



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 2010 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dawn Mollenkopf



I was observing one of my college students whom I will call "Amy" a couple of weeks ago. Amy had prepared an activity for the infant room she had been working in all semester. She brought in a soft, fabric box that had a large hole at the top for someone to stick a hand in. The box held 8 tiny "baby-safe" stuffed animals with different

textures. Amy set down the box in front of two infants, one in pink and one in green. She asked simple questions about "What's inside" and then, as she pulled out each animal, she labeled the animal, and encouraged the infants to explore them. The infant in pink laughed at each animal, touched it, and soon reached into the box to pull out another. The infant in green stared quietly but refused to touch the animals or put her hand in the box. After both infants had "moved on" to other toys, Amy sighed. "Working with infants is so hard," she said. "They can't talk much and I have no idea if I am making a difference or if they are learning anything." She commented that she felt she had connected with the infant in pink, but wasn't sure if she had gotten anywhere with the infant in green.

As I began to comfort her, I looked over at the box. Sure enough, the infant in green had left the ball she was playing with and had returned to the box. She sat down and began to reach in and pull out the animals one by one, just like Amy had done. I quickly directed Amy's attention and Amy smiled. "See, you did make a difference," I told her. "Sometimes you just can't see it right away. Sometimes you can't see it at all. You just plant knowledge and you have to wait for it to grow on its own."

As Amy left that day, encouraged, I begin to think of all of you who work diligently with children and families every day. I just wanted to remind you that you really do make a difference, even if you cannot always see it. Thank you for continuing to make a difference.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Zinke

CONNECTING

As we all try to stretch our dollars, one of the strategies to use is connecting with others. Collaboration has been defined as the process of a group of people working together. It is sometimes seen as a progressive continuum, beginning with Networking and move to true Collaboration. Barriers to collaboration include time, trust, and turf.



Networking is the easiest way to work together. It involves exchanging information for mutual benefit, and requires low levels of trust, limited sharing of time, and no sharing of turf. George Bernard Shaw said, "If you have an apple and I have an apple and we exchange these apples then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas."

Coordinating also involves sharing information, but requires more organizational involvement than networking, and involves a higher level of trust and possibility access to one's turf.

Cooperating still involves exchanging information, and may include written agreements, and possibly shared resources. It requires much more time, a high level of trust, and significant sharing of turf. As Buchholz and Roth said, "Wearing the same shirts doesn't make a team." Cooperating requires a larger level of commitment.

True collaboration involves all of the activities above, but in addition, organizations and individuals are willing to learn from each other to become better at what they do. Organizations share risks, responsibilities, and rewards. Mattie Stepanek said, "Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Let's continue to expand the early childhood tent and bring more people together to collaborate for Nebraska's children.

"It's amazing how much you can accomplish when it doesn't matter who gets the credit." Unknown

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.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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University of Nebraska at Kearney Professor

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Early Childhood Consortium of the Omaha Area

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Chadron State College Professor

Amber McCants, Lincoln, Family Child Care Provider

Linda Maslowski, Lincoln, Independent Consultant

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

José Zapata, Loup City,
Central Nebraska Community Services Executive Director

Kathy Zadina, Columbus, St. Bonaventure Center
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Nebraska AEYC

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**Strengthening and supporting Nebraska's
early childhood community since 1976**

NAEYC UPDATES

NAEYC ELECTION RESULTS



From NAEYC e-News, April, 2010

Five new early childhood experts from around the country have been elected to the NAEYC Governing Board. These new members bring a variety of expertise in early childhood education that will support NAEYC's mission and vision. The five new Governing Board members, whose four year terms start June 1, 2010, are:

- ♥ Vice President: Roberta Schomburg, Associate Dean, School of Education Carlow University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- ♥ Secretary: Susan DeVenny, State Director, South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness, Columbia, South Carolina
- ♥ Governing Board Affiliate Liaison: Anna Mercer-McLean, Director, Community School for People under Six, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- ♥ At Large: Sharon Ritchie, Senior Scientist, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- ♥ At Large: Dennis Sykes, Director, Center for Special Needs Populations, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

NAEYC Conferences

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

June 6-9, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona

This year's theme is ***"Emotional Intelligence: A 21st Century Skill for Children & Adults."***

This year, Nebraska will have a team participating in the Leadership Team Work Day. Participants will include: Melody Hobson, NDE; Carol Fichter, NDE; Chris Hanus, DHHS; Eleanor Kirkland, HSSCO; Dawn Mollenkopf, UNK/ NeAEYC Board President; Linda Zinke, NeAEYC Executive Director.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2010

November 3-6, 2010, Anaheim, CA

NAEYC is pleased to bring together in one event two of the nation's outstanding annual conferences. NAEYC and the National Black Child Development Institute are collaborating to blend the unique features of each of our annual conferences. This collaboration will provide an opportunity to share, exchange, and learn from a broad range of practitioners and advocates from across the nation.

INTRODUCING NEW STAFF MEMBER

We are excited to welcome **JENNIFER HARRIS** as the newest member of the NeAEYC team. She recently began working for NeAEYC as a part-time Accountant.

Jennifer received a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She has much experience with QuickBooks and has had QuickBooks Pro Advisor Training. Previous work experience includes serving as a staff accountant at Manning and Associates, BKD, BMG, and Bring & Associates.

Jennifer, her husband Mark, and her son Colton live in Lincoln. They enjoy hiking and other outdoor activities.



"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."

George Washington Carver

ADVOCACY

NAEYC – Early Childhood Workforce Systems Initiative - <http://www.naeyc.org/policy/ecwsi#overview>

The Early Childhood Workforce Systems Initiative’s purpose is to assist states in developing, enhancing, and implementing policies for an **integrated early childhood professional development system** for *all* early childhood education professionals working with and on behalf of young children. Integrated policies intentionally promote the building and support of an efficient cross-sector system that decreases duplication of efforts and increases accountability and sustainability. An integrated system helps develop and retain a competent and stable early childhood workforce—a skilled cadre of effective, diverse, and adequately compensated professionals.



*Sarah Ann Kotchian
Public Policy Chair*

An integrated system crosses sectors serving early education professionals working in direct and non-direct service roles. Such roles may be in Head Start; for-profit and not-for-profit child care programs in centers and homes; state prekindergarten programs in community-based and school-settings; public school programs; early intervention and special education services; resource and referral agencies; higher education institutions; state departments of education, licensing, health, and other early childhood education related departments.

Comprehensive Early Childhood Data System Schematic – in 4 parts – by Terry Rohren

<p>Early Childhood Professional Development Registry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Development Records for Early Childhood Professionals (training and education) Tracks Education of Early Childhood Professionals Tracks compensation of Early Childhood Professionals Tracks benefits of Early Childhood Professionals Tracks number of college credit hours in early childhood education Tracks age of children they work with Can track teacher turnover Assigns teacher unique identifier Can inform national accreditation systems regarding teacher education and credentials 	<p>Child Outcome Data System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigns unique child identifier Uses developmentally appropriate assessments to track child physical, language and literacy, social/emotional, and cognitive gains Can track child attendance and health status if built into system Can link child to teacher data Can track child from birth on Can link child to program data
<p>Web Based Early Learning System (WELS or Data System for QRIS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracks early childhood program data (Number of staff, number classrooms, child to teacher ratio, etc.) Tracks quality improvement using Environment Rating Scales and CLASS Includes coaching data system with quality improvement plan Can include incentive system where improved quality scores result in points that can be used to purchase items for program quality improvement Can track return on investment for coaching -time involved in the program and cost/compared to quality change in program. 	<p>Parent Information Data System (Some states use QRIS for this but it is high stakes, Referral System) We have limited capacity currently including LIS and Resource and Referral at ECTC or Food Program sponsors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides information on child care programs that accept subsidy are accredited disciplinary action against provider comparative quality scores (stars rating like hotels) ages of children they accept has experience and success in serving children with special needs number and age of children accepted

“You’re braver than you believe and stronger than you seem and smarter than you think.”

Christopher Robin to Pooh

NeAEYC ACTIVITIES

Legislative Breakfast

**February 18, 2010 7:45 - 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 1126**

This is the second year for this partnership event.

Each senator received a folder containing information about the status of early childhood in Nebraska, Head Start, a list of Head Start programs in Nebraska, information about T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA and NeAEYC, and a copy of the power point presentation that ran on a continuous loop during the open house. Most of the photos of children in the power point presentation were provided by the Nebraska Head Start Association.

Senator Bob Krist was the sponsor of this event.
Special thanks to **Beth Dinneen**, Senator's Krist's Administrative Aide.

