



# CHILDREN . . . THE HEART OF THE MATTER

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## Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.

An affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children

SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steve Wilson



I've learned over the years of being in leadership positions the tone and direction of an organization begins with the attitudes, knowledge and passions of those making the decisions. This is also true in government. Our government officials need to have a clear picture of the issues facing our children in Nebraska and a reason to be passionate about their situations.

I believe these are the people who influence most the way children are viewed and cared for in our state. What happens with children in Nebraska is highly influenced through policy, accepted procedures and attitudes of those in charge. Therefore, it is very important for all government officials to understand the real life issues facing our children and how policy (or the lack of) affects the circumstances in which our children find themselves.

We have many organizations in Nebraska that work very hard to support our young people in the legislature and in the governor's office every day. They make a positive difference wherever they can and we are making progress in supporting our children through policy.

However, it is important for all of us to tell our stories and educate our government officials on the needs of our children so these people might be able to complete their picture of the policies that foster positive growth and development. Share your stories with the leaders in your communities, state and federal government about your experiences with children. These officials are eager to hear from people just like you but few take the time to let them hear of your challenges and successes.

*"No one has yet realized the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure."*

**Emma Goldman**

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Zinke



During this difficult economy, many organizations work as hard as they can to do more with less. I recently read an article by Jan Masaoka, in the Human Services Federation on-line newsletter about the consequences of this, with the suggestions to, instead, do **less** with less. This is a new concept for those of us who have spent years trying to stretch every dollar and every hour. But the consequences of trying to do more with less are often burned out staff and sub-par services. It's really important for organizations to truly identify their unique area(s) of expertise, and invest those limited hours and dollars in those areas. It may be time to consider searching for more resources for those unique areas, or to re-evaluate the allocation of resources.

This brings me to another phrase I heard Jessie Rasmussen use at a Building Bright Futures meeting last week: Excellence and Equity. No matter what services we are providing, these two words can be a motto for all of us. We are in the business of making a difference in the lives of children and families. In Nebraska, we do a pretty good job of working together, and we need to value each partner to make the services for children and families, not only the very best they can be, but also accessible to all. The NeAEYC recent planning retreat was a great opportunity for a wide variety of partners to join together toward that very goal.

*"Everyone and everything around you is your teacher."*

**Ken Keyes, Jr.**



## Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children Mission Statement

The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. is committed to supporting high quality care and education for young children in the state of Nebraska.

The mission of the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. is to:

- ♥ promote professional development activities
- ♥ advocate for issues relating to children and families
- ♥ serve as a resource for local affiliates and for other agencies involved in working with and for children and families
- ♥ disseminate information supportive of quality services, education, and care for children and their families
- ♥ provide networking opportunities for early childhood professionals and families throughout the state.

Strengthening and supporting Nebraska's early childhood community since 1976

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The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children newsletter is published four times yearly - Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. NeAEYC supports developmentally appropriate practices for the care and education of young children. It also promotes inclusiveness, cultural awareness, and gender equity through its publications and conferences.

Send articles, information, comments, suggestions, affiliate reports, and address changes to:

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### President

**Steve Wilson**, Hooper  
Logan View Public Schools Superintendent

#### President Elect

**Dawn Mollenkopf**, Kearney  
University of Nebraska at Kearney Professor

#### Secretary

**Pat Enevoldsen**, Lincoln  
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**Linda Sullivan**, Lincoln  
Family Service Association of Lincoln Finance Director

#### Public Policy Chair

**Sarah Ann Lewis**, Omaha  
Building Bright Futures Coordinator

### Members

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**Terrence Coleman**, Omaha, PayPal HR Coordinator

