

# New York Zero-to-Three Network

## Infancy Leadership Circles: Building Cross System Partnerships

### SUPPORTING ECO-HEALTHY CHILD CARE AND HOMES

The Infancy Leadership Circle/Niagara invites you to join us in promoting the healthy development of young children in your care. Please share the important Eco-Healthy information below with families you know.

#### Did you know that...

- Harmful toxic chemicals are commonly found in the air, in our water, on our land, in our homes and in child care.

Bleach, products with fragrances, pesticides, certain plastics and vinyl products and household cleaners have been found to contain toxic chemicals.

- These dangerous chemicals affect our health and have never been fully tested.

Of the 84,000 chemicals reported in use in America, 64,000 have never been tested. As of 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency has tested only 250 of these chemicals and banned 5 from being used in the United States.

- Illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis, learning disabilities and cancers are a result of exposure to many of these chemicals.

Families in the Great Lakes region have been identified as having the highest incidences of chronic illnesses and cancers that result directly from toxins in the water, in the air and in our food. Tuna is known to contain unsafe levels of mercury; which causes permanent learning disabilities in children. One in eight children in the US has been diagnosed with asthma. Medical treatment for childhood diseases associated with chemical exposure total **\$55 billion** every year.

- There are healthy alternatives to many harmful household chemical and choices of products that we can use to avoid exposure to these chemicals.

The use of a vinegar and water solution in our homes and in child care, as a disinfectant, is a healthy alternative to bleach. This same solution is helpful in removing pesticides from fruits and vegetables we buy at the supermarket. When purchasing disinfectants, please be sure the product is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and has an EPA registration number on the label.

**For more information on Eco-Healthy child care practices please call the Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.'s Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara at 285-8572.**