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New York Zero-to-Three Network

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

March-April 2014

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

FULL CALENDAR [CLICK HERE](#)

April 9: [Echoes of Incarceration: Providing community support for children of imprisoned parents.](#)
White Plains, NY, 12-2 pm

April 10: [Infant-Toddler Forum](#) at NYSAEYC Conference, Verona, NY, 1-4 pm: Opportunities for Health Promotion in Child Care and Education Programs

April 11-12: [NYSAEYC Conference](#), Verona, NY, includes Health and child care track, infant-toddler strategies

April 11: [Silent Crisis: The Impact of Trauma & Chronic Stress on Learning & Development](#), 8:30--12:30 pm, New York, NY

Court Teams for Infants and Toddlers

Editor's note: This topic was presented as a NYZTT Roundtable in March by NYZTT board members Susan Chinitz, Dorothy Henderson, and Marcy Sayfer. Dr. Chinitz prepared this summary.

Infants and toddlers in foster care are an extremely vulnerable group of children. Multiple risk factors, including prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol, maltreatment, and exposure to violence, are compounded by attachment disruption when children are removed from their parents. These adverse events occur during critical periods of brain development, and for the consolidation of attachment.

Greater focus on this foundational stage of development has resulted in initiatives across the country to shape court practices to better meet the needs of infants and toddlers. These models depend on the strong leadership of a judge who becomes a champion for young children. Many, including the [Zero to Three Safe Babies Court Teams](#), involve a court-based community coordinator who builds a network of local organizations that provide services for infants and families so that ready access to services, and feedback about families' progress, are available to the court. Some bring evidence-based parenting and relational interventions to court-involved dyads. This, in conjunction with training for judges and lawyers on brain development, infant mental health and the biological impact of adversity, results in developmentally- and relationally-informed permanency planning for children.

The [Infant Parent Project of the Early Childhood Center at Einstein](#) provides Child Parent Psychotherapy for court-involved families of children under age 3. Clinicians provide feedback to court personnel on children and families' needs and progress, and provide training and consultation to court personnel. Parents served by the project have complex needs including histories of trauma or placement in foster care as children. Children also have complex needs, including developmental problems, attachment or post-traumatic stress disorders. As a result of involvement in the program, all children's developmental needs are met, and parents show improvement in safe and nurturing parenting and alleviation of symptoms of depression.

Other court teams developed by NYZTT board members include one in Manhattan under the direction of [Dorothy Henderson](#) at the [Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services \(JBFC\)](#), and one in Nassau County under the direction of [Marcy Sayfer](#), director of the [Institute for Parenting at Adelphi University](#). For further information, contact [Dr. Chinitz](#).

April 23-25: [Young Child Expo](#), New York, NY

April 28-30: [Prevent Child Abuse NY Conference](#), Albany, NY

April 29: NYZTT Roundtable with Sandy Wolcuff, 6:30-8 pm, [Alumni House, Adelphi University](#), Garden City, NY

May 16: [NYZTT Conference](#), New York, NY

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



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS:

[Early Childhood Guide to Blending & Braiding in New York](#)

[Blending & Braiding to Support Early Childhood Home Visiting in New York](#)

[Last Look: NYS Budget 2014-2015: Comparison of NYS Enacted 2014-15 with Schuyler Center Policy Priorities](#)

[Scrambling for Stability: The Challenges of Job Schedule Volatility and Child Care](#)

INFANCY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE HIGHLIGHTS

Over the last 5 years, NYZTT has been building a network of Infancy Leadership Circles (ILC) to be the communications pipeline for the infancy movement in New

Resources

[Zero to Three Safe Babies Court Team Project](#)

Words of Love: The intersection of language, and social and emotional development in young children –Annual NYZTT Conference Theme

The soothing sounds and the gentle touch of a loving caregiver set the foundation for the healthy development of a new baby. Right from the start the words, gestures and affect of the caregiver influence the child's developmental trajectory, facilitating growth of the child's language skills and social-emotional capacities.

NYZTT's annual conference this year on Friday, May 16 at the Conference Center in Mid-town Manhattan, will focus on the reciprocal influences of language, and social and emotional development in young children and present a range of therapeutic approaches with young children and their families. The keynote speakers are Gilbert Foley, Ed.D., Associate Professor of School Clinical-Child Psychology at Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology of Yeshiva University and Coordinator of its Infancy and Early Childhood Track, and Sima Gerber, Ph.D., CCC, Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology in the Department of Linguistics and Communication Disorders of Queens College, City University of New York. They will discuss the development of self and symbolic capacities in young children and propose clinically sensitive interventions for working with children with developmental challenges.

