

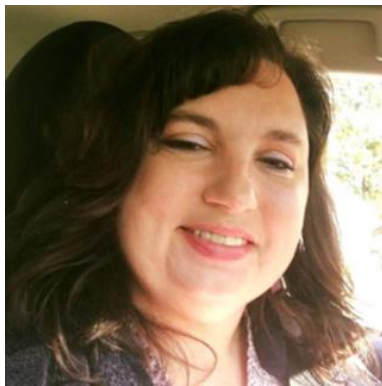


### **Practice Spotlight: Jackie Spencer Cornell Cooperative Extension Tioga County**

Julia Chapman & Kimberly Kopko

The 2Gen Initiative Practice Spotlight Series is intended to bring attention to parent educators and colleagues in the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) system who are incorporating a two-generational (2Gen) approach to their county's parent education programs. This Practice Spotlight features Jackie Spencer and her work on the Family Resource Center (FRC) program in CCE Tioga County.

#### **Educator Background**



#### **Jackie Spencer, Extension Subject Educator – Family Development**

Jackie has been an educator in CCE Tioga County for 18 years. In addition to her role as a subject educator, Jackie has been involved in a number of parenting education roles, including, since its inception, as a member of the New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP) where she has served in the Credentialing workgroup and Community Collaborations workgroup. She has played an instrumental role in the FRC program and works closely with other CCE educators in 4H, agriculture and horticulture, and nutrition

education, all of which provide 2Gen programming.

#### **Incorporating a 2Gen Approach**

Jackie is highly involved with the FRC program which offers a mix of adult focused education and facilitated caregiver-child experiences. The FRC hosts joint offerings with other CCE Tioga programs for families to engage in together. These programs include: container gardening workshops, nature walks, and garden themed story time led with master gardener volunteers, hands-on nutrition workshops such as Cooking Matters and Nutrition Exploration for parents and toddlers or preschoolers, and 4-H visits with youth about caring for animals and creating various types of crafts. Many of these adult and youth focused programs have not traditionally engaged adults and children together. FRC program staff help bridge this gap by helping other educators identify hands on activities that families can enjoy together with educator-shared content.

Jackie says of 2Gen education and its benefits:

*“When we engage families in experiential, fun learning experiences together with their children, they are more likely to grasp concepts of developmentally appropriate expectations and typical milestones in a way that allows them to incorporate what they learn into their day-to-day family life. When parent-child activities are offered in addition to adult group workshops, the parents/caregivers get the opportunity to reflect and practice new learning in a supportive environment and children get to experience fun, educational activities with the important people in their lives. It’s about flipping the narrative from parenting education as an intervention tool to ‘fix’ problems within families to parenting education as a preventive measure to support families in growing stronger together.”*

**Visit the *Parenting Project* website at:**

<https://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/engagement/parenting/home>

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