

Magic Moment Memo
December 2015

Did You Know?

New Jersey's Early Intervention System continues to work very closely with New Jersey's Department of Children & Families/Division of Child Protection & Permanency to ensure high quality early intervention services for infants/toddlers (ages 0-3 yr) with special needs and their families. My ongoing belief is that children involved with protective services and eligible for early intervention are New Jersey's most vulnerable infants & toddlers. We owe them every opportunity to live in a safe, stable environment, to grow and learn. Joining together, all New Jersey's child/family serving agencies must continue to focus on helping every child fulfill his or her potential.

The consequences for not providing our best are evident in the ACE's study. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study is one of the largest investigations ever conducted to assess associations between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well-being. The study is a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and Kaiser Permanente's Health Appraisal Clinic in San Diego.

The ACE Study findings suggest that certain experiences are major risk factors for leading causes of illness and death as well as poor quality of life in the United States. It is critical to understand how some of the worst health and social problems in our nation can arise as a consequence of adverse childhood experiences. Realizing these connections is likely to improve efforts towards prevention and recovery."

– The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

More information about the ACE's study can be found at:

- **TED Talks - Nadine Burke Harris, MD: How childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime – www.ted.com/searchQ=ACES+study**
- **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention - www.dcd.gov/injury/**

I also reflect on one of my favorite quotes - As Mister Rogers use to say from the World According to Mister Rogers – Important Things to Remember:

“When I was very young, most of my childhood heroes wore capes, flew through the air or picked up buildings with one arm. They were spectacular and got a lot of attention. But as I grew, my heroes changed so that now I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me”.

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