I needed a part-time job while I was in college, I liked making things, and thought I knew a few things about children, so I got a job in an afterschool program almost twenty years ago. I had a great time teaching the children how to craft with polymer clays, helping them design sets for the plays we wrote, and giving them opportunities to make messes that they probably couldn't make at home. I learned a lot about children and programs over the next ten years. I always enjoyed what I did, but didn't realize the real impact I had on children until I was ready to move on from that program.
On one of my last days as the director of the afterschool program, I had an older child approach me. He had a piece of paper in his hand with a bunch of numbers scribbled on it. On it, he had calculated all of the days in each school-year and summer (from kindergarten to fifth grade), multiplied it by how many hours were in the before- and afterschool program (and summer camp) each day, and proceeded to let me know how many hours we had spent together over that time. (I don't remember the number, but it was a lot.) He then proceeded to tell me that over the course of those several years I had spent more time with him than his dad, who he only saw on the weekends. It was at that very moment that I understood the true value of afterschool programs and the real impact afterschool professionals have on children.

Since then, I have made it my mission to not only prepare afterschool professionals to work effectively with children, but to really understand their value in children's lives.

Program Spotlight

Want to be featured on Facebook or our enews?

Fill out the personal/program form to tell us about the great things you or your program are doing.

Personal Spotlight | Program Spotlight

NY Kids Count Multimedia Data Book

The 2020 NY KIDS COUNT Multimedia Data Book was compiled during the COVID-19 pandemic when many New Yorkers were experiencing heightened feelings of isolation, anxiety, and stress.

This book and the accompanying interactive map are available so that New York children and families are better able to find and access help.

The Data Book includes information and resources, broken down by county and borough, that are not commonly grouped together because of differences in age or program eligibility. The Council’s intention
was to provide an easy and centralized compilation of mental health services for all children, regardless of age, to better equip children, youth, young adults, and families to navigate through this crisis.

NY KIDS COUNT Multimedia Data Book
Interactive Map (NY mental health resources)

New Resource Guide to Improve the Social and Emotional Wellness of Children

The COVID-19 pandemic has swiftly and substantially affected the social and emotional health of children, especially those experiencing multiple hardships and widespread disruptions in daily life. Young children are reacting to stress as their parent and caregiver routines change. Children may have strong feelings of fear, worry, sadness, and anger about the pandemic and related issues that affect behavior at home and in child care.

To address these issues, the Office of Child Care (OCC) has launched an initiative to further integrate social and emotional support strategies in child care's mixed-delivery system. Through this work, OCC will support expanding access to research-based social and emotional and trauma-responsive practices in child care across the country.

The first activity of this initiative is the publication of **A Resource Guide for Developing Integrated Strategies To Support the Social and Emotional Wellness of Children**, which highlights promising strategies and provides information about how some Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program grantees have already leveraged partnerships and funding to support implementation success.

The topics addressed in the resource guide are relevant to CCDF administrators in states, territories, and Tribes; those who work in infant-toddler specialist networks, quality initiatives, child care licensing agencies, and Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships; Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B–5) grantees; Tribal leaders; and other child care stakeholders. Relevant topics in the resource guide include:

- The benefits of integrating strategies to support social and emotional wellness
- Social and emotional wellness strategies for school-age children
- The landscape of states’ pyramid model implementation
- The landscape of IECMHC implementation
- Social and emotional wellness resources
- Federal technical assistance (TA)

This initiative will be implemented by staff working with CCDF program and PDG B–5 grantees in partnership with several of OCC’s TA Centers, including the National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center), National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment, Child Care State Capacity Building Center and its Infant and Toddler Specialist Network, and National Center on Tribal
Early Childhood Development. In addition, OCC is partnering with the National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations and the Center of Excellence for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation.

For more information or to inquire about TA efforts to support your social and emotional wellness initiative, contact the ECQA Center at QualityAssuranceCenter@ecetta.info.

To access the resource guide, click here.

---

**Gather No More: Addressing the Grief of African American Youth Absent of Collective Healing Spaces**

Collective intergenerational rituals are a long-standing and integral part of how black and brown communities come together to grieve and support each other through racialized trauma and adversity. These communities are experiencing disproportionate losses due to COVID-19, unprecedented gun violence, and ubiquitous state sanctioned violence. Consequently, kids growing up in these communities are experiencing social disconnections, lack of safety in public spaces, isolation from communities of support, and growing distrust of traditional therapeutic spaces, which are not equipped to handle racialized trauma and grief.

To address black and brown youth grief absent of collective healing rituals, NY KIDS COUNT recently sponsored two virtual sessions called "Gather No More."

**Click to listen to the previously recorded sessions: March 3rd and March 10**

---

**OMH Vaccination Sites for Eligible Child Care Providers**

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is working in partnership with the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) to facilitate broader access to vaccination sites. OMH has established a number of vaccination sites that are now being made available to eligible groups licensed, certified, and operated by OCFS.
Effective immediately, eligible individuals 18 years and older can directly schedule appointments for a vaccine at OMH vaccination sites by using its on-line scheduling system called “O-Agency Link-Outreach-Vaccinate (OLOV)” to make individual appointments.

