



Liftoff WNY | E-News | June 2023

Liftoff's Summer Learning Series June 2023

Liftoff kicked off the first session of its 2023 Summer Learning Series on June 15th with, "Ensuring Bright Smiles: The State of Early Childhood Oral Health in WNY". The session was facilitated by Liftoff's Director, Rachel Bonsignore and featured a presentation from [The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy](#), [Briget Walsh](#). Ms. Walsh, a Senior Policy Analyst for Health and Public Health, presented on the recently released report, "[Improving the Oral Health of Young Children in New York: Recommendations from NYS Early Childhood Oral Health Summit](#)".

Dental disease in children has been called a "hidden epidemic." Hidden because dental disease is not always apparent until the pain becomes unendurable or manifests in an inability to eat, sleep, or concentrate in child care or school. It also is hidden by poverty. Dental disease before a child reaches age 5, sometimes referred to as "nursing bottle caries" and "baby bottle tooth decay," remains a significant public health problem. Nearly one in four children ages 2-5 has had a cavity, and the prevalence of decay for kids ages 2-8 is distinctly higher for children of color. A lack of access to providers, a lack of transportation, and higher rates of being uninsured are among the reasons for disparities.

If you enjoyed this session, be sure to sign up for the next Summer Learning Series event on **Wednesday, July 12th at 12:00pm**, "A Closer Look: An Exploration of Help Me Grow WNY's Data Dashboard". This next session will be keynoted by Emily Oaks, the Lead Data Strategist at CCNY, Inc. and its Early Childhood Department. Ms. Oaks has 14 years of experience working in the non-profit sector, providing direct service to clients as well as developing and implementing complex programs with community members and partners to achieve results. She has developed, implemented and maintained program evaluation, quality assurance, and staff evaluation metrics for non-profits in multiple sectors including health care, education, and social support networks.

Register for July's Summer Learning Series

Partners Reports & Events

Liftoff's partners have been doing some great work for children across the WNY region and in New York State. Please read below for some recent reports and upcoming events:

- [The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy](#) will be hosting a panel discussion on June 28th at 2:00pm via Zoom. This event, "[An Update on the NYS Child Poverty Reduction Act](#)", will feature members of the [NYS Child Poverty Reduction Advisory Council](#) discussing the work the Council has done so far as well as goals in the upcoming months. [Click here to register.](#)
- [Advocates for Children](#) released a new data analysis, "[Falling Short: NYC's Failure to Provide Mandated Services for Preschoolers with Disabilities](#)", which reported that, "...37% of all NYC preschoolers with disabilities—a total 9,800 children—went the entire 2021–22 school year without receiving at least one of the types of services the DOE was legally required to provide." [Click here](#) to learn more about the analysis.
- [The Tower Foundation](#) recently published their 2022 highlights and included a feature on Liftoff! The Tower Foundation serves as Liftoff's Steering Committee Chair, and we are very grateful for their support and leadership. To see Liftoff's spotlight, [Click Here](#) and see pages 11-13.



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