



Early Care &
Learning Council
United to Promote Quality

Infant Toddler Newsletter



NYS Infant and Toddler Resource Network

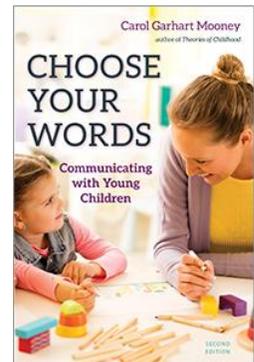
June 2018

Welcome to the June issue of ECLC's Infant Toddler Newsletter. We've gathered lots of great content for you to kick off the Summer season. Be sure to check out our interview with Carol Garhart Mooney, author of *Choose Your Words*. You'll also find highlights from the two IT Network training sessions that took place this quarter. In May, ECLC staff had the pleasure of attending the fifth annual ACEs Symposium in Albany. Our VISTA, Renee Richman has captured the experience for you in the pages ahead. If you missed the IT Credential Webinar that we offered this month, not to worry, we've got a recording ready for you. There's much more to read about in the pages ahead...enjoy!

Interview with Carol Garhart Mooney

Author Interview conducted by Renee Richman

As part of our continuing series, ECLC's AmeriCorps VISTA, Renee Richman spoke with Carol Garhart Mooney, author of *Choose Your Words: Communicating with Young Children*. Carol's understanding of language and her experience with children gave us an informative interview that we are excited to share with you. To read the interview, click [here](#).



Parents Interacting with Infants

Pyramid PIWI Training

The Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI) training took place on April 10, 2018 from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM at the Child Care Council in Rochester, NY. This training, taught by Master Cadre Pyramid Trainer and Infant Toddler Specialist, Rose Shufelt, was sponsored by Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS). To learn more about the PIWI training, click [here](#).



IT Network Event

Infant Mental Health

The Infant Toddler Specialists gathered for an IT Network Training Event at Child Care Solutions on May 15th. Wendy Bender, LCSW-R, IMH-E® and Executive Director of New York State Association for Infant Mental Health delivered two workshops. Learn more about what was covered during this training [here](#).



Adverse Childhood Experiences

ACES Symposium

The fifth annual Capital District ACEs Symposium took place on May 7th, with more than 1,500 people in attendance, at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany, NY. This day long training focused on the importance of spreading the awareness of ACEs. The keynote speaker, Dr. Nadine Burke-Harris was dynamic and knowledgeable, speaking to her experiences treating young children who have had multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences. To read more, click [here](#).



IT Specialists in the Field

Strolling Thunder

Emily Cleaver, IT Specialist and Provider Services Coordinator with Jefferson-Lewis Childcare Project travelled to DC to tell Congress to "Think Babies". On May 8th, Emily and her three children (ages 2, 5 and 10), descended on our nation's capital alongside families from all 50 states, "to meet her Members of Congress and share what babies and families need to thrive." To read more about Strolling Thunder and Emily's experience click [here](#).



NYAEYC Conference

Training and Tabling

The 2018 NYAEYC Annual Conference held at Turning Stone Resort in Verona, NY offered a plethora of training opportunities for attendees. More than 1,000 providers attended this 3-day conference. ECLC's Training Coordinator, Brooke Ricci and IT Coordinator, Jeannie Thomma tabled at this event, where they had the opportunity to connect with many of the providers. To read more, click [here](#).



Continuity of Care

Video

Have you seen this [video](#)? ECLC created this Continuity of Care Video back in 2012, but the message is still relevant today. In the months ahead, we'll be spotlighting providers who are shining examples of the Continuity of Care model. Let us know about a provider in your region whose story we can share. Reach



out to Jeannie or Renee today. Together we can work towards our goal; **One caregiver from enrollment to preschool.** Because babies need stable and responsive to thrive.

IT Credential

Webinar

The Infant Toddler Care & Education Credential of New York State is designed to provide for and be recognized as a standard by which to measure an individual's competence in the following topics areas: *Infant and Toddler Development; Observation and Recording; Environment and Curriculum; and Family and Culture.*



On Wednesday, June 20th, Avril Mills, Professional Development Coordinator with NYAEYC presented a 30-minute informational webinar on **The Infant Toddler Credential**. Many of the IT Specialists from across the state were able to join us live for this webinar, and participate in the Q&A that followed. If you were unable to attend, we will be putting a recording of it on our website for you to view. The slide deck is also available as a resource. To request the slide deck or the video before it's up on the website, please contact Jeannie Thomma or Renee Richman.

