EI providers do not have.

[Winning Beginning New York](#) supports this bill as a first step toward ensuring New York's EI Program serves children and families with high-quality services. To reach your state legislators, call the Senate switchboard (518-455-2800) and Assembly switchboard (518-455-4100) and give your zip code. Alternatively, you can find your NY State Senator by clicking [here](#) and your NY Assembly Member by clicking [here](#).

The complete [Winning Beginning New York legislative agenda](#) supports



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS:

[Obesity Rate for Young Children Plummet 43% in a Decade.](#) New York Times. [Prevalence of Childhood and Adult Obesity in the United States, 2011-2012](#) JAMA

[Needs of Young Children in Child Welfare Part C-Early Intervention](#)

Changing the Course for Infants & Toddlers: [A Survey of State Child Welfare Policies & Initiatives](#)

[Understanding the Effects of Maltreatment on Brain Development](#)

[ACES and Protective Factors: Effects on Parent Involvement, Webinar Recording, Feb. 20, 2014](#)

National Center for Children in Poverty. [Investing in Young Children: Fact Sheet on Early Care and Education, Access and Quality.](#)

Institute for Child Success. [Pay for Success Financing for Early Childhood Programs: A Path Forward.](#)

[Ready2Go](#) is a collection of diverse national, state and local early childhood initiatives with significant business involvement.

NYZTT CALL FOR NOMINATIONS/ POSTERS

Nominations Now Open for NYZTT

investments and policies "that move the State toward a comprehensive early learning system," and includes specific dollars for universal prekindergarten, universal child care, universal afterschool, home visiting, and a quality rating system for child care.

INFANCY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE HIGHLIGHTS

Over the last 5 years, NYZTT has been building a network of Infancy Leadership Circles (ILC) and related groups to be the communications pipeline for the infancy movement in New York State. Below are highlights from recent and upcoming group activities around the state and upcoming conference workshops on ILC. For further information on ILC activities, contact the [project coordinators](#).

General ILC Activities

- Representatives from ILC and related groups will participate in regular statewide calls to share ideas about state and local issues that effect infants and toddlers and their families beginning on March 7.
- ILC Project co-directors and others will lead workshops on ILC at the following conferences:
 - [NYSAEYC](#), Fri., Apr 11, Verona
 - [PCANY](#), Mon., Apr 28, Albany

Brooklyn County ILC

- Setting date and location for 2nd meeting

Cattaraugus County ILC

- Inviting professions from nearby Allegany County to join this ILC. Both are small rural counties facing similar challenges.
- [Next Meeting March 12](#)

Chautauqua County ILC

- Working on updating, enhancing, and publicizing 211 resources for young children and families in the county.
- [Next Meeting April 25](#)

DOCS Counties ILC

- On winter hiatus
- Reassessing activities and leadership after successful early childhood conference and [resource booklet on play](#)

Erie County ILC

Emily Fenichel Award for Excellence

Is there a colleague, teacher, supervisor who you admire for excellent practice, who inspires you? Who is a great leader or mentor?

Nominations now being accepted through March 3 for this annual award to honor the memory of a leader at Zero-to-Three whose work often served to bring the voices of "unsung heroes" in the zero-to-three field to the forefront.

Call for Posters, NYZTT Annual Conference

NYZTT announces a call for posters for its annual conference being held May 16 in NYC. The poster session will be a platform for the exchange of ideas emanating from students and new practitioners in the field of infant and early childhood development. Deadline for submitting the abstract form is March 28.

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.

Shared information on [Earned Income Tax Credit with local pediatricians](#).

- Held discussion with local experts from University of Buffalo conducting studies on preventing childhood obesity
 - Seeking study candidates with vegan diets during pregnancy for weekly training
 - Doing study on infant diet and self feeders vs. spoon feeders and weight gain
- Reaching out to legally exempt child care providers with information on vaccination, other topics
- Recent guest expert from United Way discussed health promotion and prevention, promoting breastfeeding and Buffalo baby cafe project
- [Next Meeting, March 25](#)

New York, NY-East Harlem 0-5 Network

- Discusses issues affecting young children and their families in East Harlem section of New York City.
- Topics include Early Intervention, Mental Health, information on programs.
- [Next Meeting February 27, 9-10:30 am](#)

Niagara County ILC

- Reaching out to legally exempt child care providers with information on toxins, lead poisoning, child development screening and local Child Care Council.
- Compiling local resources and phone numbers on these topics for parents.
- [Next meeting Mar 18](#)

Rockland County ILC

- Preparing updated parenting kit as part of Better Baby Care Campaign
- [Next meeting March 19](#)

Suffolk County ILC

- Finalizing Infant Mental Health Resources booklet for Suffolk County families
- [Next meeting March 4](#), Stony Brook University

Thompkins County Early Childhood Collaborative

- The county's Early Childhood Collaborative (ECC) received a ZTT [Sharing the Care project grant](#). The project engages professionals from all service systems working with young children and their families in intensive training and enhances multi-disciplinary efforts to build family strengths, promote young child well-being, and reduce the risk of child maltreatment.
- ECC has put together data on the county's young children.

Westchester County-ISP 0-5 Network

- Discusses issues germane to Westchester County.



- Among topics of concern are gun violence, early intervention, homelessness, child care subsidies.
- In February, Sue Perkins from the Council on Children and Families reviewed the work of the Early Childhood Advisory Council and how it intersected with Westchester County issues.
- [Next Meeting March 19](#)

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