



## Cross Divisional

### [Spring Forward and Support the Brooklyn DCP Literacy Project!](#)

Brooklyn DCP is very excited to be part of a wonderful venture and collaboration with the NYC Brooklyn Public Library, which will provide our children and families with a continuum of support through workshops, book giveaways and educational services.

Launching on April 10th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, the Brooklyn Public Library's Colorful Kids Mobile Library will be at our Bedford-Stuyvesant location for our first DCP Literacy Community Outreach Event. On April 17th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm will be our formal partnership kick-off at the 1274 Bedford Avenue office. Staff from the library will be in attendance as we provide healthy snacks, books and pajamas for the children.

This effort is designed to expand our community outreach, and create a friendly and welcoming environment for our supervised family visits at 1274 Bedford Avenue. We want these meetings to be more purposeful and exciting for the children and their caregivers. The goals are to establish that reading is fun, educational, improves self-esteem, and academic performance. By stressing these benefits, we hope that our parents understand the importance of a nightly ritual of story time as quality family bonding time!

### [Free Legal Help to Families – Spread the Word or Volunteer](#)

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs will host a legal screening event in collaboration with several NYC legal service providers, community-based organizations and other immigration rights organizations. Attendees will be given clear information about the status of executive action and be individually screened to learn if they may qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) or another type of immigration relief. City agencies will also be available to provide information on how to obtain documents in preparation for their application once the programs become available.

**When:** Sunday, April 12, 2015, 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Temple Emanu-El, 1 East 65th Street (between 5th Ave & Madison Ave), New York, NY 10065

#### Registration

Individuals who wish to register for the April 12 event should call Catholic Charities at (212) 419-3700 to make an appointment. Over-the-phone interpretation is available in over 200 languages.

#### Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to help with **legal screenings, interpretation, and event support**. **Bilingual** volunteers and those who can commit to a full day of service (9 am – 6 pm) are especially welcome to assist. **Register here:** <http://www.surveymogizmo.com/s3/2047651/MOIA-Volunteers> [Visit MOIA for upcoming events](#)

### [Crossover Youth Practice Model Training](#)

Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) training continues to be offered during April. We encourage you to ensure that your staff are able to participate in this essential training. The CYPM training will provide a better understanding of how to improve the well-being and outcomes of youth that are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Your agency coordinator should sign up Case Planners, Supervisors, Directors and Agency Trainers in STARS for these half-day trainings. If you have questions, please reach out to:

**Foster Care:** Patricia Bassy (212) 513-0343

**Preventive:** Babette Spain, (212) 341-0985 or Kellian Gould, (212) 227-3497

**Juvenile Justice:** Sara Hemmeter, (212) 442-6326

## Foster Care

### [New York State Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care](#)

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has enacted a new policy entitled *The New York State Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care*. The Bill makes explicit the rights of each child who is in foster care and supports OCFS's vision of improving the well-being of children and youth in foster care by promoting normative experiences. Additionally, the Bill is the result of a collaborative effort between youth in foster care and OCFS staff. It is necessary that each child is made aware of their rights. Therefore, each child and the adults charged with the child's care must read and sign the Bill of Rights. This policy became effective December 30, 2014.

OCFS recommends that caseworkers provide the Bill of Rights at the following times:

- For children ages 5 and older, within 30 days of placement or at the first casework contact after December 30, 2014, the Bill of Rights must be read and reviewed in age- and developmentally-appropriate language. Then, at the initial service plan review (SPR) or at the first SPR after December 30, 2014, the Bill of Rights must be reviewed and signed by the child/youth, caseworker, supervisor, parent/guardian, and if applicable, foster parents, pre-adoptive parents or relative caregivers. If the child is unable to sign the document, the individual who is acting on behalf of the child

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### [FAP Resource Fairs](#)

he ACS Family Assessment Program  
Children's Aid Society  
New York Foundling – KEYS and  
Catholic Guardian Society  
Invite you to attend:

#### **Staten Island**

April 22, 2015, 9:30am  
350 St. Marks Place  
Staten Island, NY 10301

[Download flyer](#)

#### **Manhattan Resource Fair**

April 28, 2015, 9:30am  
Manhattan Family Court  
60 Lafayette Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room  
New York, NY 10013

[Download the event flyer](#)

Please RSVP by April 20, 2015  
(212) 442-2924 or email [Barbara.Hill@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:Barbara.Hill@acs.nyc.gov)

### [ACS Parent Support & Recruitment](#)

**Thursday, April 30, 2015**

5:30pm – 7:00pm

Langston Hughes Library – Community Cultural Center

100-01 Northern Boulevard (bet. 100th & 101st Street)

Corona, NY 11368

[Download Invitation](#)

&

**Thursday, May 28, 2015**

5:30pm – 7:00pm

ACS, 150 William Street – 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

[Download Invitation](#)

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(parent/guardian and/or foster parent) may sign in place of the child in question.

- For children ages 5 and younger, the Bill of Rights must be read, reviewed and signed at the initial SPR or first SPR after December 30, 2014. Once the document is reviewed, the signatures of the child, caseworker, supervisor, parents/guardians, and if applicable, foster parents, pre-adoptive parents or relative caregivers should be obtained. If the child is unable to sign, the individual who is acting on behalf of the child (parent/guardian and/or foster parent) may sign in place of the child in question.

The case planner must give a copy of the signed document to each person who signed, and keep the original document in the case file.

