

# Parenting Connection

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## Don't Miss These Parenting Workshops

The Regional III & IV CEA Conference to be held in Wisconsin Dells on May 11-12, 2006 will **tentatively** include four workshops relating to parenting programs that are described below. If you are interested in attending these workshops and the conference, a registration form is in the *CEAW News Review* newsletter or on the [www.ceawisconsin.org](http://www.ceawisconsin.org) website.

### Community Partnerships: Imagine your Community as a Partner in Meeting Inmates' Needs

Presenters: Donna Mahr and Sarah Quinn, Community Connections, Oregon, Wisconsin

Retiring Baby Boomers, schools, students, career entrants, service clubs, and religious organizations are in every community. Open your eyes to new partnership possibilities for securing resources and volunteers. Community Corrections is an all-volunteer organization working in partnership with Oakhill Correctional Institution to provide twelve family support literacy programs using a cadre of

forty volunteers. Volunteer Coordinators Donna and Sara share the ever-growing partnership story.

### Parenting Education for Men: Formal and Informal Programs Provided by Volunteers

Presenters: Sarah Quinn and Donna Mahr, Community Connections, Oregon, Wisconsin

Research indicates that maintenance of family connections is related to offender success upon re-entry, and at least 44% of incarcerated men have minor children. Community Connections' volunteers work in partnership with Oakhill Correctional institution to provide male inmates with parenting education, individual growth, and family support. Learn about using a variety of techniques and methods to enhance and sustain parenting relationships from prison.

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## Notes From The Chair

Hello Everyone,

Winter is almost over! Of course it helps that I spent two weeks in February on vacation in the Southern part of the U.S.

I'd like to remind everyone the Region III & IV CEA conference will be held May 10-12 at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. Our Special Interest Group for Parenting will host a roundtable discussion on Friday afternoon from 2:00 – 3:00. If at all possible, please plan to attend. Each institution should be prepared to summarize (5-10 minutes) their parenting related programs. We would also like to have a new co-chair to introduce at that time. If you have any topics you would like discussed at the roundtable, please let me know.

I'll see you in May!

Diane

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## Strengthening Family Bonds with Family Literacy and Aunt Mary's Storybook Project

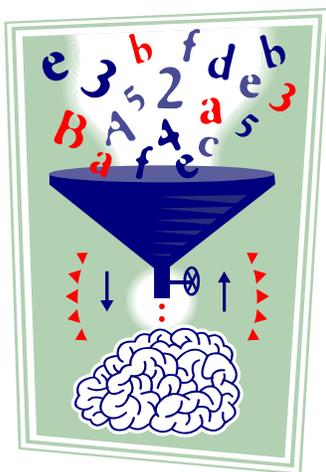
Presenters: Tracie Green and Annette Thompson, Mansfield Correctional Institution, Mansfield, Ohio

This workshop will show how to start and successfully run a Family Literacy Program and an Aunt Mary's Storybook Project. We will discuss: how they build or help maintain family bonds, how they compliment the re-entry initiative, and where to obtain support, funding, and supplies. We will also go over some of the issues that may arise and how to address or solve them.

## Brain Development

Presenter: Debra Schmid, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Madison, Wisconsin

The neuroscience of brain research has provided a strong correlation between social and economic factors and biological impact on the developing brain. This workshop will summarize the behavioral and cognitive outcomes of these alterations in the development of the brain. Practical parenting techniques to promote healthy brain development in children will be discussed.



## New National Parenting Education Network

Donna Mahr, a volunteer working at the Oakhill Correctional Institution, forwarded this information on a new National Parenting Education Network website which has been recently created.

Alis Sefick, Assistant Coordinator with the Prevention Partners for Youth Development Coalition in Onondaga County, New York and Chair of the National Parenting Education Network Services Committee has issued the following announcement:

On behalf of the NPEN Governing Council and the Program Services Committee, it is with great pleasure and honor for me to announce the new National Parenting Education Network (NPEN) website! [www.npen.org](http://www.npen.org)

NPEN is thrilled to present to the educators, professionals and advocates of parenting education this exciting updated and user-friendly internet-based resource.

