



April 2016

Parent Engagement Communicator

Dear Parents,

It has been proven that positive, effective parent-child relationships develop as a result of parents spending quality time with their children. We hope you will have the opportunity to utilize the children's time off from school to go on some family trips and adventures, which will stimulate their minds and increase their interest in culture and learning. Reading to your child is another great way to spend quality time together and at the same time, build your child with a foundation for academic excellence. Attached you will find **"10 reasons why you should read to your kids"**. As a parent, reading to your child is one of the most important things you can do.

April is **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Research has identified factors known to prevent and reduce child abuse and neglect including knowledge about parenting and child development, social and emotional competence of children, nurturing and attachment. At YvY we recognize the importance of protecting children 12 months a year. Make a commitment together with your spouse to stay focused on your children. Have 'family time' to help bring your family closer together. **"You Have a Lifetime to Work, But Children are Only Young Once"** will give you great ideas on the importance of 'family time' and how to make the most of it. If you have concerns or need additional support and would like to speak with the mental health consultant, please call the family worker at your site and she will help arrange it for you.

Spring break is another perfect opportunity for 'family time' by utilizing your **Cool Culture Card**. Please let your family worker know where you have used it, and share your experience and photos with us. This will help us to be able to offer this valuable card to you in the future.

Spring cleaning is sure to keep you busy at this time of year. Many cleaning supplies have chemicals and can be toxic. Always keep cleaning supplies out of children's reach. Attached you will find a handout **"8 Ways to Replace Toxic Cleaning Supplies in the Home"**. These ideas are safe even when young children are around.

With Pesach approaching, making ends meet can be challenging. Feel free to call your local community council for more information on where and how to obtain food packages for Pesach. Please read the attached handout on **"How to Reduce Credit Card Debt – 6 steps"**. You will find some very practical and helpful information which can help you and your family. Attached you will also find information on how to claim your **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. The deadline to file taxes is **April 15**. Don't wait for the last minute. You may also be eligible for some money saving programs through **EmPower New York**. *See attached handout for additional information.*

We look forward to your participation in all our Parent Engagement opportunities.

Sincerely yours,

Libby Chein

Libby Chein; *Parent, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator*