

PROGRAM UPDATE
July 5, 2005 – Sept. 6,2005

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PARENT EDUCATION:

Community Agencies Concerned with Parenting

The usual small summer attendance allowed in-depth small group discussion. Developed and tested a tool for thoughtful consideration of how we work with families who don't "fit the mold" of Thriving, Safe or At-Risk families. Began planning a conference/training session for those raising others' children (e.g. foster parents, professional parents, kinship caregivers) in which the format would use the expertise of the participants in informal roundtable discussions. October topic is serving families in rural areas.

Kinship Care proposal

Worked with Orange and Dutchess counties on a funding proposal for work with Relatives as Parents. Should know outcome by early Nov.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION:

Little Ones' Learning Center- Assisting with Truck Day plans, and other program and administrative "technical assistance" based on our experiences with LOL.

Rondout Valley Early Childhood Workgroup (RVECW)

Learning and Loving It- Completed plans and began marketing parent/caregiver and child workshop series for Sept./Oct. at the LOLC. Two 4-session series are for infants and toddlers and 3-5 year olds. Eight members of RVECW are facilitating with other members assisting. This is a first-ever opportunity for the Rondout Valley area. RVECW members work wonderfully well together and pool resources for enhanced value.

*Free Books -*Made attractive boxes from file boxes, sorted excess donated used books, and placed 5 boxes (avg 55 books per box) in Accord/Kerhonkson locations: Accord P.O., Ron's Auto Repair, Star Grocery, Terry's Deli and laundry in Kerhonkson. Within 2 weeks the P.O. box needed refilling. RVECW has no firm plans yet for the future of the boxes.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -- FAMILY:

Rondout Valley Education Foundation

Engaged in much discussion and hard thinking re definitions and concepts to reach consensus for incorporation papers. Are in early stages of Board recruitment.

Family Reading Partnership www.familyreading.org

Have increased contacts with potential partners to explore the possibility of beginning an initiative similar to the Tompkins Co. Family Reading Partnership, which recently won an award from Newsweek for making a difference.

Ulster County Farm Tour

During this excellent tour I made several contacts and have been following up, both providing information and clarifying ways to work together.