The ten rights set forth in the child's Bill of Rights are as follows:

- To live in a safe, nurturing and healthy environment.
- To be treated with respect and care, free of discrimination.
- To visit birth or adoptive parents unless the court determines it is not in a child's best interest.
- To live with their siblings unless the court or agency has determined it is not in a child or sibling's best interest.
- To know the name and contact information for their caseworker, caseworker's supervisor and lawyer.
- To be free from cruel, harsh or unnecessary punishment.
- To have a voice in determining their permanency goal, including participating in Service Plan Review meetings and Permanency Hearings.
- To receive dental, medical, vision, mental and behavioral health services regularly and as needed.
- To receive free and appropriate education until a high school diploma or GED is received.
- To participate in activities that are appropriate for their age and development such as after-school activities, summer activities, employment opportunities, etc.

Please read the following documents with care and take the appropriate steps to implement this new policy.

[OCFS-2132 Bill of Rights for Children and Youth in Foster Care.](#)

[Bill of Rights](#)

### 5-Boro College Tour

The ACS 5-Boro College Tour gives students an in-depth outlook on college life in New York City. Participants learn about the application process, financial aid and living on a college campus, and services that are available to **youth who are in care**.

ACS has added more schools to the itinerary with the hopes that this year is even more successful. Please share the attached flyer with your program staff and more importantly, the youth and families you serve.

**When:** April 6 through April 10, 2015.

**Where:** Tours leave daily from ACS, 150 William Street.

Students and staff from participating agencies are invited to join ACS for a **Kick Off Breakfast on Monday April 6, 10 am at 150 William Street, 19th Floor**. [Visit the ACS website for details on the tour!](#) If you have any questions regarding the tour, please email the Office of Child and Youth Initiatives at [childandyouthinitiatives@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:childandyouthinitiatives@acs.nyc.gov) or call 212-341-3357.

[Download the event flyer](#)

[Download the 5-Boro College Tour Itinerary](#)

### Parent Support & Recruitment Forum

ACS is hosting parent recruitment forums on Thursday, April 28 and Thursday, May 28. If your agency would like to participate, register a table with Ronnel Walker-Jackson by email only: [ronnel.walker@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:ronnel.walker@acs.nyc.gov) **on or before Monday, April 27, 2015. Please indicate which month(s) you plan to attend.**

**Please confirm your attendance. Do not assume that tables are available.** Remember to bring agency materials, sign-in sheets, giveaways. Arrive in enough time to allow for set up. We insist no more than two staff per agency. ***Space is limited at the table.*** We look forward to seeing you. The forums will begin promptly at 5:30pm.

### Great Opportunity for Aspiring Dancers 6-10 Years Old

School of American Ballet (SAB) is holding neighborhood Community Auditions in each borough. SAB, the official training academy of the New York City Ballet, is looking for promising **6 to 10 year olds** from communities around the city to begin ballet training at their Lincoln Center headquarters in the fall. Whether they go on to become professional dancers or not, all children who enroll at SAB greatly benefit from the discipline, focus, and perseverance instilled by classical ballet training.

**On April 16, 18, 19, and 24, SAB will hold auditions in Chinatown, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, and Harlem.** No previous ballet training is required – SAB looks for well-coordinated children with an affinity for movement and music. There are a limited number of openings that SAB hopes to fill some of those openings with students from your own community. Register at [sab.org/auditions](http://sab.org/auditions). Preregistered applicants will receive priority check-in at the audition.

Learn more: [English flyer](#), [Spanish flyer](#).

### Teen Summer Writing Workshop

Do you know teens who love to write? Who want to be published? Who want to help other teens by telling their personal stories? Please encourage them to apply to the Youth Communication **36th Annual Summer Writing Workshop**.

**This year's workshop theme is on gender roles and expectations.** No prior journalism experience is required, but teens must commit to a rigorous six-week schedule (July 6 - August 13).

Teens will participate in group activities and write about what it means to be a modern young man or young woman, as well as other topics that are important to them. Participants get a MetroCard and \$5 in lunch money each day. Youth in foster care will also receive a \$600 stipend if they successfully complete the workshop. Workshop alumni have gone on to attend colleges from Hunter to Harvard. Participants' stories will be published in the award-winning **YCteen** and **Represent** magazines.

**The application deadline is May 22!** Please post and distribute the [flyer and application](#). [>>Youth may also apply online](#)

Questions? Call Holly St. Lifer at 212-279-0708 x 116 or email [Hstlifer@youthcomm.org](mailto:Hstlifer@youthcomm.org).

## Preventive Services

There are no Preventive Services announcements in this edition.

## Juvenile Justice

There are no Juvenile Justice announcements in this edition.

## Early Care and Education

### [Week of the Young Child™ 2015: Celebrating Our Youngest Learners!](#)

The Week of the Young Child™ (WOYC) is **April 12–18, 2015**. WOYC is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose of the Week of the Young Child™ is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The Week of the Young Child™ is a time to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

#### ***We Want to Hear from our EarlyLearn Family: WOYC Activities***

The ACS Division of Early Care and Education (ECE) encourages you to use The Week of the Young Child™ to promote the quality and comprehensive services that are offered through your program, raise public awareness about the importance of healthy child development, and the prevention of violence and child abuse.

We want to hear from you about the events your site or agency is implementing.

ECE can help to publicize your activities, for example, by having our Press Office attend the event. NAEYC offers additional information and suggested activities for WOYC <http://www.naeyc.org/woyc>.

Please email [taniesha.woods@acs.nyc.gov](mailto:taniesha.woods@acs.nyc.gov) with a description of the activities your site or agency is doing to celebrate and promote The Week of the Young Child™.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting NYC's youngest learners and their families.

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