

PROGRAM UPDATE
March 15, 2004-May 7, 2004

Susan Matson, CFCS
Extension Educator -- Human Development

PARENT EDUCATION:

National Extension Parenting Educators' Framework (NEPEF) -Jennifer Birckmayer, consultant and retired Senior Extension Assoc. from Cornell facilitated an April 27th NEPEF training day for 29 parenting educators. Cross-program learning about the processes and professional preparation involved in best practices for parenting educators received praise from participants, all of whom indicated they intend to enroll in Part 2 in which they will study content guidelines for parent education initiatives. Many indicated they had never analyzed the processes in their work and were enlightened by Jennie's exercise *Ten Things All Children Need* in which one analyzes ones own values relating to raising children, and uses children's books to relate those values. They appreciated the comfortable St. John Seminar room which UCCC allowed us to use at no charge, enabling a low cost fee for the training. This training is part of an effort to engage parenting educators with one another around common goals.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION:

Early Care and Education Program Work Team (Co-chair) Assisted with planning for meeting at Cornell May 25.

Little Ones' Library (LOL) Energetic programming continues as we work on transition of the program to the community. An initial meeting to form Friends of the LOL drew some interest and two volunteers are to convene the next meeting. A presentation at the town board meeting resulted in increased media coverage. Two special storytime events included Under the Big Top circus theme with support of Head Start and A to Z Come Play with Me. CCE staff and community volunteers assisted with creative ways to introduce letters to young children. Contacts have been made to bring in "diggers, dozers and loaders" etc for the May 22 event.

Rondout Valley Early Childhood Workgroup-As a result of our Week of the Young Child contacts with town boards and the RV school board, the Wawarsing Town Board invited a presentation on young children. Andrea Meyer from the Child Care Council represented the group. The inaugural *I Just Loved That Book* on April 16 was a wonderful success with about 20 adults and about 17 children enjoying beloved books and activities. About 300 books were donated and children went home with many books in their bags. Most children in attendance may well have no other books at home. Youth at the community center had made decorations and a special reading area, adding to the program success. Plans have begun for next year.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -- FAMILY:

RSVP Program Development and Evaluation-assisted in evaluation report.

Rondout Valley Educational Foundation- Committee continues development of a proposal for the school board for establishment of an educational foundation.

Town of Rochester Visioning Sessions-Attended 3 of 4 sessions where residents discussed their vision for the town in 5-10 years. Interesting dynamics, learned a lot about the town, met people who can be resources in the future, gained insights for program development, especially efforts to integrate community and school planning.