

EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS

Changes at the Child Care Network

Liz Mahon-Laidlaw, our assistant director for the past 16 years, will be retiring at the end of June. Over the years, Liz's expertise and passion for early childhood have contributed much to the work of SACCN. Liz led our organization through Quality Assurance and Standards of Excellence certifications. She was actively involved in our Legally Exempt Enrollment program and worked closely with our parent services team. Liz was also the author of our annual Community Needs Assessment where she used her research skills to develop an in-depth and valuable report. We will miss Liz and wish her luck in her future endeavors.

We are thrilled to have Colleen Maziejka return to the Child Care Network, in a new role this time, as our assistant director. Colleen comes to us with an in-depth knowledge of a variety of human services-related topics. She most recently worked for the Washington County Department of Social Services in their Hope Unit.

From Colleen:

"To tell you that I am happy to be back at SACCN would be a huge understatement. It is with great excitement that I find myself returning to the Child Care Network after a couple of years away. Some of you may remember me from my previous role with the organization as the CACFP Educator. A role that I shared with Linda Scimeca for 7 years, until July of 2020 when I left to take a full-time caseworker position with the Washington County Department of Social Services. While I enjoyed my work with the County, I can say that SACCN was never been far from my mind and always in my heart. When I learned of Liz's retirement and the opportunity to transition to the Assistant Director position, I did not hesitate to pursue it.

Those in the Early Childhood field have always understood the importance of quality child care for the development of children, but since the pandemic there has been a newfound awareness of how vital a role it plays in the economic well-being of the community at large.

As I embark on my new role with the Network, I strive to support providers and the work that they do daily and to help raise awareness and continue advocacy efforts on behalf of parents and providers. I realize that I have some big shoes to fill in Liz's absence and will work tirelessly to do so. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way."

Phone: 518-798-7972 ext 212

Email: MaziejkaC@saccn.org

National Provider Appreciation Day - May 12, 2023

Provider Appreciation Day was created in 1996 by a group of volunteers, who saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who support our children. Thank you to all child care providers past and present for all their daily hard work!

For more information on Provider Appreciation Day visit: <https://providerappreciation.org/>

**CALL US:
518-798-7972**

Extensions
Colleen: 212 Jorgy: 209 Kelly: 207 Lani: 208
Linda: 203 Liz: 210 Lynn: 204 Patty: 211 Sue: 205

Eco - Healthy: Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

With East Palestine, Ohio in the news after a train derailment caused a concerning, toxic release of harmful chemicals, notably vinyl chloride gas, it makes sense to share some information about polyvinyl chloride (PVC) products that are commonly found in early childhood settings. Vinyl chloride is one of the main ingredients in PVC production.

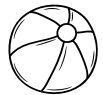
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) is a plastic with the recycling code #3: PVC (soft vinyl plastic) often contains phthalates and sometimes lead. Products that likely contain PVC include: flexible plastic toys (rubber duckies, dolls, beach balls, infant bath books), bibs, rest/nap mats, inflatable swimming pools, garden hoses, raincoats, wall paneling and flooring, window blinds, cosmetics, shower curtains, crib bumpers, imitation leather, and food packaging. PVC exposure has been linked to cancer, birth defects, reproductive and developmental disorders, and liver dysfunction.

Certain plastics contain chemicals that are harmful to human health even at low levels of exposure. Children are at greater risk from these chemicals because their bodies are still developing and they often insert plastic objects into their mouths--increasing exposure. Also, a small toxic dose for an adult may be a big dose with big effects for a child.

There are simple steps that can be taken to reduce children's exposure to PVC.

- Avoid plastics with recycling #3.
- Never heat or microwave food or drink in any plastic containers, even if the product says "microwavable" or "microwave safe". Leaching of toxic chemicals from plastic to food or liquid may occur. Use a paper towel instead of plastic wrap to cover food in the microwave.
- Use PVC-free plastic wrap or a reusable option like beeswax wraps.
- Purchase phthalate-free and fragrance-free beauty products.
- Discard all worn or scratched plastic food containers, especially baby bottles, sippy cups and infant feeding plates and cups.

To download the fact sheet and read the full article



For the full article visit: <https://cehn.org/our-work/eco-healthy-child-care/>

Child Care Assistance Program

Do you need help paying for Child Care?

As of August 1st, 2022, the income eligibility guidelines for child care assistance have increased significantly in New York State.