**Karen Decker**, Kearney, Sugar & Spice Center Director

**Don George**, Omaha  
First National Bank Child Development Center Director

**Jennifer Haggart**, Omaha  
Early Childhood Consortium of the Omaha Area

**Kim Madsen**, Chadron, Chadron State College Professor

**Amber McCants**, Lincoln, Family Child Care Provider

**Deb Ross**, Hastings  
Child & Family Development Corporation Director

**Sue Ellen Wall, JD**, Lincoln, Wall Law Office, Attorney

**José Zapata**, Loup City,  
Central Nebraska Community Services Exec Director

### Nebraska AEYC Office Staff

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(402) 476-5662 - [TGordon@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:TGordon@NebraskaAEYC.org)

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(402) 476-2092 - [phoff@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:phoff@NebraskaAEYC.org)

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(402) 476-5653 - [cjennett@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:cjennett@NebraskaAEYC.org)

Brandee Lengel, T.E.A.C.H. Coordinator  
(402) 476-5658 - [TEACH@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:TEACH@NebraskaAEYC.org)

1-877-656-2005

## We Welcome Your Donation

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children provides a variety of projects and services, all designed to strengthen and support Nebraska's early childhood community. We welcome your donation. If you wish to donate to a specific project, the following are some options: Accreditation Facilitation Project, Nature Explore™ Project, Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Bank Project, Student Memberships, or T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood@NEBRASKA.

All donations are 100% deductible. Donors will receive a documentation letter and be recognized in our newsletter. (unless otherwise requested)

A fillable Donor Form is available online at our website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org) or contact the NeAEYC office at (402) 476-2092 - email: [phoff44@hotmail.com](mailto:phoff44@hotmail.com) and we can mail you a form.

Thanks for your support!!!

*"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other."*

**George Eliot**

## Staff For Hire

Our highly qualified staff is available to hire for specialized training. Options include:

- Accreditation training (individual centers or groups)
- Training mandated by licensing
- Early childhood information (room arrangement, biting, discipline, etc.)
- West Ed Infant/Toddler
- Creative Curriculum Training
- CDA advising

For more information visit our website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org) - ABOUT US page and click on the "to hire" link.

## NAEYC Radio Link

One of the most popular new resources available to you is NAEYC Radio. The program enables you to listen to brief, insightful interviews with leading experts in early childhood development right on your computer at any time.

Available "on demand," NAEYC Radio provides a fast, easy and convenient way to stay on top of the latest developments and "next" practices in the field.

Visit our website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org) and click on the NAEYC Radio on the menu. This program is automatically updated monthly.

## Public Policy

**By Sarah Ann Lewis, NeAECY Public Policy Chair**

Last week, NeAECY hosted its annual retreat at Mahoney State Park. This was a thought provoking and professionally engaging and energizing meeting. The discussions at the retreat were pointed and meaningful and the commitment and diligent statewide efforts to improve the quality of early childhood education are crystal clear. And the location? Spectacular!

This year I was fortunate enough to be asked to help facilitate a policy/advocacy group alongside NeAECY Board Chair Steve Wilson. During the dialogue we naturally discussed the issue of Nebraska's child care licensing standards and oversight. As many of you know, in a 2009 report by the National Association of Child Care Resources & Referral Agencies (NACCRA), Nebraska ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in a review of state child care center licensing regulations and the oversight of those regulations.<sup>1</sup> Reasons for Nebraska's low ranking include:

- ♥ Center directors are not required to have an Associate's degree or CDA;
- ♥ Center teachers are not required to have a high school diploma or GED before working with children;
- ♥ Nebraska does not require programs to address the six developmental domains, which are social, physical, language/literacy, cognitive/intellectual, emotional and cultural;
- ♥ Monitoring visits of centers are conducted once a year – the standard is 4 times a year, and
- ♥ Programs to licensing staff ratio in Nebraska is 183:1 - the standard is 50:1.

