

## Celebrating Breastfeeding Friendly Childcare

On September 14, 2011, REACH CNY and the CNY Breastfeeding Connection were pleased to honor Kelly Wright, RD, CDN and Early Head Start Program Planners. They received the NYS Department of Health Child and Adult Care Food Program Designation “Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Center” for the four PEACE, Inc. Early Head Start child care centers in Syracuse, which include Merrick, St. Brigid’s, Sumner, and UUMC. To be designated “Breastfeeding Friendly,” childcare centers must meet the following criteria:



- Provide an atmosphere that welcomes breastfeeding families
- Help mothers continue to breastfeed when they return to work or school
- Make breastfeeding resources available to parents
- Feed infants on demand and coordinate feeding times with parent’s schedule
- Train staff so they are able to support breastfeeding parents
- Have a written breastfeeding policy

(<http://www.health.state.ny.us/prevention/nutrition/cacfp/breastfeedingspon.htm>)

### Breastfeeding Friendly Daycare Centers in CNY:

- **Atonement Daycare Center**, Syracuse
- **Country North Children’s Center, Inc.**, Liverpool
- **Learn As You Grow**, all five locations in Camillus, Cicero, and Syracuse
- **PEACE, Inc. Early Head Start Centers**, four locations in Syracuse
- **Sonshine Childcare Center**, Community Covenant Church, Manlius

PEACE, Inc. Early Head Start sites worked with CNY Breastfeeding Connection members Anne Andrianos, RN, MS, IBCLC and Tami Hatch, RN, IBCLC to develop breastfeeding friendly policies and procedures, and to train childcare and other staff to support breastfeeding families. Signs on the entry door and throughout each facility remind EHS parents and staff that the sites are “Breastfeeding Friendly.” Mothers of infants in Early Head Start childcare are encouraged to nurse during the day, if schedule allows. For those who prefer to express milk, private lactation rooms are available, each decorated with positive images of breastfeeding families and stocked with a hospital-grade breastpump and a breastfeeding resource binder. Each mother receives her own pump kit and labels for expressed milk. For more information about how PEACE, Inc.’s Early Head Start programs became “Breastfeeding Friendly,” please contact Kelly Wright, [kwright@peace-cao.org](mailto:kwright@peace-cao.org).

*Is your business or workplace breastfeeding friendly? Please contact REACH CNY to learn how supporting breastfeeding families benefits businesses and communities, and for more information on how you can help build a breastfeeding-friendly CNY.*