Contact the child care unit of your local department of social services for more information:

Warren County: 518-761-6327
Washington County: 518-746-2300, EXT 3426
Hamilton County: 518-648-6131
Saratoga County: 518-714-4004

NOW more families can qualify!

Prior to August 1st, 2022:
The income eligibility amount for a family of 4:

\$51,500.00

Parent Share= 200% of federal Poverty level

As of August 1st, 2022:
The income eligibility amount for a family of 4:

\$83,250.00

Parent Share= 300% of federal Poverty level

If you have previously applied and were not approved, you could qualify today!

Child and Adult Food Program

Linda Scimeca
scimecal@saccn.org

Welcome Spring

Soon flowers will be blooming and butterflies will be out! Here are some cute butterfly snack ideas that are CACFP creditable!! There are many great children's books about butterflies that would be fun to read before serving these snacks. My, O My, a Butterfly by Tish Rabe (The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library) or Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar are a couple.



Clothes Pin Butterfly

- Have the children draw a butterfly face on a spring type clothes pin
- Use a zip lock baggie and fill with grapes, or berries, or nuts
- Twist the baggie once or twice in the center and clip on the clothes pin



Caterpillars before Butterflies

- Line up grapes on a plate
- Use 2 mini chocolate chips for the eyes
- Attach eyes with cream cheese



Butterfly Pretzel Snack

- Wash and cut celery stalks
- Fill the crescent side with peanut butter
- Line up raisins on the peanut butter
- Stick a small pretzel into the peanut butter on each side for the wings

You can find these and other snack ideas at:

<https://www.superhealthykids.com/top-12-adorable-butterfly-food-ideas-kids/>



Cookie cutters can be used for so much more than cookies! Use small ones to make cute cheese cutouts or larger ones for sandwich cutouts. You can also use metal ones in the skillet when pouring pancake batter to make different shapes of pancakes!

Introducing the Epilepsy Foundation of North Eastern New York



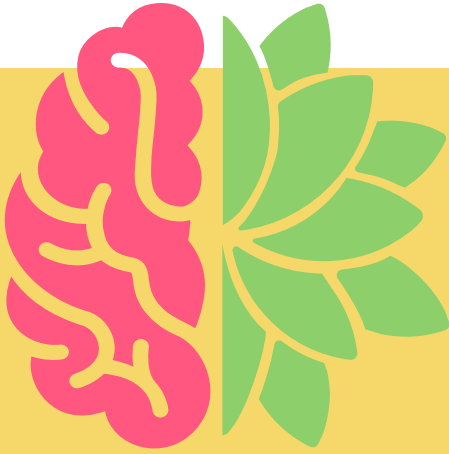
Support Groups Individual Counseling Service Coordination/Advocacy
Information & Referral Staff Education Student Education Family Education

EFNENY provides services to people with epilepsy and their families completely free of charge! 1 in 26 people will be diagnosed with epilepsy in their lifetime and 1 out of every 10 people will suffer from a seizure in their life. Can you and your staff handle a seizure?

Not all seizures include convulsions, so they may not be as noticeable to those who have not been educated about the condition. There are many different types of seizures, some of which are more likely to be noticed in a school or childcare setting than at home. Since most of a child's day is spent apart from their parents, it is essential that the staff and adults around them are aware of what they need to look out for when it comes to seizures. Early recognition and treatment are keys to the best possible outcome.

For more info contact: Rachel Yattaw, Health Educator & Advocacy Coordinator
P: (518) 456-7501 x107 F: (518) 452-1282

Upcoming Trainings



Call us at 518-798-7972 to RSVP to any of these events.

April

- 04.17.23 Back to Basics Part 2 6:00-8:00
- 04.19.23 Keep Your Cool 6:00- 8:00
- 04.20.23 Director's Lunch and Learn 12:30-2:30
- 04.27.23 FDC Health Care Concerns 6:00-8:00

May

- 05.15.23 Back to Basics Part 3 6:00-8:00
- 05.18.23 Director's Lunch and Learn 12:30-2:30
- 05.24.23 Mandated Reporter Training 6:00-8:00

June

- 06.01.23 Contracts and Policies Take 2 6:00-8:00
- 06.15.23 Director's Lunch and Learn 12:30-2:30
- 06.28.23 Supervision 6:00-8:00

Locations for the upcoming sessions are still being planned. Please look for updated information regarding each workshop. Information will be sent via email and snail mail.



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