



### *Provider Spotlight Series*

**July 2018**

This month's edition of the Eco-Healthy Provider Spotlight Series features The Kingsley Association, *East Liberty Family Support* located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

*East Liberty Family Support* has been endorsed by Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) since October 2017. Director, Lynette Drawn-Williamson, has been working to provide child-care to families with children ages 0-5. *East Liberty Family Support* offers services to neighborhood residents in East Liberty, Larimer, and other East End communities. These services include: home based services, community support/involvement, parent and child activities, and referral programs.



*East Liberty Family Support* child care functions as a "drop in" child care for families attending programs held at the center or using their facilities, such as the swimming pool or computers. Currently, 220 families receive services and as many as 125 children may pass through the child care center each month.



Mrs. Drawn-Williamson has always recognized the importance of health and the link between the physical environment and children's ability to learn and play. She has taken a proactive approach to providing an eco-healthy environment for the children that come to the center and becoming EHCC endorsed was a natural fit. She uses safe and natural cleaning materials, such as vinegar and water, to wipe down tables daily. The center removed all soft vinyl toys and has replaced plastic toys with non-toxic alternatives that are easy to clean each day. This is particularly important because health concerns related to the plastic, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), are especially great in children due to their

increased exposure to the vinyl in toys. Vinyl chloride, which is the main ingredient in PVC, is a known carcinogen.



In addition, Mrs. Drawn-Williamson has a passion for ensuring that eco-healthy practices are adopted by participating families—leading to safer home environments and healthier children. With support from [Women for a Healthy Environment](#), *East Liberty Family Support* organizes workshops for families, educating them about eco-healthy practices. Some programs include making natural bath scrubs with sugar and learning safe and sustainable eating practices. The EHCC program has not only affected the way *East Liberty Family Support* operates to be healthier, but has inspired parents to bring these practices back home!

Mrs. Drawn-Williamson says, “The more information you have, the more you know. If you are not aware, then you are going to continue to do the same things so it is all about education and

sharing the information.” Her strides toward creating and promoting a safe and healthy environment using the EHCC program and its resources have gone beyond her facility. Currently, she has recommended the EHCC program and provided resources to the 26 other family support centers in the Pittsburgh area. She hopes to inspire more family-based centers in her area to strive toward the same goal of being eco-healthy.

To become an EHCC endorsed provider or to be considered for the EHCC Spotlight Series, visit: [www.cehn.org/ehcc](http://www.cehn.org/ehcc)

-To learn more about this child care facility, visit their website here: <http://kingsleyassociation.org/>

-To learn more about *Women for a Healthy Environment*, please visit: <http://www.womenforahealthyenvironment.org/>