That being said, we have before us a pending opportunity for improvement. Draft regulations with some notable improvements are in the process of passage. For example, we have the opportunity to fill the huge gap in the current system that neglects the requirement of programs to address the six developmental domains. Yes, we know we have improvements to make beyond this change when it comes to licensing, but we must focus on each and every baby step and celebrate any and all improvements on behalf of early childhood education. So, when a public hearing is scheduled for the new regulations we hope you will lend your public support to the passage of the new standards by way of letter, phone call, or email. We will do our best at NeAECY to keep you posted on how you can participate in public policy advocacy on behalf of children. Until then, thank you for all you do every day for children. You are making the difference with every positive interaction. May we do the same when it comes to public policy for kids.

<sup>1</sup>[www.naccra.org/policy/recent\\_reports/WCDB09.php](http://www.naccra.org/policy/recent_reports/WCDB09.php)

# 2009 Nebraska AEOC Strategic Planning Retreat

## Overview

The 2009 planning retreat was held at Mahoney State Park on Friday, June 5. The weather and the setting were both beautiful. This event was attended by 43 people representing 23 agencies and facilities.



The day began with an overview of initiatives provided by:

- ♥ **Linda Meyers:** Environment Rating Scales
- ♥ **Lynne Brehm:** Together for Kids and Families
- ♥ **Becky Veak:** Advocacy Efforts
- ♥ **Nancy Rosenow:** Nature Explore Classrooms

The group was divided into four sections and spent the day brainstorming and considering ways to strengthen and support the early childhood community. The sections and facilitators were:

- ♥ T.E.A.C.H. NEBRASKA: **Brandee Lengel**
- ♥ Advocacy: **Steve Wilson & Sarah Ann Lewis**
- ♥ Quality Initiatives: **Tracy Gordon & Cindy Jennett**
- ♥ Chapter Development: **Gina DeFreece**

Thanks to everyone who takes their time to attend this event, and a special thanks to the overview presenters, facilitators, and the Nebraska Head Start State Collaboration Office for their financial support.

The goals as identified by the teams will be in the next newsletter and on the website.

Door prize winners at the retreat were:

Pat Enevoldsen - Dr. Seuss Book  
Crystal Kozak - C is for Cornhusker Book  
Deb Nared - Salt Dog Tickets  
Kathleen Feller - \$25 Gift Card  
Melody Hobson - NeAEOC Promotional Items  
Carolyn Edwards - NeAEOC Promotional Items  
Sue Jensen - One-Year Membership to NeAEOC



The 2009 Recipients of the Distinguished Service to Children Award were recognized at the retreat. The recipients were Carolyn Edwards and Deb Nared.

### PAST RECIPIENTS

Twenty-six early childhood leaders have been recognized to date.

1983: Margaret Connealy, Lincoln  
1984: Ruthalee Jorgensen, Lincoln  
1985: Paul Welter, Kearney;  
Dot Boilson, Omaha  
1986: Eloise Dillon, Omaha;  
Wilma Stutheit, Kearney  
1987: Helen Sulek, Lincoln;  
Evie Zysman, Omaha;  
Millicent Savory, Lincoln  
1988: Harriet Egertson, Fremont  
1989: Don Wesely, Lincoln  
1991: Jeanne Webb, Grand Island  
1995: Sally Wysong, Lincoln  
1996: JoAnne Begley, Gering

1998: Joyce Kinney, Omaha  
2001: Linda Meyers, Lincoln  
2004: Terry Rohren, Omaha  
2005: Helen Raikes, Lincoln;  
Kathy Zadina, Columbus  
2006: Marcia Corr, Eagle  
2007: Alicia Bailey, Lincoln;  
Michelle Rupiper, Omaha  
2008: Carol Fichter, Omaha;  
Nancy Rosenow, Lincoln  
2009: Carolyn Edwards, Lincoln  
Deb Nared, Omaha

## Distinguished Service to Children Recipients



**Deb Nared** is the owner/director of Nared's Pee Wee Palace, a family run early childhood program strategically located in the heart of the densely populated North Omaha. Nared's enjoys a rich history as a community leader, and has hosted a variety of city forums, workshops and conferences.