Afternoon breakout sessions will address topics including:

- bilingualism in early childhood classrooms
- sign language and music for young children
- social thinking for children with autism or social learning difficulties
- infant development and language
- reflective supervision in speech therapy training
- how to talk with preschoolers
- cultural sensitivity in working with families and their young children

Stay tuned to your email and the [NYZTT web site](#) for registration information.

Power is in Our Hands: Words of Wisdom from Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund

[Marian Wright Edelman](#), Founder and President of the [Children's Defense Fund](#) (CDF), recently addressed the annual [Westchester](#)

York State. Below are highlights from recent and upcoming activities around the state. For more information on ILC activities, contact the [project coordinators](#).

General ILC Activities:

Some 18 leaders of Infancy Circles and related groups convened for a statewide call on March 7 to discuss challenges and opportunities for programs and policies that serve infants and toddlers and their families. The call followed a survey on topics of concern around the state. The group was especially interested in the role of social and emotional health on the developing child. A guest speaker on this topic will be on the next call, Friday, May 2, from 9-10 am. If you would like to participate, please contact the [project coordinators](#).

Upcoming Conference

Workshops on ILC:

Two opportunities to participate in ILC workshops will occur in April led by ILC leaders and participants. Help others experience the power of an ILC meeting to connect and reach across service systems.

- Friday, April 11, from 10:30-12 at the NYSAEYC conference in Verona
- Monday, April 28, from 3:15-4.45 at the PCANY conference in Albany

Brooklyn, NY ILC

- Meeting with NYC Infancy Leadership Circle.
- Next Meeting at Center for Children's Initiatives. See below for details.

Cattaraugus County ILC

- Will invite professionals from Allegany County to participate.

[Children's Association](#) Advocacy Breakfast on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the passage of the "[War on Poverty](#)" legislation.

She enthralled the audience with pearls of wisdom she has learned during the past 50 years and introduced local CDF fellows who work and mentor children in Westchester. These college students are a small part of the cadre of young people CDF is training across the U.S. to carry on the "War" into the future using the "[freedom schools](#)" model. The goal is to found 300 such groups; 185 have been established.

Here are some quotes for you to ponder from Dr. Edelman:

- Service is the rent you pay for living.
- Follow the need and you will end up in the right place!
- Our most important work is creating the next generation.
- We need a movement...it doesn't start in Washington, DC.
- Get one big thing done each year for our children in our state.
- We need to break up the cradle to prison to grave pipeline.
- Get the children educated and then they will give back.
- We can't protect our children without protecting everyone's children.
- Kids need to be in school, not absent or suspended.
- We are in the hope business. It is hard work but worth every penny

Dr. Edelman also spoke of lessons she learned from Marin Luther King, Jr., who, she noted, didn't start the civil rights movement but responded to it:

- Take the first step even if you can't see the whole stairway.
- Keep moving forward, even if you have to crawl.
- Wake up and sound the alarm as if we were in a burning house.

To sum up, Dr. Edelman shared the life lessons she learned from the biblical Noah's Ark:

1. Don't miss the boat--the greatest threat to failure is lack of education
2. We are all in the same boat--every child is sacred
3. Plan ahead--Noah built the ark before it started raining
4. Don't worry about critics--your mission is important
5. Get over individual silos--children don't come in pieces and we should work together in community
6. The ark was build by amateurs, not experts--people like us.

ILC SELECTED RESOURCES

- [ILC 20011-2013: 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.

- Next meeting Thursday, May 15 from 2-4:30 pm at the [Olean YMCA](#)

Chautauqua County ILC

- Next meeting is Friday, April 25, at [Westfield YWCA](#)

DOCS Counties ILC

- Setting schedule for May/June meeting. Contact [Sara Gould](#) for information.

Erie County ILC

- Next meeting Tuesday, April 29, 12-2:30 pm at [Child Care Resource Network](#), Buffalo

New York City Infancy Leadership Circle

- Next meeting Wednesday, April 30 or Thurs. May 1 at [Center for Children's Initiatives](#). RSVP to [Julia Travers](#) to confirm date.

New York, NY East Harlem 0-5 Network

- Next meeting Thursday, April 24, 9-10:30, at [Settlement Health](#).
- For further information, contact [Alison Francis](#)

Niagara County ILC

- Next meeting Tuesday, April 15, 12-2:30 pm at [Health Association of Niagara County](#)

Rockland County ILC

- Packet Subcommittee Meeting, Tuesday, April 8, 8:30-10, Child Care Resource of [Rockland Training site](#), New Hempstead, NY

Suffolk County ILC

- For next meeting, contact [Susan Rabinowicz](#)

Tompkins County

- In development

Westchester County

- Next meeting Wednesday, April 16, 1-2:30 pm; [Child Care Council of Westchester](#)

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