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Cooperative Extension
ULSTER COUNTY

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Helping Children Grow In a Healthy Home

Did you know that the physical environment of the home contributes to healthy development in young children? On Monday, May 5, 2003, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., parents, grandparents childcare providers, parent educators and home visitors can find out more when Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and the Rondout Valley Early Childhood Workgroup host, *A Healthy Home Helps Children Grow*, a workshop on creating the optimal physical environment for children. It will be held at the Little Ones' Library, located at the Rochester Reformed Church, 5142 Rt. 209, Accord. The cost is \$5 per person, pre-registration is required, and childcare for parents with small children is available. Dr. Lorraine Maxwell, Associate Professor, College of Human Ecology, Cornell University will lead participants in an interactive workshop concentrating on how aspects of a home's environment affect child development and behavior with special focus on children between the ages of 3-8. Topics will include: Major factors in the physical environment of the home related to child development such as noise density, privacy, arrangement of spaces, safety concerns, and indoor air quality; ways to modify the home environment to support healthy development; and addressing individual questions and concerns. Dr. Maxwell is an environmental psychologist and facilities planner with more than 16 years experience. She conducts a research program in children's environments including childcare settings, schools, the home, museums and playgrounds. Her

work includes typically developing children and those with special needs. Dr. Maxwell also provides training for childcare providers and others interested in the childcare field. For more information about the workshop please call Sue Matson, Extension Educator, 845-340-3990. To register please call Patricia J. Finch before April 30th, 845-340-3990 or go to www.cce.cornell.edu./ulster to download a registration form.

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