They are also the founder and leader of the North Side Quality Childcare Association, a group of 14 minority-owned child care providers. Deb has also coordinated the North Side Quality Child Care Association Week of the Young Child events for the past several years. These events have included a parade, developmentally appropriate activities for children and families, a family meal and community resources.

Deb has been a leader in encouraging her staff and the community to further their education, and is continually looking for opportunities to improve the quality of care for the children.

**Congratulations, Deb!**



**Carolyn Edwards** is such a deserving recipient that it is difficult to limit her accomplishments to a few highlights. These include: Willa Cather Professor for Distinguished Service and Creativity at UNL and serving on a wide variety of leadership teams, including Building Bright Futures, Early Childhood Core Competencies Leadership Team, Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Team, Early Childhood Policy Study Leadership Team, Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Committee, Early Learning Guidelines Review Team.

She is respected across the state of Nebraska and has made numerous contributions to the field of early childhood education on the national and international level as well. She recently served on the Developmentally Appropriate Practice Working Group for NAEYC. She also has numerous books to her credit, including her most recent book, *The Diary of Laura* and the well known *Hundred Languages of Children*.

**Congratulations, Carolyn!**

# 2009 Nebraska AEYC Strategic Planning Retreat

## Evaluation and Comments

Each year the group is asked to evaluate the retreat and to provide ideas for ongoing improvement of the process.

Answers are ranked on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest. For those that answered the following categories, here are the evaluations of:

- ♥ Working teams: 100% ranked this process a 4 or 5
- ♥ Facilities: 100% ranked the facilities a 4 or 5
- ♥ **Overall ranking of the retreat: 100% ranked the retreat a 4 or 5**

Some comments:

- ♥ Great way to network and to hear what NeAEYC is involved in!
- ♥ Being together with so many leaders in Nebraska; very thought-provoking!
- ♥ Working teams - great discussion!
- ♥ Very organized - great planning - no improvements needed!
- ♥ The retreats are always well-organized and very productive.
- ♥ The results of teams' work are followed up, and don't "die" when people go home.
- ♥ All of the wonderful ideas I got that I can take back to my board members.
- ♥ Small group work was very informative.
- ♥ Getting ideas from others, feeling empowered.



PLEASE NOTE THE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR STAFF: First Initial, Last Name, NebraskaAEYC.org

## Head Start State Champion Award



Region VII Head Start Association representing Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska recognizes State Champions each year. This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to improving the lives of children, youth and families. The Nebraska Champion for 2008 was **Sarah Ann Lewis**.

Sarah Ann Lewis currently holds the position of Early Childhood Coordinator for Building Bright Futures. Prior to taking her position at Building Bright Futures, Sarah Ann worked as the Policy Coordinator and registered lobbyist for Voices for Children in Nebraska. In her work as a lobbyist she advocated for policy reform on issues such as children's health care at both the state and federal levels, child care subsidy reform, various juvenile justice initiatives, and budget and tax policies affecting children from families in poverty and families of low-income. She has volunteered and worked for a number of child-serving organizations including CASA and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Heartland. She currently serves on Nebraska's State Foster Care Review Board and as Public Policy Chair for the Nebraska AEYC Board of Directors. Sarah Ann received her B.A. From Creighton University and a J.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College

## NeAEYC Board Information



NeAEYC welcomes **Karen Decker** as our newest board member. Karen is replacing Melva Pavelka as the Kearney Chapter of Nebraska AEYC Representative.

Karen is the Director and co-owner of the Sugar and Spice Child Care Center and Preschool in Kearney, NE.

Karen attended University of Northern Colorado-Greeley; Central Community College - Grand Island; University of Nebraska-Kearney; and Peru State College; She has an Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education, a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration-Management, and graduate studies in Higher Education and Organizational Development.

Welcome, Karen!

Minutes for the most recent meetings of the Nebraska AEYC Board of Directors are now available on the website at [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)

# Week of the Young Child April 19-25, 2009

The Week of the Young Child is a nation-wide activity held each year to honor young children and thank teachers and all those who make a difference in children's lives.

