



Supporting Families Online Digest

January 2018 Issue 64

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CONNECT with other early childhood professionals on this SFTA blog. Click above to share your stories, ideas, & have your voice heard!

Family Policy & Advocacy

Three Principles to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families

[These principles](#) from the Harvard University Center on the Developing Child can be used to guide policy alternatives, design new approaches, and shift existing practice in ways that will best support building healthy brains and bodies.

2017 Policy and Advocacy Achievements for Babies

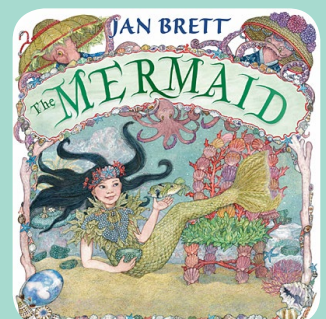
[This 2017 recap](#) from Zero to Three addresses major policy and advocacy achievements for children and their families in 2017, setting the stage for effective advocacy and change in 2018.

Public Perceptions of Baby Brain Development: A National Survey of Voters

[A national survey](#) of voters by Zero to Three and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation show trends in awareness of and attitudes toward emotional development in young children and infants, underscoring what is needed to generate future advocacy and policy changes.

The Mermaid

This newest book from author and illustrator [Jan Brett](#), is a deep sea take on the classic story of Goldilocks and the three bears. A mermaid explores the home of the Octopus family through a pattern familiar to the classic story, with a slight twist at the end. The intricate illustrations and repetitious telling of the story as the mermaid moves from room to room are great for both younger and older toddlers. Talk about some of the creatures you see in the book with younger children, and explore the [multitude of activities and coloring pages on the Jan Brett site](#) for older children. [Get the book.](#)



Resources for Practice

Tips for Parents: Managing Big Stressors With Little Ones in the House

[These tips from Zero to Three](#) offer parents and primary caregivers ideas for how to take care of themselves so they can better care for the children in their lives.

NextGen Technology: Insights and Recommendations to Support the Parents of Children Ages 0–3

[This report](#) from The Early Learning Lab focuses on potential positive uses for technology to engage caregivers of young children, and is accompanied by this [interactive map](#) of tools and platforms that parents can use to support their parenting, centered around the Protective Factors Framework.

Engage Families with Farm to ECE

[This resource](#) from Community Groundworks guides early education programs in how to engage families with farm to ECE practices, in care and at home. Includes a family resource toolbox!

Essentials for Parenting Toddlers and Preschoolers

[This collection of resources](#) from the CDC offers parents ideas, tips and information on how to build a safe, stable, nurturing relationship with their children from an early age.

2018 Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Toolkit and Resource Guide

The [2018 toolkit and resource guide](#) to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect prevention is now available from The Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.

Resources for Practice

Tips for Talking with Parents about Developmental Concerns

[This brief tip sheet](#) from the CDC offers ideas for how family support and early education professionals can address developmental concerns with children's parents and caregivers, in an effective, positive way.

School Success Starts at Home

[This video from Child Trends](#) looks at research showing how a strong early learning environment may offset the stressors of poverty when kids start school, allowing them to succeed.

Imagination Library in Dane County

United Way of Dane County is bringing the Imagination Library Initiative to Dane County, increasing access to books, by building up families' libraries at home. All participating children must reside in Dane County and will receive a free age-appropriate book through the mail each month, from birth through age five. Participation is free. [Learn more and register.](#)

Our January Pic Pick



A group of SFTA staff members have been working over the past several months to set up a Little Free Pantry on our office property, to provide community members with easily accessible basic needs items including food, toiletries and diapers. We are excited to upcycle, decorate and install the newspaper holder above and unveil our pantry in the next few months. Stay tuned, and meanwhile [learn more about the Little Free Pantry here.](#)

Send us your fun, cute, or memorable photos from your work with young children and their families!
Contact: kelly@supportingfamiliesogether.org

Professional Development Events

Wisconsin Women's Network Accelerated Policy Institute

What: The Wisconsin Women's Network is launching [this new Accelerated Policy Institute](#) in 2018, designed for women of all experience levels and aims to grow the confidence, skills, and knowledge to successfully engage in their local and statewide communities on policy issues that matter to WI women and girls.

When: March 3-4, 2018, 9 AM - 4 PM

Where: Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa St., Madison

Wisconsin Head Start Association (WHSA) 2018 Annual Conference

What: The [16th Annual WHSA Training Conference](#) with the theme, "Dream Big, Start Little" offers workshops, speakers and networking opportunities for Head Start, Early Head Start, Tribal Head Start and other ECE professionals. [Register online.](#)

When: January 29-31, 2018

Where: Kalahari Waterpark Resort & Convention Center, 1305 Kalahari Drive, Wisconsin Dells

Have a professional development event you would like added to next month's Online Digest?
Contact: kelly@supportingfamiliesogether.org

Early Childhood In the News

(*News stories are chosen based on their relevance to early childhood and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of SFTA.)

[Study Proves that Cuddling Babies Early \(and often\) has Huge Benefits](#)

[Milwaukee police chief to Congress: Invest in home visits for at-risk mothers and improve public safety](#)

[Parents Worry Congress Won't Fund The Children's Health Insurance Program](#)

[Can Kindness Be Taught?](#)

[Cognitive Learning Begins at Birth: Take Part in Infants and Toddlers' Brain Development](#)

[The Long Shadow of Childhood Trauma](#)

[Why Are Our Most Important Teachers Paid the Least?](#)

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