Attendance:

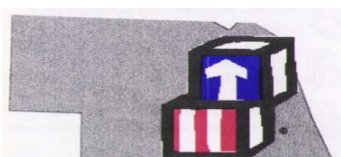
- 22 Senators or aides were in attendance, representing 16 State Senators.
- 4 Head Start Directors were in attendance
- 5 NeAEYC Board members participated



***"In a moment of decision,
the best thing you can do is the
right thing.
The worst thing you can do
is nothing."***

Theodore Roosevelt

*A partnership activity between
Nebraska Head Start Association
Nebraska Association for the
Education of Young Children, Inc.*



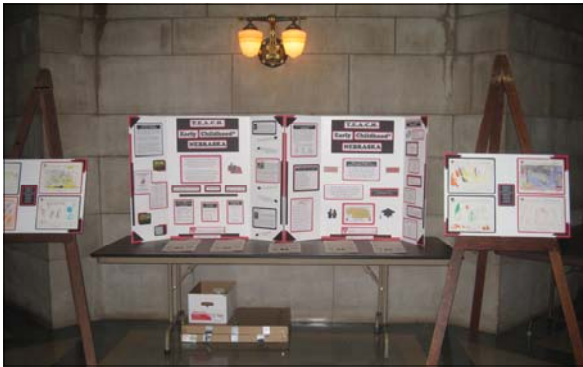
Nebraska Head
Start Association



CHILDREN . . . THE HEART OF THE MATTER
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NeAEYC ACTIVITIES

Week of the Young Child, 2010



**ROTUNDA
DISPLAY
April 12-16**



This is our second year for this activity. We have display boards and information about early childhood in each of the corners of the Rotunda. The four areas of focus are: T.E,A,C,H, Early Childhood NEBRASKA, Nature Explore Classrooms, The NeAEYC Association, and "It's All About Quality"



Governor's Proclamation for Week of the Young Child

EARLY YEARS ARE LEARNING YEARS

Nebraska Celebrates National Week of the Young Child

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc asks the citizens of Nebraska to come together for children during the Week of the Young Child (April 11-17, 2010), as part of the national Week of the Young Child celebrated across the country, Nebraska is honoring young children and all those who make a difference in children's lives.

"All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life, and Nebraska has a great opportunity to do our part to help young children," said Linda Zinke, Executive Director. "Week of the Young Child is a time for our state to recognize that early years are learning years for all young children."

Young children and their families depend on high-quality education and care, which help children get a great start, and bring lasting benefits to Nebraska. Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning and early literacy, and to celebrate the teachers and policies that bring early childhood education to young children.

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children has 487 early childhood professionals working together to improve professional practice and working conditions in early childhood education, and to build public support for high-quality early childhood education programs.

Nebraska AEYC is an affiliate of NAEYC, the largest organization of early childhood educators and others dedicated to improving the quality of early education programs for children birth through age eight. Founded in 1926, NAEYC has nearly 90,000 members and a national network of over 300 local, state, and regional affiliates.



Governor Dave Heineman & Tracy Gordon, NeAEYC

RECOGNITION

Brandee Lengel Receives 5-year Award at T.E.A.C.H. Conference



*Sue Russell, founder of
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®*

2010 T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Annual Conference

The 2010 T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Annual Conference was held April 28-29, 2010 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. T.E.A.C.H. began in 1990, so at this conference, we celebrated 20 years of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®.

The welcome and opening session was presented by Carol Brunson-Day, President, National Black Child Development Institute. The keynote address was presented by Shannon Rudsill, Associate Director, Child Care Bureau.

Brandee Lengel, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Coordinator, was recognized for 5 years of tenure.

Sue Russell, Director of Child Care Services Association in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, was honored and recognized for her role in the development and growth of T.E.A.C.H.



*Brandee Lengel receiving her
5-year award from Julie Rogers,
T.E.A.C.H. T & TA Center*

Dr. Carolyn Edwards Recognized at Early Childhood Celebration



*Dr. Edwards & Amber
McCants, LAEYC
President*

The Lincoln Association for the Education of Young Children honored **Carolyn Pope Edwards** for her continuing love, dedication and commitment to improving the lives of all children.

The 2010 recipient is the Willa Cather Professor of Child, Youth and Family Studies at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln. Dr. Edwards is very interested in working with graduate and undergraduate students in psychology and education and has helped create a new teacher preparation program called Inclusive Early Childhood Education: Birth to Grade 3 Program at UNL.