This event is coordinated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the largest early childhood organization in the world.

Some of the Nebraska events are described on this page and the following page. If you are aware of other events within the state that might like to be included on the website, contact Pat at [phoff@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:phoff@NebraskaAEYC.org).



## Governor's Proclamation

*Tracy Gordon and Cindy Jennett with Governor Heineman.*

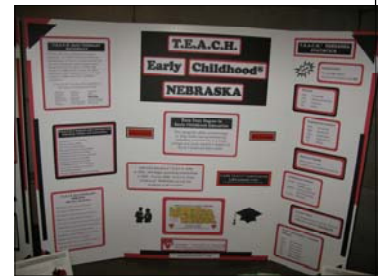
Each year, for many years, Nebraska's Governor has recognized the Week of the Young Child and has signed a proclamation. The proclamation ceremony was held on March 11, 2009, at the Nebraska State Capitol.

## Display in the Rotunda

Nebraska AEYC had a display in all four corners of the Capitol Rotunda. We had 8 tri-fold posters showing the projects that we support.

- ♥ NeAEYC
- ♥ T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nebraska
- ♥ Accreditation & Quality
- ♥ Outdoor Classrooms
- ♥ Distinguished Service to Children

We also displayed some of the drawings that we have received from children in T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient's classrooms.



Visit our website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org) and click on Week of the Young Child to view the pictures of this display.

## Table Tents

3,000 Table Tents recognizing Week of the Young Child and promoting high quality early care and education were printed and distributed across the state.

They were developed as a collaborative project with Nebraska AEYC and the Regional Training Project Coordinators to be used during the Week of the Young Child.

We have an ongoing and growing focus on nature and getting children outside in Nebraska. It's not too late for some short season vegetables, and you can get started on some raised beds for next year.

## 10 Steps to a Successful Children's Garden Project

*Garden projects can produce a sense of wonder and a lifelong bond with nature for the children in your child care center or preschool – or they can turn into a dirty, disappointing mess. These 10 easy steps will help ensure green thumbs all around for your eager young gardeners.*

**Pick a perfect site.** You will need a spot that receives at least eight hours of sun every day.

**Gardens come in all sizes and shapes.** Start small, so that your first efforts are positive for both you and the children.

**Feed your soil.** Rich garden soil contains plenty of organic matter, so be sure to add it to your soil. Or better yet, use leftover lunch scraps to make compost.

**Choose plants well-suited to your region and growing season.** Check with local nurseries and the Cooperative Extension office in your area for information. Some businesses may even donate seeds or plants for your garden.

**Get off to a good start with easy-to-grow crops.** Cucumbers, zucchini, leaf lettuce, snap peas, summer squash, peppers and Swiss chard are all easy to grow.

**Give your plants a good start.** Wait until the danger of frost has left your area before planting. Water your plants just as soon as they're in the ground.

**Make the most of your space.** Most children do better with raised garden beds that are only 18' across. Experiment with inter-planting. Surrounding tomato transplants with snap peas, for example, saves space.

**Regularly patrol for pests, but do NOT use pesticides.** Children should not be exposed to these neurotoxins. Instead, remove bugs by blasting them with water or picking them off by hand.

**Teach children how to harvest gently.** The more you harvest, the more plants produce - if you remove the produce carefully. Yanking produce off the stems can cause damage.

**Make sure children have the right clothing and gear.** Everyone will need child-size garden tools and clothes that can get dirty and sun protection. You can always get extra clothes from thrift shops if parents cannot supply them. And don't forget the sun protection!

# 2009 Week of the Young Child NeAEYC Mini-Grant Recipients

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

The student groups, chapter, and local affiliates spotlighted on this page were recipients of the 2009 Week of the Young Child mini-grant awards.



### Metropolitan Community College Student Chapter

The Metro Student Chapter completed several activities during the Week of the Young Child.