CACFP

Webinar

CACFP National released their webinar "Adding Whole Grains to Your Menu" on June 21. The webinar goes along with the pamphlets that ECLC distributed to the CCR&Rs last month. Click [here](#) to view a recording of this webinar as well as a variety of other informational webinar and trainings offered through CACFP National.



Welcome Megan

New IT Specialist

Early Care and Learning Council is excited to welcome Megan as the new Infant Toddler Specialist at Family Enrichment Network in Broome County. Megan brings extensive knowledge and experience to the role. To read more about Megan click [here](#).



Resources

For Your Information

Here are some resources that may be helpful to you!

[The Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework \(ELOF\): Ages Birth to Five](#)

[The ELOF Implementation Toolkit](#)

[The ELOF Effective Practices Guide](#)



Spring Fun

Cryptogram

Try to figure out what this code says. Each letter represents another letter. Hint: it has to do with being a toddler!



"MKLZWJ ROHABHZ UBCW HK KHW BY QOJAEBHZ

ROHAW UBCW O JKRRUWL, JEWN RKH'J WPHW AOLW BM JEWLW BY FGYBRI!"

For the answer, click [here](#).

Calendar

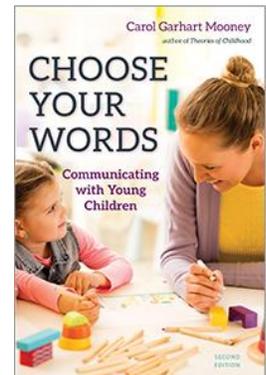
| Spring | Roundtables | Regions 1-7 |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------|
| July 10 10 AM - 3:30 PM | Infant Toddler Retreat Have you registered ? | Westchester, NY |
| July 11 - September 30 | Regional Follow up Activities to Statewide IT Network Event | Regions 1-7 |
| October 9 | Statewide IT Network | New York, NY |
| October 10 & 11 | Leadership Summit | Schenectady, NY |
| October 10 - December 31 | Regional Follow up Activities to Statewide IT Network Event | Regions 1-7 |

Interview with Carol Garhart Mooney

Author Interview

Carol Garhart Mooney, author of *Choosing Your Words* has worked as a family child care provider, a group child care provider, a kindergarten teacher for a decade, an elementary school teacher for half a decade and a college teacher for 30 years. She is the mother of four and grandmother of three. She has her Bachelor's degree in education and her Master's degree in Early Childhood Development.

I had a wonderful conversation with Carol Garhart Mooney about her book. She shared her insights and passion associated and I'm excited to introduce her to you.



1. What inspired the book?

There was a dramatic increase in research on the impact of child development, specifically through the Harvard Center on the Developing Child.

2. What is your number one piece of advice for child care providers?

To try very hard to keep an open mind. There are multiple solutions for each child and each situation. I have the same advice for parents. However it is harder for parents because no one tells them that. Most parents are always thinking "what would a good parent do?" They have to remember that not every situation has the same effect on different children.

3. Give us three words to describe yourself:

Dedicated - specifically to my work, very caring - it is very important to me, and honest - specifically with parents and providers.

4. How would you describe your book to someone who knows nothing about children and child care?

The book is unsettling for someone who doesn't know anything about children and child care. It questions and challenges many policies, myths and "facts" about child care and education. Forty five years of experience as a parent and provider will make you question some of the known "facts" about children and the way they should be taught. It speaks to cultural competence and shows how child care is more fast-paced and different than it was ten or fifteen years ago. I think the book is also humorous and readable!

5. How do you know your strategies are effective?

I can tell my strategies are working when you see a fairly quick change in a small child's behaviors and fears. Their fears seem to dissipate. The changes may be small but to see the differences really allows me to know that my strategies are useful.

6. What defines success for you as a worker in the early education field?

Success is knowing in most instances I'm meeting the need of students, teachers, children, so all of these people feel glad to come together every day.

7. What is the worst thing you can do when speaking with an infant or toddler?

It's all about attitude, things that come naturally to us like sarcasm and dry humor can be harmful to children. It's not good to be disrespectful or insincere when speaking to them. Also not looking at them or not responding to their sounds/needs.

8. What is the best way to communicate with families?

Families really appreciate honest, respectful, humble communication. A back and forth conversation, not a one sided one. Use language that is a good match for the family, knowing their family culture, language and way of communicating.

9. What is the most important trait of an infant/toddler caregiver?

I would say, nurturing. And having a delight in babies and toddlers, having a sense of complete joy of being with them. They should also have a strong understanding of their developmental needs and abilities.

10. What do you want people to know about this book?

I want them to know it challenges the "status quo" and ideas that people generally have about communicating with children. Most people believe that the way things are the way they're supposed to be. This book goes against some of the ideas and notions that many people have come to accept as truth.