The Sally Wysong Award is given each year in memory of the contributions Ms. Wysong made for all children. The award was presented at the Early Childhood Celebration, held on April 10, 2010 in conjunction with Week of the Young Child Events at the Lincoln Children's Museum.



*Helen Raikes,
Carolyn Edwards,
Julie Jones-Branch*

Nebraska Family Child Care Association Advocate of the Year Vicky Heyen

Congratulations to **Vicky Heyen**, Education Support Specialist for Family Service Association of Lincoln. She was presented with the Advocate of the Year Award from the Nebraska Family Child Care Association.

This award is presented annually to a person or a group who has championed the cause of family child care providers, the children they care for, or the profession in general. The recipient is someone who is not directly involved in caring for children.

This award was given at the annual Provider's Day Out Conference on March 24th, 2010.



*Bev Fall,
Vicky Heyen,
Mary Jo McCain*

"Winning is not everything - but making the effort to win is."
Vince Lombardi

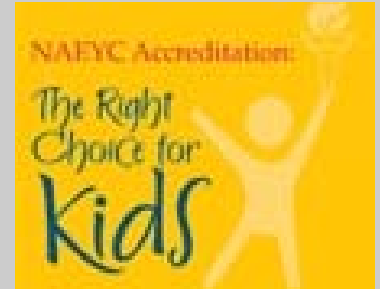
ACCREDITATION

Right Choice for Kids

Invite families to visit the newly redesigned Right Choice for Kids web site at www.rightchoiceforkids.org. New features for families:

- ♥ Updated Early Years Are Learning Years Articles
- ♥ NAEYC Accreditation Promotional Videos
- ♥ Easier and User-Friendly Accreditation Program Search

You can also link to this site from the Nebraska AEYC website—www.NebraskaAEYC.org



Accreditation Scholarships

NAEYC understands that fees for NAEYC Accreditation may present a challenge in the current economic climate. To ensure that all programs for young children have the opportunity to seek NAEYC Accreditation, the NAEYC Accreditation Scholarship Program subsidizes the accreditation fees associated with achieving and maintaining NAEYC Accreditation.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.naeyc.org/academy/primary/helpscholarships>

You can also contact the Program Support Information Center at 800-424-2460, option 3, option 1, or email to: Accreditation.information@naeyc.org
<http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/naeyc/issues/2010-04-06.html>

Review of Accreditation Processes and Criteria

NAEYC is in the midst of a formal review of the accreditation process and criteria. Input from the field is essential to the success of this project, so NAEYC is soliciting your feedback via TORCH.



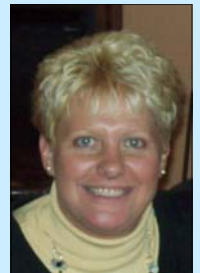
Visit www.naeyc.org/torch and log in. Click Discussions and contribute.

Nebraska Department of Education provides support for accreditation through funds for partial payment of self-study, application, candidate and annual report fees.
Contact: Linda Meyers – 402-471-2980 or linda.meyers@nebraska.gov

NEBRASKA AEYC ACCREDITATION SUPPORT

TRACY GORDON is available to provide training, coaching and support to programs working on their accreditation process. She has been working with programs in both Omaha and Lincoln. She can provide a one-time training event, or ongoing support, scheduled together with the program. For more information, contact Tracy at tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org or 402-476-5662.

Tracy Gordon,
Special Projects
Coordinator



How To Instill A Love Of Reading In Your Child

In this age of cable TV, computers and video games, parents often wonder what they can do to teach their children to enjoy books. The most important thing you can do is to share their reading with them. Try these tips:

- ♥ Read to younger children and with older ones every day.
- ♥ Make sure your children see you reading.
- ♥ Vary your reading to include magazines, books and newspapers.
- ♥ Discuss books with your children; ask them what happened in their stories.
- ♥ Take children to the library or to bookstores.
- ♥ Encourage children to join book clubs or reading groups.
- ♥ Treat reading as a reward, not as homework.



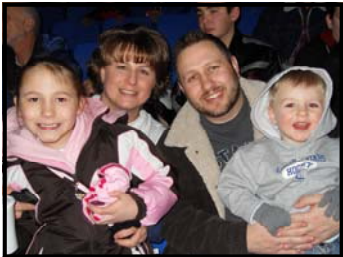
If kids learn to love reading early, the habit will stay with them throughout their lives.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA



ANNUAL SURVEY: In January, all current T.E.A.C.H. students and sponsoring programs were mailed the annual survey. Results have been tabulated and highlights include:

- 71% of participants would NOT have taken ANY classes if they didn't have a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship.
- 96% of participants say they have used what they have learned with the children in their care.
- 100% of participants say they are satisfied with the T.E.A.C.H. program.
- 100% of programs would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to other programs.
- 100% of programs agree that the student has improved the quality of their teaching practices.