Each week day, students worked at a booth in the main building at the Fort Campus. They provided information about early literacy and parent resources to a large number of students and faculty who visited the booth. They also talked to students about the ECED program and the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship that is available to those working in the early childhood field.

Students spent several Saturdays preparing the materials for the booth and the materials for the activity they participated in with the Omaha Northside Quality Childcare Association.

For this "Storybook Fair", in which many child care centers participated, the students assembled packets of books, crayons, puzzles, fairy tales (in both English and Spanish), coloring pages and flashcards, for two different age groups (preschool and K-3). They worked at the fair and distributed these packets to the children. Even though it was a bit cold and rainy, quite a few packets were distributed. The remaining materials will be distributed in literacy packets to various child care centers.

The money from the NeAEYC grant was used to purchase these materials, and to help with the costs of the event.

### Lincoln AEYC

The Early Childhood Celebration is an annual event that was held on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at State Fair Park, to kick off the national Week of the Young Child. The Early Childhood Celebration is a partnership between community agencies, child care providers, and families.

Volunteers from area colleges and agencies interact with children and families at this event, and provide meaningful early learning experience. This year marked the 17th year of the Celebration.

LAEYC applied for the grant to advertise the Early Childhood Celebration in the *Lincoln Kids!* Newspaper, which is distributed to child care facilities throughout the Lincoln area. LAEYC is one of the main sponsors of the Early Childhood Celebration.

### Columbus Chapter of NeAEYC

As part of their Week of the Young Child celebration, the Columbus Area Chapter of NeAEYC presented three Champion for Children Awards at the Columbus Early Childhood Conference on April 18th, 2009. Awards were presented over the noon luncheon to Donna Gray, home provider; Linda Dammon, Pre-K teacher; and Wendy Wolfe, ESU #7 Early Childhood Consultant. The ladies were recognized for their dedication to children with a variety of gifts including an NAEYC tote, candles, sunglasses, key chains, gloves, and a free year's membership to NAEYC.

Kathy Zadina also presented information about Week of the Young Child and the Champions for Children Award winners during a radio interview on Monday, April 20, 2009. An article about accreditation and the award winners also appeared in the local newspaper during the week.

### Southeast Community College Student Chapter

The SCC Chapter created a Make & Take Workshop which was open to all SCC Early Childhood Education Program students and Child Development Center Staff. Sixty students participated. Forty-five students were provided with one free book purchased with grant funds. A monkey die for use in our Accu Cut die cut machine, supplies, and other materials were purchased with the remaining grant funds. We sold a total of 88 literacy kits and profited \$327.24. Three and one-half hours of creative work, getting to know others and sharing ideas - PRICELESS!! We had no idea this project would be such a HUGE success!!

Thank You NeAEYC for providing us this wonderful opportunity to learn, work and grow as early childhood professionals!

To view the Power Point on this event go to the website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org), click on Week of the Young Child.

### Omaha AEYC

The Omaha AEYC Week of the Young Child kick-off event was held on Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 am to noon at the Omaha Children's Museum. This free event for Omaha's children and families attracted over 1,700 people. Children and families enjoyed over 30 activity and resource tables. Children were amazed by the balloon art created by the Amazing Arthur Balloon Brigade, smiled big when they met and got their photo taken with NET's Sid the Science Kid and rocked out to the musical stylings of Funky Mama Music.

A huge thank you goes out to the Omaha Children's Museum staff for their assistance in planning and coordinating the event with OAEYC. Thanks also to all of the programs and agencies that provided activities and information for children and families.



