



"Parents create people."

Marc C. Bornstein, Head of Child and Family Research at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

November 2021 ENews

Helping families spend generous amounts of time together...

Family & Home Network®

Affirmation • Information • Advocacy

Greetings, {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

All of us here at Family and Home Network hope you and your families are well and enjoying your time together.

This week (Friday, November 19), the House of Representatives voted to pass the Build Back Better Act, and the bill now heads to the Senate. The BBB Act includes a one-year extension of the Child Tax Credit, which is an inclusive family policy. It also includes massive spending for child care—which is *not* inclusive. Parents who use child care services will have that care subsidized with federal funds—while parents who provide care themselves (and those who would prefer to) will get no financial support. Senate debate on the BBB Act is expected to continue into January.

This issue of our ENews includes:

- Policy update: Child Tax Credit and other parts of the pending Build Back Better Act.
- Introducing our new 4-page brief: **The Power of Parents**.
- Resources for our times and for all times.
- Build with us: our online community—better than social media.

This fall, we said a grateful goodbye to our long-time volunteer and Board Chair, Joanne LaSpina. Joanne plans to stay in touch with us as she focuses on her family's caregiving needs and on her business, [My College Helper](#).

We also welcomed our new Board member Harriet Heath, who is a developmental psychologist and parent educator as well as a long-time friend and supporter of FAHN. And Karen Skelton stepped up to serve as Chair of the Board. See [bios of our Board members and staff](#) on our website. Are you interested in serving on our Board? Know someone who might be? For more information, please read [Becoming a Member of the Board of Family and Home Network](#).

We're making a change to the title of our online six-week workshops for parents who choose - or are considering the choice - to be an at-home parent as well as for those who were pushed or led home by circumstance. Launched in 2004 as *Transitioning Home*, the new name will be *Thriving at Home*. Joining a discussion group can be a great experience for parents newly at home and also for parents who've been home for years. Workshops are online, with once-a-week video meetings in [Family and Home Community](#).

Please support our work with a generous donation!
We opened an investment account recently, so we can now accept donations of stock.

I'd love to hear from you if you have questions or comments.

Catherine Myers
executive director
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Please help with your generous financial donation

An inclusive policy: Child Tax Credit



The Child Tax Credit has been - and continues to be - the focus of our policy advocacy. In March, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan, which included the one-year 2021 Child Tax Credit (2021 CTC).

The 2021 CTC includes: an increased per-child value (\$3600/year for children under age 6, \$3000/year for children ages 6-17); and it is refundable, which means that parents with little or no income are eligible. From July through December, monthly credits were issued, with the balance to be credited when a 2021 income tax return is filed.

The 2021 CTC is an inclusive policy that puts decision-making in the hands of parents (or other primary caregivers) -- and it reaches almost all families with children.

For more information, please see:

[About the 2021 CTC](#)

A one-year extension of the Child Tax Credit is included in the Build Back Better Act just passed by the House of Representatives and headed to the Senate for debate and vote. Please join us in urging Senators to support the Child Tax Credit.

We work with colleagues in other organizations to advocate for the Child Tax Credit, to understand the details of the legislation, and to help spread the news about it to families, especially to those who have not previously filed taxes and need to contact the IRS in order to receive the CTC.

Researchers estimating the costs and benefits of the Refundable Child Tax Credit say: ["the benefits created by a child allowance could be worth eight times the annual program cost."](#)

Among the pandemic's many lessons are those about vulnerability and the importance of well-being—for children and also for parents. Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff, Director of The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, says: "The ultimate answer is to reduce the stressors on families, so families can do what families are best capable of doing."

Please read more about the politics of family policies, including the tens of millions of dollars being spent to lobby for "universal publicly supported care infrastructure" -- care provided by paid, professional caregivers for all people, from birth to death. Don't let capitalists like Melinda Gates benefit from "a great market opportunity" by providing care services while mothers, fathers, and other family caregivers are ignored. And Speak Up with us so policymakers adopt principles of inclusion rather than funding only one kind of care - child care services. Care by parents and grandparents must be respected and equitably supported. Read more:

Family Policies for ALL

The Power of Parents

Since 1984, when Family and Home Network was founded, we've followed the research in human development. There is now a mountain of scientific evidence on what people need in order to develop into healthy human beings. Research findings in neuroscience, genetics and developmental science provide unequivocal evidence of the critical importance of nurturing and two-way intimate relationships between mothers, fathers, and children. In our new 4-page brief - *The Power of Parents* - we present an overview of the science and links for more information. Read it online or download if you'd like:

[The Power of Parents](#)



Nurturing is powerful and drastically undervalued. Nurturing heals, promotes empathy, and counters violence. In order to nurture their children, parents themselves must be nurtured. Parents need support (including unconditional financial support) as they decide how best to establish and maintain the conditions they and their children need. Children have irreducible needs for Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships (SSNRs): ["biological necessities for all children"](#) according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Harvard's Center on the Developing Child, directed by Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff, offers [principles to guide policymakers](#): "1) Support responsive relationships for children and adults; 2) Strengthen core skills for planning, adapting, and achieving goals; 3) Reduce sources of stress in the lives of children and families."

We'd love your help in sharing this new publication — we're offering it as a free download to those who subscribe to our ENews using this link:

[Free! Family and Home Network's Brief: The Power of Parents](#)

Resources for our Times and for All Times

Critical Race Theory is the latest hot-button issue used to stir up division and anger. See the [FAQ on Critical Race Theory](#) page offered by the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund for information and resources. And see our Resource page on [Anti-Racism and Countering Extreme Hate](#) for more resources.

"The term "critical race theory" has been co-opted by opponents as a catch-all and rallying cry to silence any discussions about systemic racism, ban the truthful teaching of American history, and reverse progress toward racial justice."

- NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund

Family and Home Network's Resource listings include a wide range of topics: **Pregnancy and Birth, Child Development, Parenting, Behavior, stress, breaking harmful patterns**, and more.

Explore our Resource listings

Join us in Family and Home Community

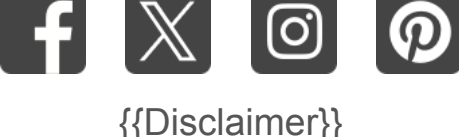


Our online Family and Home Community is a better way of connecting and offers members easy ways to communicate one-on-one or in interest groups of all kinds. We hope to see you there!

[Join us in Family and Home Community](#)

Please support our work by making a generous donation today!

Family and Home Network is registered as a charitable organization with the Commonwealth of Virginia, and a financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs: P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 233218.



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