Brandee Lengel,
T.E.A.C.H. Coordinator & Family

Students say:

"I am looking forward to my new future that lays ahead. I am excited about my program now and I am using what I heard in my class with the kids. I am proud of myself for making this work in my busy life and doing something I never thought I could do. I am so thankful to the T.E.A.C.H. program or this would never have been something I would be doing!! It has already changed my life in so many ways!"

Sponsoring programs say:

"It is a great program! I am happy to participate. It is a win-win program. We win because our worker is much more knowledgeable. My worker wins because she can afford the education." ♥ "This is an excellent opportunity for early childhood students and early childhood centers to partner for quality results!"

2009 NeAEYC Annual Report T.E.A.C.H. Outcomes

During 2009,
T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA served:

- **224** students in **46** counties.
- **83%** of the students are participating in the Associates Degree Model
- **17%** of the students are participating in Bachelor Degree Gap or Bachelor Degree Model

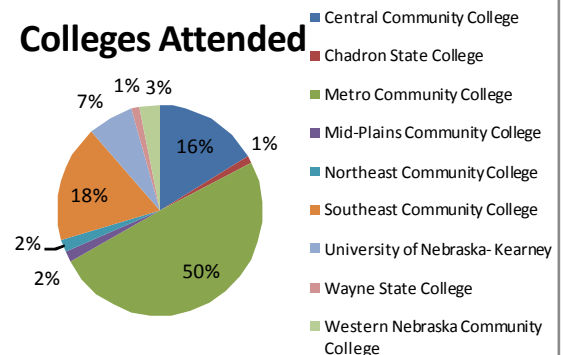
TURNOVER RATES

The average turnover rate for T.E.A.C.H.® NEBRASKA students is **less than 5%**

T.E.A.C.H. students have earned in 2009: **1,593 semester credits**

(For data purposes, quarter credits are converted to semester credits)

Colleges Attended



Oops...WNCC was accidentally omitted from the list of colleges that the students attended in the NeAEYC Annual Report.

Student Spotlight

Carol Benson has been a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient since the Fall 2007 term at Southeast Community College. She has earned 53 credits since she was awarded a scholarship and has a 3.924 GPA. Carol provides full time family child care in her home in Coleridge, NE. She began her family child care business in 1995. When Carol isn't working or studying she enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Congratulations to Carol!

She graduated, with distinction, from SCC in March with a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Carol says:

"The T.E.A.C.H. scholarship has proven invaluable to me, but more importantly to the children I care for. I am constantly stressing the importance of being a life long learner to my kids and this opportunity has given more weight to my talk!"

"This scholarship has been the opportunity of a lifetime!"

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS SPOTLIGHT

KELLOM ELEMENTARY

1311 N. 24TH Street
Omaha, NE 68102

Program Coordinator:
Michelle Avilla

Kellom opened in 1952, and in 1999 was designated as an Academy School. There are 425 students, grades pre-kindergarten through 6th. Kellom currently houses four all-day kindergartens and a half-day preschool.

88% of the current population receives free or reduced lunches. 36.1% is Latino, and 45.5% is African American. The mobility rate is 67.5%.



Kellom is nearly ready to apply for certification as a Nature Explore™ classroom



“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.”

Frank Lloyd Wright.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS SPOTLIGHT

RUTH STAPLES CHILD DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY, UNL

University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583

Program Administrator:
Michelle Rupiper, PhD



The Nature Explore Classroom at Ruth Staples Child Development Laboratory at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is the amazing culmination of over a year of planning by faculty and staff that focused on all aspects of curriculum and development to ensure the space was well designed.



