

**PROGRAM UPDATE**  
**March 1, 2005 to May 2, 2005**

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**Susan Matson**  
**Extension Educator -- Human Development**

**PARENT EDUCATION:**

**Community Agencies Concerned with Parenting-Autism Spectrum Disorders** training was fully enrolled at 35. A very informative, excellent, half-day presentation by Leah Siuta from the Children's Annex provided current information on a condition that parent educators are encountering more frequently in families.

**EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION:**

**Little Ones' Learning Center-** Assisted with draft personnel policies. Assisted with cleaning everything out of the space due to flood damage. LOLC had to buy new carpeting and lost some materials. Volunteers and parents are working very, very hard on program, funding, operations and wading through red tape as the organization develops!

**Rondout Valley Early Childhood Workgroup-**The second annual *I Just Loved That Book* (weather delayed until April 1); was even more successful than last year. Planning for spring 2006. There were free books for every age and a wide variety of topics. About 20 children participated and went home with bags of books. RVECW is now planning Parent-Child Workshops and Info Sessions for Legally Exempt Child Care Providers caring for young children

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -- FAMILY:**

**Rondout Valley Educational Foundation-** Target May/June presentation of by-laws to Board of Education.

**Foster Care "Ambassadors"**- 12 community members attended the presentation in Accord about foster care. Discussion was lively, and a town board member suggested presentation for the board and at countywide meeting of leaders. Program content is the responsibility of DSS; CCE facilitated site, marketing, and community involvement and arranged for DSS to appear on Ellenville cable TV. DSS will follow up.

**Making Healthful Decisions Conference-Preventing Childhood Obesity-**Assumed June Strand's role on the planning committee. About 200 registrants with waiting list. Began discussion of working with school personnel on food service issues and mandated health plan. Attended Schools and Professionals in Nutrition (SPIN) training and will attend Ecology of Obesity conference in June to better understand community aspects of the issue.

**Allee-Eberts Community and Economic Vitality Award-**Submitted application, *Reinventing Support for Parenting Education: A Model for a Changing System*, nominating a team of Cornell colleagues Jo Swanson, Ass't Dean for Extension and Outreach; Jennifer Birkmayer, Sr. Ext. Associate, retired; Rachel Dunifon, Ass't. Prof. Policy Analysis and Management; and Laura Colosi, Ext. Associate, Policy Analysis and Management. This team won one of two Allee-Eberts Awards in this first year of the award.

**Community Partnership Award-National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Science-**Application for this award for the Little Ones' Library team was successful at the state level, and has been forwarded for national consideration.