



Lift Off WNY | E-News | August 2024

Lift Off's Summer Learning Series: Uniting for Impact through Collaboration and Connection



After the success of 2023's Lift Off Summer Learning Series, we brought back the program for 2024. This year we showcased three early childhood alliances across New York State: [The Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance](#), [the Early Childhood Alliance of Onondaga](#) and the [Allegany County Early Childhood Development Coalition](#). Each session featured an engaging Q&A, offering participants a deeper dive into the impactful early childhood work being done in all regions of the state.

Please find the June and July sessions below:

[June Session](#)

[July Session](#)

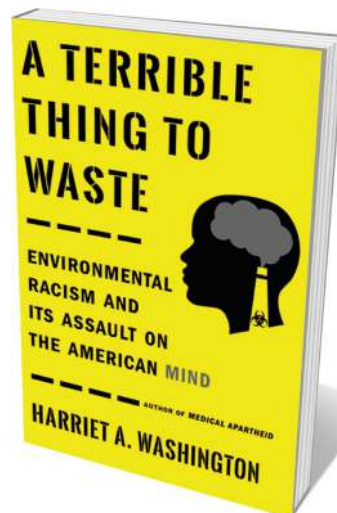
Aligned Action: Kids Can't Wait!



- **To create a brighter future for New York's young children, the Early Intervention Program needs major reform.** This program serves infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities. The Kids Can't Wait Campaign won a small increase in this year's state budget, but more change is needed. It's unreasonable to be working off a funding formula that was developed in the 1990s. Representatives in the Senate and Assembly unanimously passed the bill which will require the Department of Health to perform a comprehensive review of the Early Intervention program with recommendations for a **new funding model to make sure providers are there when children need them.** It is time to urge Governor Hochul [to sign the bill!](#)
- **Are you a parent looking to get involved in Early Intervention awareness work?** The Kids Can't Wait Coalition is holding a virtual Statewide Parent Advocacy Launch event on Thursday, September 19th 6:30-8:00pm. [Click to learn more and register.](#)

Take Action for Kids Can't Wait

Liftoff's Summer Reading



This summer, Liffoff's Director, Rachel Bonsignore was invited to join the [Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo's](#) board of directors and staff to read *A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and its Assault on the American Mind* by Harriet Washington. Rachel then joined the board at a recent meeting to offer perspectives on key elements in the book: prenatal policies to protect the developing brain, universal developmental screenings, and the disproportionate impacts of lead poisoning and neurotoxins on children of color. As Washington writes, "The very young brain is not just that of a miniature adult. Fetal and infant brains are exquisitely sensitive to environmental poisons, especially ill-timed ones. This means that dismissing a tiny exposure as 'harmless' because it is the equivalent of a drop of poison in 118 bathtubs full of water is naïve. Such a vanishingly small dose is indeed enough to trigger lifelong disability in a fetus or infant."

Lead prevention is critical for early childhood development, as lead exposure can cause serious, long-lasting harm to a child's health and learning outcomes. To learn more about the importance of lead prevention and access additional resources, please visit our Lead Safe Task Force partners:

Get Ahead of Lead

Liffoff WNY is Hiring!



We're excited to announce that Liffoff WNY is expanding our team! We're hiring an [Advocacy and Learning Coordinator](#). This key role will focus on growing Liffoff's Aligned Action Network by recruiting leaders and policy influencers to champion Liffoff's early childhood priorities and systems-change efforts. The Advocacy and Learning Coordinator will also manage Liffoff's 'Learning Network,' to boost awareness of early childhood

development throughout the WNY region. [NY Funders Alliance](#) is the fiscal sponsor of Liftoff WNY and the employer for the Advocacy and Learning Coordinator.

[Learn More](#)



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