

PROGRAM UPDATE
May 2, 2005 to July 5, 2005

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PARENT EDUCATION:

Community Agencies Concerned with Parenting-June meeting focused on sharing summer health and safety resources to use with families, as well as sharing specific information about local family-appropriate, affordable sites and activities.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION:

Little Ones' Learning Center- Served as liaison with Stewarts to acquire additional funds to pay for flood damage. Preparing information necessary for LOLC volunteers to implement Truck Day (September 17). LOLC has a new Coordinator, Debbie Skogman.

Rondout Valley Early Childhood Workgroup (RVECW)-Plans are being developed to offer two Parent (caregiver)-Child Workshop series in the fall in cooperation with the Little Ones' Learning Center (LOLC). One series of 4 sessions are designed for infants/toddlers and a 5 session series is designed for 3-5 year olds. Each will integrate LOLC storytimes into the session, provide a short parent education time for parents, followed by time together with children for hands-on activities that reinforce concepts taught in the parent component.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -- FAMILY:

Rondout Valley Education Foundation- Committee is working with an attorney on the formal incorporation process and attaining 501(c) 3 status.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2005 scheduling has been unusual in that professional development/in-service opportunities have clustered in the past two months. This has been beneficial in that information from one area often informs or complements information in another, enhancing the impact of the sessions on my understanding and planning. I have recently attended:

Parent Education and Awareness Program training-A program of the Unified Court System whereby divorcing parents attend approved parent education. Organizations may apply to have their programs certified. Certified programs receive referrals from the court, and may charge parents to attend. The certification and implementation requirements are quite stringent.

Annual Human Development Research Update-Participants meet with Cornell faculty to learn about current research in a variety of human development topics. Provides basic background for our work.

Ecology of Obesity-Linking Science and Action: Building the Foundation for an Ecological Perspective. Presenters from fields of medicine, psychology, nutrition, and public health, from CO, CA, NC and NY shared research results and many ideas for community change.

Balancing Act: Building Successful Community-Research Partnerships-In depth discussions re Community Based Participatory Research investigating how Cornell researchers and community organizations might do research together for the benefit of both.

Supporting Family Literacy through Parent Education-Intensive Verizon-funded institute that will result in future programming in Ulster County.