Eligibility currently extends to:

- Owners, Operators, and staff of OCFS licensed and registered child care programs.
- Providers and staff of New York City based child care programs permitted under article 43 and article 47 of the city health code.
- Providers and staff of Legally Exempt Group Child Care programs

For more information, click here.

Interested in advancing in the school-age field? Need the qualifications to become a Site Director?

EARN YOUR SCHOOL-AGE CREDENTIAL TODAY

Network for Youth Success Events

Apr. 23-24: School’s Out, Make it Count! (VIRTUAL)

The Network’s annual conference will be held April 23-24. We invite all frontline staff, supervisors, and executive directors to take advantage of this great opportunity, all from the comfort of your home.

- Participate in 10.5 hours of training over 2 days.
- Enjoy training on pertinent topics, including ACEs, diversity, STEAM, advocacy, social emotional learning, and more!
- Complete OCFS-approved training hours.
- Recognize and celebrate leaders in the field with our annual awards.

View the agenda.

Register now.
May 12, 19, and 26: Training of Upcoming Trainers

Thinking about earning your Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential? This spring, we're offering a training workshop that is your opportunity to stop considering and start achieving.

The NYSAEYC Training and Technical Assistance Professional Credential (PD Specialist) formally recognizes the value and specialized knowledge necessary to provide professional development in New York State. This credential is perfect for individuals providing non-credit bearing in-person group professional development (such as the New York State School-Age Care Credential or Click2Science Trainings) on general early childhood and/or school-age content.

In this workshop, we will help you navigate the process of becoming a T-TAP PD Specialist. Over the course of three days, you will learn how to:

- Fill out your intent to apply form,
- Link your training to the NAEYC and NAA trainer competencies, and
- Design a training with adult learning theory in mind.

**Time:** 9:00am-12:00pm (Participants should attend all three sessions.)

**Cost:** $175 - Current Host Agencies and NYSNYS Click2Science Co-hort

- $300 - All others

Current Qualifications to Apply for Your T-TAP

More Information on the T-TAP

Have questions? Contact Erin@NetworkForYouthSuccess.Org

September: Fall 2021 SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL), Part 1

The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State.

We are now enrolling for Fall 2021.

Other Events

**Recording: Summer Bootcamp: Get Ready for Summer Series**

The Summer Bootcamp Series provides program leaders with the tools they need at this moment to keep kids healthy, learning, earning, and thriving through this pandemic and beyond. In this series, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) dives into strategies to accelerate learning, build critical partnerships, and plan successful programs with evidence-based practices relevant to any scenario of summer plans emerging this season. To view the recordings and materials, click here.
March 25: Lessons from the Pandemic: Re-engaging Students Who Have Left School during COVID-19 (webinar; 3:00 – 4:30 PM EST)

Over the past year it has become increasingly evident that COVID-19 has caused huge changes in learning and family life. Increased mobility and family economic hardship - along with drastic changes to learning environments - has caused more youth than usual to leave school before graduating. Join America’s Promise and National League of Cities on March 25 from 3:00-4:30 PM ET in a conversation with young people and community leaders from around the country exploring promising strategies for re-engaging students who have left school without graduating due to the challenges presented by the pandemic. To register for the webinar, click here.

Mar. 30: Creating Change—Leveraging DoS Toward Continuous Growth (webinar; registration deadline Mar. 26)

Join this webinar from PEAR to learn how to use the freely available DoS planning tool and related data collection tools to grow and strengthen programming. The webinar will address how to sustainably leverage data and planning resources to continue strengthening STEM and SED in your program. To register for the webinar, click here.

Apr. 28 - 30: Reimagine the Future of Afterschool: Building Back Better with Youth and Communities (virtual national institute; 12:00 – 5:00 PM EST)

This past year marked the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, a reckoning with systemic racism, and the toll of climate change. Through it all, afterschool systems rose to address every challenge. At the 2021 Every Hour Counts National Institute, participants will gather virtually to reimagine the future of afterschool and what’s possible to engage, empower, and support young people. Participants will explore how to develop community-wide solutions with young people and all leaders from across communities. To register, click here. Early bird pricing is available before March 31st.

Quick Ways To Support the Network

Support us through Amazon Smile.
Make a donation.
Become a member.
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Please visit our website at networkforyouthsuccess.org.
Donate to our cause at networkforyouthsuccess.org/donate.

Remove my name from all future mass email communications:

Address postal inquiries to:
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

--
Alli Lидie (she/her/hers)
Associate Executive Director, New York State Network for Youth Success
415 River Street, 2nd Floor • Troy, NY 12180
518.694.0660

The Network for Youth Success is committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion. For resources, please visit our website.

Empower Youth Success

Website  Twitter  Facebook  Covid-19  Email