There are many new additions to the site-

NPEN is particularly pleased and excited to offer the field an entire new section "Evaluating Our Work" (listed under "Our Work"). This new section includes:

- ❖ "A Brief Introduction to Evaluation"
- ❖ "Parenting Education Core Curriculum Framework and Indicators": These are DRAFT Procedures for Planning Using the Parent Education Core Curriculum Framework and are designed to be used in curriculum planning and development of lesson plans. We invite your review, use, and feedback regarding this information. Please respond to the questions in this section and send your responses to contacts listed (within the section).
- ❖ "The Five-Tiered Approach to Evaluating Family Programs"
- ❖ "References and Resources for Evaluating Family Programs"



Exciting, exciting!!

ALSO! Check out these other updates and additions:

- ❖ New NPEN Committees listed under "About NPEN" "Coordinating Committees"!!
- ❖ A very user-friendly resource on "Degrees and Certifications"!!
- ❖ Newly listed research to help us advance the field of parenting education under "Papers and Articles"
- ❖ A new area "How to Join"!! That leads you though the incredibly easy process of membership!

We encourage all list-serve members to become members and assist NPEN in our work in advancing the field of parenting education for the reasonable and low fee of \$25 per year!! These membership resources help us provide resources back to you like this new NPEN website which, in turn, are essential to advancing our field and our working in helping to build strong, positive child, parent, family and community development!

We hope that you can take a moment to check out the new site! [www.npen.org](http://www.npen.org)

And we hope you enjoy! For more information, contact:

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## 15 Ways to Be a Better Parent

1. Be a good example. Your children will be influenced by how you spend your time, how you express your emotions, etc.
2. Respect your child as a person. Be cautious to feelings and privacy of each child as an individual--not comparing him/her to other children or adults.
3. Keep a sense of humor.
4. Take time for yourself. Remember to take care of yourself first.
5. Plan for the future. Include everyone in the family when making plans--giving everyone's ideas a chance to be included.
6. Have reasonable expectations for your child. Let him/her know you always love them no matter what they do or say.
7. Help your child think for herself. "Because I said so" establishes parental authority, but doesn't give the child the ability to learn or think for him/herself.
8. Remember what's important.
9. Lean on your friends and family.
10. Forgive your parenting mistakes.
11. Spend individual time with your child. Plan on a movie evening or Saturday morning to the museum.
12. Talk to our child. Be specific on your expectations and outcomes.
13. Read and sing to your child often. The first five years are key.
14. Help your child foster relationships with others.
15. Find the child in yourself.



# Family Involvement Storybook Corner

Harvard Family Research Project invites you to browse a new section of their website and learn how to use children's storybooks to promote family involvement in education!

Launched in partnership with Reading Is Fundamental, the Family Involvement Storybook Corner is a unique source for information on using children's storybooks with family involvement themes to engage families in their children's education and encourage family-school-community partnerships, all while supporting literacy. Family involvement storybooks can be used to promote the awareness, discussion, and practice of family involvement in a wide-range of settings -- including family literacy programs, family support and parenting programs, out-of-school time programs, and ESL programs.

Come to the Storybook Corner to download an annotated bibliography of storybooks with family involvement themes for ages 4-8 or to get ideas on how to use family involvement storybooks in the classroom. You can also download a teacher lesson plan and parent handout for using a multicultural storybook to promote involvement, and you can discover what happened when one teacher used this lesson plan in her third grade classroom. When you visit the Storybook Corner, you can even find a teacher training tool for using a multicultural storybook to promote family involvement.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/resources/storybook/index.html>

Future Storybook Corner resources will focus on Latino family involvement. These will include an annotated bibliography of storybooks on family involvement among Latino families, tools for reaching out to Latino families, and information on our own research-inspired family involvement storybook -- "Tomasito's Mother Comes to School," a story about building home-school connections for an immigrant Latino family.

To learn when these new resources are available, we invite you to join the Family Involvement Network of Educators (FINE). When you join, you will receive monthly email updates about current ideas in family involvement. Membership is free, and as a member, you become part of a network of over 5,000 people who are interested in promoting strong partnerships among children's educators, their families, and their communities. You can learn more about FINE at:

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/joinfine.html>

Information provided by:  
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