Greenhouse



Certified
Nature
Explore
Classroom



Nature Art Area



Entrance



Plantings



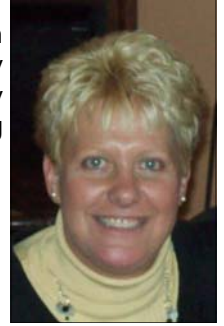
*"He that plants a tree
loves others beside
himself."
Thomas Fuller*



QUALITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES

Woods Charitable Fund Quality Enhancement Project

NeAEYC is partnering with the Woods Charitable Fund to provide quality support to several centers in Lincoln. Each of these centers is serving a significant number of children from low income and/or minority families. The project provides a pre and post Environment Ratings Scale, joint development of a quality plan, funds for supplies and on-going support. The following quotes are from two of the participating centers:



Tracy Gordon,
Special Projects
Coordinator

CEDARS Carol Yoakum Early Childhood Development Center participated in the Quality Enhancement Project and focused primarily on the quality of our toddler classroom. Center staff and parents noticed a great difference in our toddler classroom as we participated in the grant. We rearranged our toddler classroom to better incorporate different centers and a variety of centers were improved as a result of the new toys that we got to purchase! Our toddler teacher participated in a training that she thoroughly enjoyed and has been able to share information with other center staff as well. "We are very appreciative of QEP and are thankful for all of the assistance we received in our toddler classroom!" Sarah Dankenbring, CEDARS Program Manager

"Working on the QEP project has been a great experience for the 2-year old room teachers. They have learned a lot about setting up the classroom to make it a more efficient and effective learning environment. It has opened their eyes on how to do some activities they shied away from doing with the 2-year olds before. One of the new things they have started is using a sensory table. The children have really enjoyed getting to play with water during the educational time. They also rearranged the classroom so the children have a quiet corner with some soft toys and cushions where they can go to read books or just sit. They really like how it turned out because it's a nice calm corner for the children who are easily over-stimulated or just want some quiet time. They also learned different ways to teach the children about multicultural activities. The teachers used to choose the toys for the children to play with. Now they have learned how to have the children choose their own toys. They have seen a major change in their classroom."
Becky Brazou, Loving Hearts Child Care

Building Bright Futures Quality Enhancement Project



Gina DeFreece,
Special Projects
Coordinator

Nebraska AEYC is partnering with Building Bright Futures in a quality initiative to provide support to several family child care home providers in the Greater Omaha area. This project provides a pre and post Environment Ratings Scale, joint development of a quality plan, funds for supplies, and on-going support. Most of the family child care providers have been identified, several have received the pre-FCCERS, and relationship-building has begun.



Early Head Start Infant-Toddler Quality Initiative



Cindy Jennett
Special Projects
Coordinator

The Infant Toddler Quality Initiative has offered "West Ed: The Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers" series January through May. Twenty-eight providers and home visitors attended and approximately eight have attended the series. Eleven other partners are using Creative Curriculum as a resource for classroom arrangements, material choices for learning, developmental learning and relationship building with children and families. These 11 partners have received their first environmental ratings scale and are using the information to set classroom and training goals.

"Never let the odds keep you from doing what you know in your heart you were meant to do."

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

Northeast Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

Upcoming activities:

- ♥ May 26: Early Childhood Mental Health Foundations, West Point, Courthouse meeting Room, 6:30—8:30 p.m.
- ♥ June 16: Stewards of Children Workshop, Especially for pre-K Teachers, ESU #1, Wakefield, 9-4
- ♥ June 17: Northeast Partnerships Meeting, Wakefield ESU #1, 1:00 p.m.

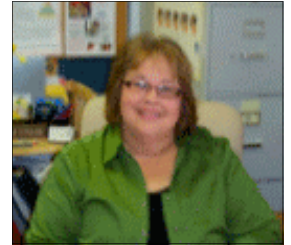
NeAFCC's 22nd Annual Early Childhood Conference Norfolk Life Long Learning Center, August 7 Keynote presenter: Tom Copeland

Tom Copeland is the nation's leading trainer, author and advocate on business issues for family child care providers. He is a licensed attorney and consultant with the National Family Child Care Association. He has helped thousands of providers and tax preparers understand complete business and tax issues since 1981. In 2004, he was named Advocate of the Year. He has represented numerous providers in IRS audits and has won five US Tax Court cases.

Keynote and breakout topics:

- ♥ Mastering Record Keeping and Tax Preparation,
- ♥ Coming to Terms: Contracts and Policies with Parents,
- ♥ Reducing Your Risks: Legal and Insurance Issues,
- ♥ Marketing your Child Care Business,
- ♥ Show Me the Money! Child Care Grants and T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships,
- ♥ Managing Your Finances

*Susan Strahm,
ESU #1
Coordinator*



Omaha AEYC



Beginning in September 2009, the Board of Omaha AEYC has been focused on redefining the direction of the association. As a result of some incredible meetings, Omaha AEYC is very excited to share our new mission, "to support early childhood professionals in advancing, advocating and promoting healthy development and learning for young children" and a new logo reflecting this mission.

*Jen Haggart
OAEYC President*



In addition, the Board created several goals:

- ♥ Advocate for laws, regulations, and policies that support the mission.
- ♥ Create and use a new website and other technologies to support the mission.
- ♥ Empower people who work in the ECE field to view themselves as recognized professionals.
- ♥ Establish OAEYC as the "go to" ECE experts in the Omaha community.
- ♥ Identify and support ECE training by other organizations to advance and promote best practices.
- ♥ Increase Omaha AEYC membership.
- ♥ Increase the number of NAEYC accredited centers.
- ♥ Provide increasingly effective and self-sustaining ways to connect early childhood professionals.

Over the next several months, the Board will continue prioritizing these goals and establishing objectives to meet them.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
Winston Churchill

AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

Kearney Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

The Kearney Area Chapter of Nebraska AEYC set up a children's art display at the Hilltop Mall in Kearney. The art was from child care centers in Kearney and helped celebrate the Week of the Young Child. The display theme was "Celebrate Spring".

There were 70 participants at the Kearney Area Spring Workshop, held on March 22. Tim Peterson was guest speaker. His topic was "Leading In-differences", pertaining to personality traits.



*Karen Decker,
Kearney
Chapter*

Columbus Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

The Columbus Chapter co-sponsored a Preschool Networking Meeting at ESU #7 on March 31, attended by 26 early childhood professional. Mary Beth Pistillo spoke on "Using Environmental Print in the Classroom".

The Chapter celebrated the Week of the Young Child by underwriting the dessert served at the luncheon during the Columbus Early Childhood Conference on April 17 at Central Community College.



*Kathy Zadina,
Columbus
Chapter*

Make The Internet Work For You

The Internet can be an invaluable research tool, but it can also be a huge waste of time. Use these tips to avoid getting stuck in Cyberspace.

- ♥ Get on the network early in the day to avoid high-traffic times.
- ♥ Upgrade your modem to at least 28.8 bps.
- ♥ Don't get sidetracked by interesting but irrelevant sites.
- ♥ Read the "help" files for the search engine you use most often.
- ♥ Bookmark useful sites for future reference.
- ♥ If there's reading material you've been meaning to get to, glance through it while waiting for large sites to load.
- ♥ Turn off the graphics capabilities on your browsers for really efficient searches.



With a little patience and a little common sense, you can make the Internet into an efficient and powerful asset to your business.

Are You A Facebook Member?

If you are a Facebook Member, do a search for Nebraska AEYC and join the Nebraska group!

There is also a NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) group!

Join both for interesting discussion, links, etc.

To Join: Just go to www.facebook.com - for instructions.



"This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

PARTICIPATION ON COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

- ♥ Building Bright Futures
- ♥ Call of Action Task Force
- ♥ Central Community College Advisory Team
- ♥ Community Services Initiative/EC team
- ♥ Community Services Leadership Team
- ♥ Early Childhood Public Policy Team
- ♥ EC Interagency Coordinating Council
- ♥ Environment Ratings Scale Team
- ♥ Human Services Federation
- ♥ Kids Count Data Team
- ♥ Lincoln Public School Consumer Advisory Team
- ♥ Metro Community College Advisory Team

- ♥ Munroe Meyer Institute Advisory Team
- ♥ Nebraska Head Start Association
- ♥ Nebraska Nature Action Collaborative
- ♥ Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
- ♥ P-16 Committee and Goals 2 & 4
- ♥ Region VII Advisory Team
- ♥ Regional Training Project, Lincoln
- ♥ Regional Training Project, Omaha
- ♥ Southeast Community College Advisory Team
- ♥ Together for Kids and Families
- ♥ United Way School Readiness Team, Omaha
- ♥ United Way Team, Lincoln

To Donate

Visit the website ([To Donate](#)), and you can donate to NeAEYC and some of the projects, including T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®, Nature Explore™, Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Bank, and Student groups.

You can donate with a credit card - we'll send you a letter for your taxes.

Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Bank

Nebraska AEYC has again renewed the contract to serve as the fiscal agent for the Hearing Aid Loaner Bank.



This project provides hearing aid and supplies for young children with genetic hearing disorders. The hearing aids and supplies are funded through donations from manufacturers and private individuals.

MEMBERSHIP

Attention Members!!

