New Guidance Document on Social Emotional Development

The Department of Health is pleased to announce the issuance of a new guidance document, *Meeting the Social-Emotional Development Needs of Infants and Toddlers: Guidance for Early Intervention and Other Early Childhood Professionals.*

This new guidance is geared towards early childhood health, development specialists, and early care and learning professionals to partner with families to promote and support healthy social emotional development in infants and toddlers. The Department encourages anyone who services infants and toddlers, including those in the State’s Early Intervention Program for young children with disabilities and their families, to use this document. Young children’s positive social emotional development, and their capacity to form strong, secure and positive relationships with caregivers is foundational to their overall healthy development.

This guidance is the culmination of a unique collaboration between two Governor-appointed advisory councils on early childhood, the Department’s Early Intervention Coordinating Council (EICC) and the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) under the auspices of the NYS Council on Children and Families. The EICC advises and assists the Department of Health as Lead Agency for the Early Intervention Program (EIP). The ECAC provides advice to the Governor and the Commissioners of the state health, education, and human service agencies on the development of a comprehensive system of supports and services for young children and their families.

The guidance document is available on the Department’s website here:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/memoranda.htm>.

Ordering information for printed versions is forthcoming.