11. How does today's media affect young children?

I observe a lot in public places. I watch babies whose parents have taken them to family locations and there are now wide screen TVs and a lot of high level noise (talking). There is too much noise that is not beneficial to a baby's development. We can maintain/uphold work that has been done, but we also need to find ways to meet the changing times.

12. What is the impact of social media, cell phones, and texting on family life and education/learning?

Researchers have hard core research that talks about the impact of texting. When we go to a restaurant we see four people sitting at a table and all four of them are on their cell phones. It's ruling out human to human interaction and connection. It is creating increased isolation and an adult without a connection to technology is becoming an "endangered species." People under-represent the number of hours they spend on the phone. They are in denial about how much time they are spending on social media and texting. And because of this family life is deteriorating, less time is being spent truly interacting and communicating with the children. Language itself is deteriorating, no one uses real words when texting.

13. "Children count on us to make sense of the world for them" - How can we/teacher/parents effectively communicate with infants and toddlers to support their development of language?

Making sense of the world means observing children about their understanding and misunderstandings of their surroundings and the world. It is important to use words that continue to define things so children can get a full understanding of words and meanings. Also, communicating simply is the best way to meet children's needs. Carol shared a story that demonstrates the gap between words and understanding their meaning.

When my daughter was two she attended a preschool. The pickup list included me, her father, and her older brothers who were about 16 or 17. We rotated picking up my daughter but more often than not it was her dad or brothers picking her up. One day an older student said to her, "you have more daddies than anyone in this world!"

The student didn't understand the difference between her dad and her brothers. She knew they were male and picking up my daughter but she couldn't put together that they weren't all her dads.

14. What do you want parents and teachers to know about receptive language and expressive language and how can we help them bridge the gap between the two?

Receptive language is the child's ability to understand information. Expressive language is their ability to use words. Bridging the gap can be a hard thing but it is a huge responsibility for us. Children can say things that they don't understand, for example, they may use a swear word. They have no idea what it means but they understand that it has so much power. Some ways to bridge the gap can be to label objects, compare objects and things, and demonstrating sink and float.

To order your copy of Carol Garhart Mooney's *Choose Your Words*, visit [Red Leaf Press](#).

Adverse Childhood Experiences

ACES Symposium

This one-day symposium, sponsored by La-Salle School, brought together national and regional ACEs experts to share the work they're doing in the field. Audience members also had the opportunity to engage with the speakers and panelists in a Q&A format. The day's keynote was delivered by Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Youth Wellness. A screening of the film *Resilience*, which demonstrates the importance of ACEs awareness and the impact of developing resiliency was another highlight of the day. The film's director, James Redford, who is a documentary filmmaker, and co-founder and chair of the Redford Center was there to address the audience. He spoke with passion about his experience of developing and filming *Resilience*. The documentary highlights the two doctors that developed the ACEs model, Vincent Felitti and Robert Anda from San Diego California.



Featured panelists at the symposium included John D. Bennett, MD, FACC, FACP, President and Chief Executive Officer at CDPHP; David A. Wallace, LCSW-R, Executive Director at LaSalle School; and James Redford.

In the morning Dr. Nadine Burke Harris spoke about her experience with getting involved in ACEs, the importance of using this evaluation scale with children and families, and about her pediatric center in San Francisco. She told stories of her own patients at the center and how ACEs has really affected the way she treats her patients. Dr. Burke referenced her new book, *The Deepest Well*, which details her experiences with childhood adversity and how they truly affect the health and development of people who have been exposed to ACEs. In her book she writes about her patient Diego, who at seven-year's old had completely stopped growing. His height was equivalent to a four-year old. After doing a full examination, Dr. Burke had a suspicion that it was not ADHD that was making him unable to focus in school (as suggested by the school nurse), but the effects of childhood adversity. She learned from his mother that Diego had been sexually assaulted when he was four. The experience led to Diego's inability to focus, and becoming completely withdrawn and clingy. He also suffered from physical health problems including asthma, eczema, and growth failure. Diego's case is not uncommon. It is being proven that childhood adversity is a leading cause of health problems beginning in childhood and staying through adulthood. Dr. Nadine Burke-Harris, is the nation's leading advocate for universal screening for ACEs in pediatrics.

IT Specialists in the Field

Strolling Thunder

The Think Babies campaign, and second annual Strolling Thunder event is organized by Zero to Three: "The science is clear that our brains grow faster between the ages of 0 and 3 than at any later point in our lives. When babies don't get what their growing brains need during this crucial time, it can lead to life-long developmental, educational, social, and health challenges. This campaign is designed to promote enriching early experiences and a strong foundation for development from the start. When we "Think Babies", we build a better future for us all."



"ZERO TO THREE's annual *Strolling Thunder*™ event brought babies and families from all 50 states, and the

District of Columbia, to Washington, DC to tell Congress to Think Babies™ - for stronger families, vibrant communities, and a prosperous country." Infant Toddler Specialist, Emily Cleaver said there were so many part of the day that will be remembered fondly. While in DC, she and her children heard advocate, Nancy Pelosi speak on the importance of Quality Care, coupled with increased funding and higher salaries for child care providers. Emily was also surprised and excited to learn that many representatives had developmental psychologists on staff who were well versed in early childhood issues. Emily's oldest daughter was also thrilled by the opportunity that they had to see Bernie Sanders in person--it made her day! "It was incredible to connect with so many other families. It's easy to think sometimes that the struggle you're facing is singular. But my experience was mirrored by the other families in attendance, I realized that people all over the country are facing the same struggles that I do every day. Accessing quality child care is an issue everywhere. I'm so glad I attended the Strolling Thunder event--I would love to send everyone there, it was that amazing!"

IT Network Event

Infant Mental Health

The first of the workshops explored the Infant Mental Health Endorsement and the portfolio process required for the application process. There was opportunity for all in attendance to map their current credentials in order to identify the gaps / needs in their own training that would be required to pursue the Endorsement.



The second workshop looked at the Effect of Stress on Pre-natal Development. In addition to sharing a detailed, week by week progression of pre-natal development, Wendy drew participants' attention to the many indicators that can interrupt that healthy development, and expose the unborn child to toxic stress while still in the womb. Many of the 7 region's IT Specialists were in attendance for this training. For those IT Specialists who were unable to attend in person, follow-up activities were scheduled to allow for ECLC IT Coordinator, Jeannie Thomma, to share the resources and highlights from this informative one-day training.

NYAEYC

Training and Tabling

ECLC Management Training directories, and CACFP promotional materials were among the featured resources that Brooke and Jeannie shared with providers at the conference. Many of New York's CCR&R's were active contributors to the conference as well. Sue Kowaleski of Region 4, was instrumental in organizing a pre-conference Train-the-Trainer course on *Eco-Healthy Child Care*. The focus of this training was on learning the steps that child care providers can take to protect children in their care. IT Specialists Dawn Daniello from Region 7 and Emily Cleaver from Region 3 both delivered well attended trainings for attendees on the Infant Toddler Track. Dawn's training, *Relationship Building with Families*, provided participants with tools to create culturally responsive caregiving using the "Acknowledge, Ask, Adapt" process. Emily's training, *Purposeful Planning for Infants and Toddlers*, focused on how to use observations and knowledge of child development to interact and plan meaningful activities. With so many trainings to choose from, this year's NYAEYC conference delivered rich and rewarding learning platforms for all.



Parents Interacting with Infants

Pyramid PIWI Training

ECLC was pleased to have many of the NYS Infant Toddler Specialists in attendance. During this one-day workshop, participants had the opportunity to learn about & practice all components of PIWI, including the philosophy, dyadic



interactions and strategies, triadic strategies, and developmental observation topics. PIWI can be used for home visiting, parent-child groups and socializations in a variety of settings including Early Intervention and Early Head Start. Thanks to ECCS for all of their support!

About our sponsor, ECCS:

The NYS Council on Children and Families and grantees in 11 other states have been awarded the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Impact grant. This 5 year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau seeks to enhance early childhood systems building and demonstrate improved outcomes in population-based children's developmental health and family well-being. The overall 5 year aim of this project is to demonstrate a 25% increase from baseline in age appropriate developmental skills among 3 year old children in two selected NYS communities - Nassau County and Western NY.

Welcome Megan

New IT Specialist

Early Care and Learning Council is excited to welcome Megan as the new Infant Toddler Specialist at Family Enrichment Network in Broome County. Megan brings extensive knowledge and experience to the role.

Megan Brown started as the Infant Toddler Specialist at Family Enrichment Network in February 2018. Previously, Megan worked as an infant/toddler teacher in the Early Head Start Program and as a toddler teacher at another area child care center. Megan has an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Broome Community College. Prior to the early childhood field, Megan worked in retail, as a store manager training new employees.

Megan has a strong desire to ensure best practices and high quality child care are available to all children throughout the community.



Spring Fun

Cryptogram

The answer to the puzzle is:

"Forget dancing like no one's watching. Dance like a toddler, they don't even care if there's music!"



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"Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart"

- A.A. Milne

Stay Connected