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[www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)

## What's Happening??

- ♥ **July 7-9, 2009** - Annual Kindergarten Conference - Holiday Inn - Kearney, NE - Contact - Mary Beth Pistillo - (402) 557-6893 - email: [marybeth.pistillo@nebraska.gov](mailto:marybeth.pistillo@nebraska.gov)
- ♥ **July 14-16, 2009** - ERS Training - Omaha, NE - Contact- Penny Gildea - (402) 557-6895 - [penny.gildea@nebraska.gov](mailto:penny.gildea@nebraska.gov)
- ♥ **July 27 - August 3, 2009** - Early Learning Guidelines Language & Literacy - McCook Community College - McCook, NE - Contact Deb Frates - email: [dfrates@esu16.org](mailto:dfrates@esu16.org)
- ♥ **August 8, 2009** - Anchoring Yourself for Quality Care - Norfolk, NE - Contact - Susan Strahm - (402) 287-2061 - email: [sstrahm@esu1.org](mailto:sstrahm@esu1.org)
- ♥ **August 31, 2009** - WEST ED Training - Module III Learning & Development, 1 - Contact Cindy Jennett - (402) 476-5653 - email: [cindyjennett11@aol.com](mailto:cindyjennett11@aol.com)
- ♥ **September 9 - 11, 2009** - Nebraska Children's Summit - Grand Island, NE - Contact - Kelli Hauptman - email: [khauptman2@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:khauptman2@unlnotes.unl.edu)
- ♥ **September 18, 2009** - Nature Explore - Norfolk, NE - Contact - Susan Strahm - (402) 287-2061 - email: [sstrahm@esu1.org](mailto:sstrahm@esu1.org)
- ♥ **September 19, 2009** - Fremont Early Childhood Educators Conference - Fremont, NE - Contact - Kelly Vanness - (402) 564-0815, ext. 1028 - email: [kvanness@esu7.org](mailto:kvanness@esu7.org)
- ♥ **September 19, 2009** - North Platte Early Childhood Conference - North Platte, NE - Contact - Lori Poppe - (308) 289-6109 - email: [lpoppe@esu16.org](mailto:lpoppe@esu16.org)
- ♥ **September 21, 2009** - WEST ED: Training - Module III Learning & Development, 2 - Contact Cindy Jennett - (402) 476-5653 - email: [cindyjennett11@aol.com](mailto:cindyjennett11@aol.com)
- ♥ **September 22 - 24, 2009** - ERS Training - Scottsbluff, NE - Contact - Penny Gildea - (402) 557-6895 - email: [penny.gildea@nebraska.gov](mailto:penny.gildea@nebraska.gov)
- ♥ **October 5, 2009** - WEST ED: - Training - Module III Learning & Development 3, Contact Cindy Jennett - (402) 476-5653 - email: [cindyjennett11@aol.com](mailto:cindyjennett11@aol.com)
- ♥ **November 18-21, 2009** - NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo - Washington, DC - For more information go to: [www.NAEYC.org](http://www.NAEYC.org)

## WELCOME New members - 1st Quarter, 2009

Tiffany Agee	Kareen Hickman	Ashley Robertus
Buffy Baca	Macey Johnson	Kathy Rodney
Chantelle Baker	Heather Johnson	Sharon Santema
Lauren Baker	Debbie Kent	Rena Sheridan
Melinda Brown	Matt Kirkland	Doreen Slaymaker
Karen Bryant	Emily Knapton	Whitney Steinkamp
Jane Cotton	Emily Lofgren	Carrie Stollar
Marguerite Crowe	Amber McCants	Janet Vaughn
Britnee Felici	Roxanne Murfield	Nikka Walker
Jaime Frey	Sarah Ochoa	Rebecca Welter
Katie Garth	Kelly Pedersen	Stephanie Wessels
Megan Greise	Lisa Pleschourt	Toni Woods-Thomas
Krissa Hamric	Cindy Rasmussen	

## "8 Rules of Toddler Play"

(from the book *The Baby Whisperer Solves All Your Problems*)

1. If I like it, it's mine.
2. If it's in my hand, it's mine.
3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
4. If I had it a little time ago, it's mine.
5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way, shape or form.
6. If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
7. If it looks like mine, it's mine.
8. If I think it's mine, it's mine.

