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New York Zero-to-Three Network

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

January 2012

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BLOGS WE LIKE.....

Signing up for blogs can be a useful way for busy professionals to keep up to date. Listed below are some that we think are worth subscribing to.

[Susan Ochshorn](#)

blogs for the Huffington Post on Early Education - often focusing on New York City and New York State issues

[Paul Nyhan](#)

of Thrive by Five Washington State covers national and cutting edge topics that go beyond his home state

[Timothy Bartik](#)

hosts his own blog on Investinginkids which emphasizes the cost/benefit ratio of early childhood investment

Happy New Year from the New York Zero-to-Three Network! This newsletter is part of our [Infancy Leadership Circle Project](#) to foster and develop early childhood leaders focused on the first three years of life in New York State.

If you have a suggestion for a topic for us to cover in a future issue, please let us know. You can email us at newsletter@nyzerotothree.org.

News

Erie County Infancy Leadership Circle to Promote Family Engagement

Since the Erie County Infancy Leadership Circle (ILC) began meeting last spring, their goal has been to share information with their community about the importance of the 0-3 years using a cross systems approach in the strategic areas of Strong Families, Healthy Children and Positive Early Learning. The Erie Circle adopted a format to move this agenda forward, focusing on family engagement as the first topic.

Family Engagement

Erie County ILC began the new year with the task of focusing on Family Engagement with an overview of Family Engagement research, including how children from diverse families, refugee families and families with special needs can be supported through effective family engagement. Additionally, the group reviewed existing local resources and adopted a working definition of Family Engagement. Next steps will be to identify core messages to advance around three distinct audiences: families, child care providers and agencies working with families.

Mary Beth Debus, Vice President of Program Development at EPIC (Every Person Influences Children), and director of its Ready, Set, Parent program has been graciously facilitating the Erie meetings since September with assistance from **Emilio Fuentes**, OCFS (retired). The Erie Circle plans to rotate facilitators in the future to capitalize on the expertise of participants based on the focus being developed.

In the area of Healthy Children, the focus of the group will be mental health. Infant-Toddler specific training will be the focus for Positive Early Learning.

[Ron Lally](#)

has recently started blogging for his new project FOR OUR BABIES: a call for better beginnings

[Future of Children](#)

alerts subscribers to new issues or media coverage of topics that have been recently covered in the Journal

[Trend Lines](#)

blogs about new publications and research of interest done by Child Trends

[Early Ed Watch](#)

from the New America Foundation blogs about current events in early education from the national perspective

[Baby Blog](#)

from Zero to Three Policy Center in Washington DC looks at federal policy that impacts infants and toddlers

[The Starting Point](#)

from the First Five Years Fund highlights activities of the Fund

[Center on the Developing Child](#)

blog keeps you up to date with any new products - including incredible videos - produced by the center



Make a New Years Resolution to become a member of NYZTT this year!

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

The many communities in Erie County will benefit from a greater understanding of the importance of the 0-3 years through the dedication and commitment of professionals forming partnerships at the grass-roots level as they reach out and share their ideas to positively impact quality!

For more information on what Erie County is doing and what Infancy Leadership Circles are all about, please contact the [Infancy Leadership Co-Director Jackie Jones](#).

NYZTT January Clinical Roundtable

Discussion was lead by Sima Gerber, PhD., CCC, and held on Thursday January 19th at the Ackerman Institute

During an interview Dr.Gerber was asked: why this clinical round table was important for professionals of diverse backgrounds?

She explained that it was an opportunity for professionals from different disciplines, who share a common bond through their work with young children and families, to explore the idea of "working with parents."

When asked to expand on her reference to "working with parents" she indicated that professionals within the infant mental health community embrace their work as supporting the parent and child jointly.

The issue explored by Dr. Gerber was how does the non-infant mental health professional view their practice? Are some clinicians and therapists continuing the practice of the parent observing from the sideline? She indicated that evidence now informs us that the greatest opportunity for success is when our work encompasses the dyad (parent and child).

When asked what contribution does the professional who is not a speech and language pathologist have to offer families and children for the development of language and communication, Dr. Gerber explained that when considering a child's communication disorder professionals should be mindful of providing the child with opportunities to be a communicator, rather than focusing solely on their ability to talk.

As a closing comment Sima Gerber offered one piece of advice to the group of professionals and that was "in order to help a child become integrated across domains, professionals must become integrated across disciplines as well."

Upcoming Events

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

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.

Calendar Highlights:

January 26th - New America Foundation Event "**Watching Teachers Work**" LIVE from Washington DC - go online to New America Foundation's live streaming video of this conference on their recently published report. Susan Ochshorn, report co-author, will be talking about the impact on infant and toddler care settings.

[Click Here](#) at 9:15am on the 26th to catch the live video feed

February 2nd - NYZTT's ANNUAL LEVENBACK MEMORIAL EVENING WITH A 0-3 PIONEER

This year we welcome Michael Lewis, PhD. Come join us for an evening of conversation that could encompass: (1) the emotional development of children, especially the self-conscious emotions, (2) the relationship of emotion and cognition, (3) longitudinal research on attachment continuity, (4) gender differences, and many more topics.

[Register now for Levenback Evening](#)

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