Help us increase our Nebraska AEYC membership. For each "NEW" member you recruit, (up to 3 per year) NeAEYC will send you a coupon for \$10.00 off of your next renewal.

All you need to do is have the "NEW" member that you recruit fill out the application, write your name at the bottom of the application as the "referred by person", enclose a check and mail to:

Nebraska AEYC, 650 J St., Ste. 23, Lincoln, NE 68508

When you receive your renewal reminder, just attach your coupon to your membership renewal form, your renewal fee minus \$10.00, and mail it to our office. NeAEYC will attach a check for \$10.00, and we will mail it to the National Office!



Membership Benefits

National AEYC

Website: www.NAEYC.org
Week of the Young Child activities—national
2 Annual National Conferences
Children's Champions, advocacy activities
Young Children Journal & professional resources
Early childhood national leadership
Professional Liability Insurance option

Nebraska AEYC

Website: www.NebraskaAEYC.org
Week of the Young Child activities—state and local
Local conference support
Legislative breakfast, advocacy activities
Quarterly newsletter
Early childhood state & local leadership
Annual Early Childhood Planning retreat
Chapter development & support

CONFERENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♥ May 25-27, 2010: **Region VII Head Start Conference**, Kansas City, MO. For more info: www.r7hsa.com
- ♥ June 6-9, 2010: **NAEYC Professional Development Conference**, Phoenix, AZ. Contact www.NAEYC.org
- ♥ June 15-16, 2010: **Early Development Network Conference**, Kearney. Contact: joan.lubbers@nebraska.gov
- ♥ June 16, 2010: **Concordia Early Childhood Conference**, Seward. Contact: ECE@cune.edu
- ♥ June 22-24, 2010: **ERS Training**, Lincoln. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ July 14-15, 2010: **Kindergarten Conference**, Kearney. Contact: marybeth.pistillo@nebraska.gov
- ♥ July 15-17, 2010: **NAFFC Conference**, Nashville, TN. Contact: nafcc@nafcc.org
- ♥ July 20-22, 2010: **ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact: penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ July 26-27, 2010: **Nature Research Symposium**, Nebraska City, NE. Contact: tarah@dimensionsfoundation.org
- ♥ August 21-24, 2010: **ASAE Conference**, Los Angeles, CA. For more info: www.ASAE.org
- ♥ September 28-30, 2010: **ERS Training**, Kearney. Contact penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ October 14-17, 2010: **Nature Action Forum**, Nebraska City, NE. Contact: info@worldforumfoundation.org
- ♥ October 19-21, 2010: **ERS Training**, Lincoln. Contact penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ November 3-6, 2010: **NAEYC Annual Conference**, Anaheim, CA. For more info: www.NAEYC.org
- ♥ November 30, Dec 1-2, 2010: **ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact penny.gildea@nebraska.gov

"All I know to do is to light the candle that has been given to me."

Fred Rogers

Need Some Help?

NeAEYC staff can serve as:

- ♥ Environment Ratings Scale (ERS) evaluators
- ♥ CLASS assessors
- ♥ Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential advisors
- ♥ West Ed Trainer
- ♥ Accreditation coach
- ♥ Safe With You trainer
- ♥ Early childhood trainer
- ♥ Nature Explore™ consultants

Information on this process and costs is available on the website.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

Studies of quality early childhood care and education programs indicate the best programs are those where staff are well educated and turnover is low.

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) is designed to provide scholarship funds for those working with young children. The scholarships address three key issues facing those in the early care and education field: the educational level of the staff, high turnover rates, and low wages.

Scholarship Program

The scholarship provides:

80% of tuition & book costs, a travel stipend, \$350 bonus, partial reimbursement for release time or the cost of substitute care.

Qualified applicants must:

Work in a licensed child care facility or otherwise qualifying program, working directly with children or supervising those working with children; work at least 30 hours a week; and earn less than \$15.00 per hour. **additional criteria may apply*

Associate and Bachelor degree scholarships available.

For more information on T.E.A.C.H.

Contact: **Brandee Lengel, T.E.A.C.H. Coordinator**
(402) 476-5658 or toll free 877-656-2005
teach@NebraskaAEYC.org

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.

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

Pat Hoffschneider, Office Manager
650 J St, Suite 23, Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 402-476-2092

Fax: 402-476-5665

e-mail: phoff@NebraskaAEYC.org



Visit our website: www.NebraskaAEYC.org