



News from *Help Me Grow* National

National Center News

New Post from Dr. Dworkin's *Help Me Grow* Blog:

***Help Me Grow* Goes to the White House (Yes, THAT White House!)**

On August 27, Dr. Dworkin joined about 120 fellow invitees at the White House to attend a special forum entitled **50 Years Forward: Building Ladders of Opportunity**. With panels, discussions, and speakers, the forum focused on President Obama's vision for the future and his plans to build "Ladders of Opportunity" to the middle class. "Perhaps most notably," Dr. Dworkin writes, "the themes expressed by multiple speakers throughout the event were tremendously validating and encouraging of our own work with *Help Me Grow*." [Read the full blog post.](#)

***Help Me Grow* National would like to welcome Erin Kalla**

Erin joined the team in early September as an administrative assistant. She recently moved from Philadelphia, where she worked as a clinical research assistant at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Reach Erin at Ekalla@connecticutchildrens.org or [\(860\)837-6216](tel:(860)837-6216).

Dr. Dworkin Gives TEDx Talk on Reforming Child Health Services

HMG founder Paul Dworkin, M.D., recently gave a well-received, inspiring talk for the TEDxBushnellPark lecture series in Hartford, Conn. He traced the founding and evolution of HMG as a model for child health services not only diagnosing and treating diseases and disorders, but also promoting children's healthy development. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

HMG Alameda County Launches Father Corps to Strengthen Families

First 5 Alameda County, home of HMG Alameda County, and the Alameda County Public Health Department have launched a county-wide team of male service providers who will be trained over the coming year to strengthen families by fostering constructive engagement of fathers in the care and upbringing of their children. The kick-off event for the Fathers Corps was Friday, August 23,

from 12-3 p.m. [See the flyer](#) for this innovative program and watch a [recent news clip](#) on the kick-off.

Screening and speech and language delay disorders

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recently posted its draft Research Plan on screening for speech and language delay and disorders in children age 5 years or younger. The draft Research Plan is available for review and public comment from July 25 through August 21, 2013. [View the draft Research Plan and submit comments.](#)

New Resource for Research to Promote Clinical Preventative Services

The new [Clinical-Community Relations Evaluation Roadmap](#) is a resource for future research into and evaluation of the design and implementation of effective relationships between primary care practices and community organizations to promote increased availability of clinical preventive services. The roadmap was produced for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. It presents background and priority questions and recommendations.

Helping Home Visitors Build Protective Factors in West Virginia

Strengthening Families West Virginia developed a booklet, [Strengthening Families through In-Home Family Education](#), that explores the many ways that evidence-based early childhood home visitation (In-Home Family Education) programs can build protective factors and implement the Strengthening Families approach. The 20-page booklet provides an overview of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework and includes activities and approaches that home visitors can use to build protective factors with the families that they serve. The document also describes related statewide and national initiatives and training opportunities for home visitors who want to learn more about Strengthening Families.

Five Protective Factors – or Six?

Historically, there has been some confusion about whether there are five or six protective factors in the Strengthening Families Framework. CSSP's [official position](#) on the number of protective factors is now available. Please take a look, and feel free to share it with anyone who is curious or confused about the role of nurturing and attachment in the Protective Factors Framework.

Better for Babies: A Study of State Infant and Toddler Child Care Policies

[This paper from the Center for Law and Social Policy](#) presents data from a recent state survey of childcare subsidy, licensing, and quality enhancement policies. It provides a national picture of infant-toddler childcare, including information on both center and home-based childcare. Overall, the paper finds, states have displayed good intentions by creating and implementing policies that support infants and toddlers. However, the data gathered show that state policies for licensing,

subsidy, and quality enhancement are not yet meeting the needs of infants, toddlers, and their families.

[Zero to Three 2013 State Baby Facts](#)

The [2013 State Baby Fact sheets from Zero to Three](#), National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia provide information for early childhood professionals and policymakers about the status of infants, toddlers, and families in their state. The State Baby Facts present infant and toddler data in the framework of good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences.