



CHILDREN ... THE HEART OF THE MATTER

© 1988 NeAEYC

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.

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

September, 2011 Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT Dawn Mollenkopf



This week, 27 eager college students piled into my classroom to engage in the evening's topic: Building on Tradition. Their task was to work in groups for the first half of the class period using books, articles, and Internet links to synthesize information on a particular historical period and the key historical figures that contributed to early childhood. Teams then summarized and illustrated their findings on charts that became part of a historical timeline on the wall. As we went through the timeline, teams presented what they learned from that time period and what the historical figures accomplished. We also talked about societal events happening during those time periods, which provided a historical context for what they studied.

As students reflected on what they had learned, they began to make the connections I had hoped for. Children's books were created once the printing press was available. People's views of children shifted as more people learned how to study the natural world scientifically and then began to study how children learn. Designs for the first toys, classroom materials, and learning methods still carry imprints in early childhood toys, materials and methods today. Some of the students were fascinated that some historical issues such as whether kindergartens would become too academic and become less developmentally appropriate are still issues today.

They also noticed that sometimes when solutions are developed to one problem, they open the door for new problems to be solved. Others were simply fascinated that things we take for granted today such as circle time, unit blocks, or even the traditional "Happy Birthday" song were once new innovations.

Students also saw the role of these early childhood figures as doers, innovators, advocates, and change agents and the role that organizations such as NAEYC played in the development and support of the field. When the students moved to their closing activity and began to brainstorm ideas for their upcoming Issues and Trends paper, I couldn't help thinking with pride about the field of early childhood, our contributions to society, and how far we have come. As I thought of all we learn from these historical figures, I was reminded by Caroline Pratt that the

Continued, next column

Changes in Nebraska's Early Childhood world

Bob Dylan said, "*the times, they are a changin'*", and that's very true in early childhood in Nebraska.

Carol Fichter has served as the Director of the Early Childhood Training Center for 20 years and is currently Co-Administrator of the Office of Early Childhood/Nebraska Department of Education. She has been a long time early childhood leader and advocate, and is a past recipient of the Distinguished Service to Children award. Carol is planning to retire in early October. Carol, thanks for your years of service, and we hope you thoroughly enjoy your retirement.



With the reorganization of the Regional Training Projects, five people will no longer be a part of this system. They are: **Marcia Fritz, Pat Schmidt, Connie Schweitzer, Paula Southworth, and Mindy Young**. Thanks for all the work you've done in your regions and we look forward to continuing to partner in different projects.

Jeanne Webb has been an early childhood leader at Central Community College. She is a past recipient of the Distinguished Service to Children award, and has served on the T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee since its inception. Jeanne has recently retired. Thanks, Jeanne, for all your help and hard work through the years.



Welcome, to **Roxanne Vipond!** Roxanne will be serving as the coordinator in the newly defined Early Learning Connection regions in the Central area, ESU 10. Roxanne is from the Grand Island area, and is a member of the T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee. Congratulations, Roxanne!!

If you've just read Dawn's article, I think you'll agree that all these remarkable women are doers, innovators, advocates and change agents.

From the President, continued

people we learn from most of all are the children. As we work together with and for children, may we take pride in our past, advocate boldly for the future, and take time to always learn from the children.

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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Page 1 - President's Letter, Changing times
- Page 2 - Mission Statement, Board of Directors, Staff
- Page 3 - NAEYC Updates
- Page 4 - Advocacy, Legislative updates, Senator Nelson
- Page 5 - Technology, Accreditation
- Page 6 - NeAEYC Annual Planning Retreat, Child Care Insurance
- Page 7 - NeAEYC Activities
- Page 8 - T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA/Terri Lynn Lokoff
- Page 9 - Affiliate & Chapter Information, High Plains, Southeast, Northeast
- Page 10 - Affiliate & Chapter Information, LAEYC, Kearney
- Page 11 - Affiliate & Chapter Information, Southeast, & Nature Play
- Page 12 - F as in Fat, Conferences & Upcoming Events

Nebraska AEYC Office Staff

Gina DeFreece, Special Projects Coordinator
(402) 476-5672 - gdefreece@NebraskaAEYC.org

Connie Fishburn, T.E.A.C.H. Assistant
(402) 476-5663 - cfishburn@NebraskaAEYC.org

Tracy Gordon, Special Projects Coordinator
(402) 476-5662 - tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org

Jennifer Harris, Accountant
(402) 476-5671 - jharris@NebraskaAEYC.org

Pat Hoffschneider, Office Manager
(402) 476-2092 - phoff@NebraskaAEYC.org

Cindy Jennett, Special Projects Coordinator
(402) 476-5653 - cjennett@NebraskaAEYC.org

Brandee Lengel, T.E.A.C.H. Manager
(402) 476-5658 - TEACH@NebraskaAEYC.org
1-877-656-2005

Linda Zinke, Executive Director
(402) 4776-2089 - lzinke@NebraskaAEYC.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011 Executive Committee

President

Dawn Mollenkopf, PhD., Kearney
University of Nebraska at Kearney Professor

President Elect

Michelle Rupiper, PhD, Omaha
University of Nebraska at Lincoln Professor

Secretary

Pat Enevoldsen, Lincoln
Southeast Community College Professor

Finance Chair

Linda Sullivan, Lincoln
Family Service Association of Lincoln Finance Director

Members

Gina Battey, Omaha, Child Care Teacher

Sarah DeWald, Holdrege, Trinity Child Care Co-Director

Karen Decker, Kearney, Sugar & Spice Center Director

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

Shelley Kahrs, Franklin
Franklin Elementary Schools Principal

Crystal Kozak, Lincoln,
Southeast Community College Professor

Kim Madsen, ED, Chadron,
Chadron State College Professor

Linda Maslowski, Lincoln, Independent Consultant

Deb Ross, Hastings,
Child & Family Development Director

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

Kathy Zadina, Columbus,
St. Bonaventure Child Care Center Director

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

Ex-Officio

Public Policy Chair

Sarah Ann Kotchian, JD, Omaha, Director of Early
Childhood Policy & Public Services, Building Bright Futures

Nebraska AEYC

650 J Street, Suite 23
Lincoln, NE 68508
Fax: 402-476-5665

www.NebraskaAEYC.org

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

NAEYC UPDATES



The 2011 Conference will be held at the Orange County Convention Center.
Explore the latest research & proven best practices, connect with others, and become energized.

Registration is open!! For more information, visit <https://www.naeyc.org/conference/>.

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, November 1

Separate-fee Workshops: Full day

Wednesday, November 2

Affiliate Leadership Day: 8:00-4:00

Conference sessions: Morning & Afternoon

Exhibit Hall: 12:00-4:00, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Opening Keynote Address: 4:30-6:00

Vivian Gussin Paley: *"Who Will Save Kindergarten?"*

Thursday, November 3

Sessions: All day

Exhibit Hall open: 10:30-6:30

SCHEDULE

Friday, November 4

Sessions: All day

Exhibit Hall open: 10:30-6:30

Affiliate Accreditation Chair meeting: 8:30-9:30

NAEYC Annual Business meeting: 2:30-5:30

Saturday, November 5

Affiliate Council Meeting: 7:00-12:00

Sessions: 8:00-2:00

Exhibit Hall open: 8:00-1:00

Closing General Session: 2:30-4:00

Pam Munoz Ryan: *"Before Everything Else Comes Along: Beginnings & Belongings"*.



JACOBS, NAEYC PRESIDENT-ELECT, SCHEDULED TO VISIT NEBRASKA



Dr. Gera Jacobs, the President-Elect of National Association for the Education of Young Children will be conducting a seminar, "Teaching Through Play and Engaging Projects" on Wednesday, September 21, at Wayne State College.

Gera was elected in early 2011 and will begin serving as President of NAEYC in 2012. She has held various roles at the local and state and affiliate NAEYC levels. She is currently a professor of early childhood education at the University of South Dakota, and has taught preschool, kindergarten, and elementary grades for many years. The Carnegie Corporation named her the South Dakota Professor of the Year in 2002.

Jacobs has published articles in a number of national and regional journals. She has co-authored, with Kathy Crowley, "Play, Projects and Preschool Standards: Nurturing Children's Sense of Wonder" and "Joy of Learning".

Join Gera and the Northeast Nebraska Chapter of NeAEYC on September 21. There is no charge, but you must register in advance through ESU1.

This event was organized by the Northeast Chapter of Nebraska AEYC, led by Susan Strahm.

"Our most important task as parents is raising children who will be decent, responsible, and caring people devoted to making this world a more compassionate place."

-Neil Kurshan

ADVOCACY/EDUCATION

CHILD CARE LICENSING HEARINGS HELD AUGUST 25

Public hearings for the proposed child care licensing rules and regulations were held on August 25th, 2011 at the Executive Building in Lincoln. These hearings included video conferencing opportunities for sites located throughout the state. Cindy Jennett, Gina DeFreece, Brandee Lengel and Tracy Gordon attended from NeAEYC. Facilitators from the NeDHHS rotated through the sites offering opportunities for participants to provide comments and/or ask questions.

Participants attending the child care hearings included a wide range of interested parties: child care center directors, family child care providers, as well as community supporters such as private schools, medical representatives and private and state agencies. Many comments were offered in support of the changes. However, some concerns were shared. The concerns shared were primarily in regard to the “no appeal” change for licensing violations, the need to work in partnership with state rather than setting up a punitive atmosphere, the need for healthy meals and snacks as well as physical activity, the cost of the proposed changes to the small business and clarification regarding definitions of some terms.

These public hearings offered an opportunity for persons involved in the daily care and education of young children to have an impact on the care they provide, to have their voices heard and to participate in government—an opportunity that many of them don’t usually get!



State Legislative Updates Planned

Nebraska AEYC is planning to provide regular legislative updates during the Unicameral sessions

These updates will provide brief summaries of key topics coming before the legislature. They'll be distributed to the membership, to help you be informed and to encourage your participation in the process. Our pilot flyer was distributed recently related to the Child Care Licensing Hearings. Feedback on this new process would be much appreciated, as we continue to search for ways to better meet the needs of our members.

We hope to partner with First Five Nebraska as we gather information and develop the flyers.

More to come!!!

(We won't be distributing information regarding federal issues, as Children's Champions, the National Head Start Association, and several other organizations already provide that information.)



Senator Nelson's E-Update—August 1, 2011

Watch Out for Flood Scams

“When the Missouri River floodwaters finally go down, many Nebraskans will need to be careful as they hire contractors and workers to clean up basements, repair damaged buildings, replace foundations or get businesses back in shape. Nebraska and Iowa have counted close to 1,000 damaged homes along the Missouri River that will need work and more needed repairs will probably surface when the waters drop.

I've recently updated a page on my Senate website with federal, state and local resources that may help people avoid flood fraud and scams. Checking contractor licenses, references and business ratings is all part of being safe, so you're not sorry.”

For more information, visit Senator Nelson's website at: <http://bennelson.senate.gov/issues/flooding-fraud-and-scams.cfm>

TECHNOLOGY

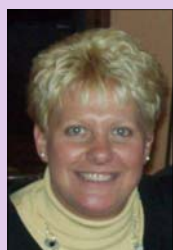
SURVEY MONKEY



SURVEY MONKEY IDEAS FROM THE PLANNING RETREAT

- ♥ Advocacy: Gather longitudinal data on children prior to school age, use Survey Monkey to identify information people need
- ♥ T.E.A.C.H.: Use for the T.E.A.C.H. Annual Survey, use to identify what information students would like in the college directory
- ♥ Chapters: Identify what students want from NeAEYC
- ♥ Quality Initiatives: Use to gather workforce data, identify the professional development needs of early childhood staff

ACCREDITATION



Trend Briefs share data collected through the NAEYC Accreditation process and connect the findings to early childhood research trends. The analysis of this data tells the story of successful approaches used by high quality programs.

Trend Briefs—Teaching

This is the first in a series of Trend Briefs to provide a snapshot of data captured by the NAEYC Reliability and Validity Study 1 (ReVal-1). ReVal-1 is the first in a set of studies exploring the reliability and validity of the accreditation site visit assessment tools and processes that were developed and field tested for the 2006 revision to NAEYC accreditation process for programs for young children. The analysis of this data provides insight into the performance of early childhood programs seeking accreditation.

This brief provides data on specific criteria within the Teaching Standard that differentiate programs that achieve accreditation from those that do not. Beyond its technical use, the data tells the story of successful approaches used by teachers to engage children in high quality programs. NAEYC intends that this brief will inform practitioners about the data finds, deepening their knowledge. They also hope to connect the daily activities that take place in programs to the wider implications of information best practice in early education programs.

You can find the Trend Briefs—Teaching in its entirety at: www.naeyc.org/academy/primary/trendbriefs

School Age Accreditation Pilot

For a limited time, NAEYC is piloting an optional program that allows currently accredited programs to pursue accreditation for the school-age component of their program. Eligible programs may submit the School-Age accreditation Request form & applicable fee between 9/1/2011, & 2/1/2012 to have the school-age component of their program assessed by NAEYC.

Eligibility Requirements for Pilot Program:

Any NAEYC Accredited program is eligible to participate in the School-Age Accreditation Pilot Program if it has one or more groups that serve school-age children that are eligible to be assessed by NAEYC. In order to be assessed by NAEYC, both of the following condition must be true:

The group including school-age children operates before and/or after school

The majority of the children in the group(s) including school-age children are age 8 or younger.

School-Age Accreditation visit:

Eligible programs will receive a visit between September 1, 2011 and February 28, 2012. The visit for School-Age Accreditation will include an assessment of randomly selected groups that include school-age children. Groups will be assessed through observation using the universal criteria and potentially a subset of kindergarten criteria.

- ♥ If all assessed groups meet at least 70% of the criteria assessed, the program's NAEYC Accreditation will be expanded to include school-age children. To reflect this, the program's NAEYC Accreditation Certificate will be modified.
- ♥ If all assessed groups do not meet at least 70% of the criteria assessed, the program's NAEYC Accreditation will be maintained by will not include the program's school-age children.

Please note that if a violation of any required criterion were to be observed during the School-Age Accreditation visit, the NAEYC Academy would apply the Scope & Severity Screen in accordance with the Required Criteria Policy. This could result in the revocation of a program's NAEYC Accreditation.

More information available at: <http://www.naeyc.org/academy/accredited/schoolagepilot>



NeAEYC ANNUAL PLANNING RETREAT

Nebraska AEYC hosted the 10th annual planning retreat at Mahoney State Park on Thursday, June 9. It was attended by nearly 50 people. Each team reviewed the goals from 2010, and moved forward either revisiting the previous goals, and/or developing new goals. The following goals were identified.

ADVOCACY TEAM GOALS

1. Explore avenues to collect and report longitudinal data on children prior to school age
2. Continue to promote the Advancing Early Childhood website
3. Promote the Early Childhood Registry
4. Ensure passage of LB 601 in the 2012 legislative session

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA TEAM GOALS

1. Identify ways to improve the dialogue about education and compensation initiatives
2. Identify ways to improve on gathering information on the status of the workforce
3. Make plans to celebrate the 100th T.E.A.C.H. NEBRASKA graduate
4. Update the T.E.A.C.H. page on the NeAEYC website
5. Plan to celebrate T.E.A.C.H. at 10 in the fall of 2012
6. Update the Community College Directory pages
7. Create ECED Program Directory pages for 4-year colleges with unified endorsement/T.E.A.C.H. partnerships

QUALITY INITIATIVE TEAM GOALS

1. Promote Nebraska AEYC as a voice for parent education around quality early childhood programs
2. Partner with Nebraska Family Child Care Association
3. Support leadership development for programs, teachers, providers, center directors
4. Explore partnerships with the Buffett Institute and UNL
5. Develop additional connections with the newly restructured Early Learning Connections Coordinators

CHAPTER TEAM GOALS

1. Support student groups, involve students
2. Continue student leadership recognition
3. Increase newsletter/website information from students
4. Outreach to kindergarten teachers
5. Focus on preschool teachers in Grant Funded projects
6. Look for additional membership initiatives

Each team also discussed possible uses for Survey Monkey. (See page 5)

Child Care Insurance Options

As a regular feature, we will be providing information describing various insurance products that may be important for your child care business. These articles are intended to be informational and educational, to help you make the best decisions for your business. They are not an endorsement for the products or the agent.



General Liability: Why Do you Need It and What Does It Cover?

General liability by definition covers *Bodily Injury* and *Property Damage* to others caused by your negligence.

This coverage is necessary to protect your business assets if you are sued for something you have done or something you should have done.

Two key concepts of the General Liability policy for your child care business are: Negligent Supervision which results in a child in your care being hurt and the Potential Resulting Lawsuit as a result of that injury. Even groundless claims of negligence made against you must be defended. The General Liability policy pays for the defense of those potential claims as well as any settlement within the terms of your policy.

While well managed centers are constantly working on ways to reduce their potential risk of claims, there are numerous inherent risks and exposures that are a part of your day to day operation such as but not limited to:

- ♥ Children running or pushing into other children or objects and getting hurt.
- ♥ Hazards of the playground including children falling off equipment, walking in front of swings or even holes in the playground.
- ♥ Incidents of tripping and falling from adults arriving or leaving the facility.

The cost of bodily injury and defense are constantly rising, so be sure to carry high enough limits to cover your assets. A recommended minimum limit should be \$1,000,000 each occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate.

An additional coverage which is often endorsed onto the General Liability policy or may become a sublimit of coverage is the Sexual Abuse and Molestation. This coverage is designed to protect you and your staff from things as accusations of improper handling or touching of a child. It is always best to have strict rules so no one is ever left alone or in a room privately with a child to avoid these types of concerns.

Your best defense to avoid negligent liability claims is to regularly inspect your premises and identify any potential exposure you can correct, train your staff to provide proper supervision, follow regulations and to make proper documentation. Always carry a General Liability policy as a back up of coverage when your best efforts have failed.

Information provided by Becky Haufler, CIC, Inspro Insurance

Nebraska AEYC ACTIVITIES

National Family Child Care Conference

Cindy Jennett, Gina DeFreece and five family child care providers recently attended the National Family Child Care Conference in Henderson, NV. The family child care providers are a part of a Quality Enhancement/coaching project facilitated by NeAEYC.



Opening ceremony and ribbon cutting

One participant said,
"This was an experience I will never forget!"



Nebraska Nature Action Collaborative Projects

Nature Action Collaborative Community Forums will be held in each of the 7 Early Learning Connection Partnership Regions. These forums will provide an opportunity to bring communities together to develop outdoor spaces for young children.

NeAEYC is a partner in the Nebraska Nature Action Collaborative, and will be serving as the fiscal agent.

For information, contact the ELC Coordinators.

Scheduled:

September 22: Ogallala
October 1: Blair
October 1: Crete
October 13: Columbus
November 15: Pender

Not Scheduled: Hastings & Alliance



RTTT—ELC

NeAEYC and Linda Zinke are part of a team working on a proposal for the **Race To The Top – Early Learning Challenge** funds. This is a competitive grant from the US Departments of Education & Health and Human Services.

The purpose is to provide more children ages birth-five from low-income families with access to high quality early learning and development programs.

If Nebraska receives this grant, the funding is projected to be available before December 31, 2011.

Think positive thoughts!!!

*"There is no security on this earth;
there is only opportunity."*

Douglas MacArthur

Nature Research Symposium

Linda Zinke attended the 2nd Annual Nature Research Symposium in Nebraska City on July 17-19. The Symposium drew over 100 participants from 18 states and Canada.

To learn more about Nature Explore visit their website at: <http://www.arboday.org/explore/>

Kindergarten Conference

NeAEYC hosted a table at the annual Kindergarten Conference in Kearney July 13-14.

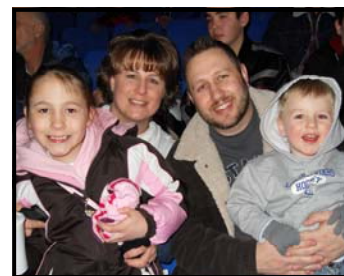
Many people visited the table, gathered information from Cindy Jennett or Pat Hoffschneider, and won prizes by spinning the wheel.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA



DID YOU KNOW ????

All T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipients are required to submit Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students that receive other aid can still participate with T.E.A.C.H. but may get full or partial assistance with the cost of tuition and/or books (aid not including student loans). This has saved the T.E.A.C.H. program thousands of \$\$\$!! Information about applying for FAFSA can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov.



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

Yesterday's Nontraditional Student is Today's Traditional Student

Today's typical college student is no longer an 18-year old recent high school graduate who enrolls full-time and has limited work and family obligations. Student's today are older, more diverse and have more work and family obligations to balance.

Adults Age 25 or Older	36%	More than a third of undergraduate students are over age 25. Over the next 10 years the adult student enrollment in college is projected to grow faster than for traditional age students.
Enrolled Part Time	46%	Undergraduate part-time enrollment has remained relatively steady since 1980, but with growing gaps between the price of tuition and the availability of grant funds, more students may enroll part-time and combine work and school.
Employed Full Time	32%	Working full-time can be a challenge for students who are balancing their course loads, school work and family responsibilities, yet almost a third of all undergraduates work 35 hours or more per week.
Parents	23%	Nearly a quarter of students are parents. Workforce investments and education may produce benefits for adult participants as well as their children. For example, encouraging evidence shows that when mothers with low-education complete additional education, their children appear to have improved language and reading skills.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA is a licensed program of
Child Care Services Association

Information taken from fact sheet provided by:



Terri Lynn Lokoff™ National Child Care Teacher Awards

Recognizing the need to raise the status of child care teachers and the need for quality child care, the Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation (TLLCCF) created the Terri Lynne Lokoff National Child Care Teacher Awards™. This award acknowledges the critical role of child care teachers in providing quality early care and education. Child care teachers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are invited to apply. The TLLCCF has presented this prestigious award since 1994. Fifty teachers are selected for their commitment and dedication to the children they serve. Of the top ten recipients, one is selected to receive the Helene Marks Award as National Child Care Teacher of the Year.

As part of the application process, each applicant is asked to design an enhancement project for the children in their classroom illustrating the educational, social, and emotional benefits from the project. A committee of early childhood educators and specialists review the applications. Award recipients received \$1,000—\$500 for the teacher's personal use and \$500 to implement the project. An award ceremony takes place each spring in Pennsylvania—hotel and transportation are provided for the recipients. The event celebrates the best and the most dedicated child care teachers.

The Helene Marks Award is presented to the child care teacher who is selected from among the top ten applicants of the National Child Care Teacher Awards. The recipient receives the Helen Marks Award and the honor of being named the National Child Care Teacher of the Year, and an additional \$1,000.

For more information or an application, visit: http://www.tllccf.org/pr_nccta.php



"If you insist on measuring yourself, place the tape around your heart rather than your head."

Carol Trabelle

AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

WELCOME TO TWO NEW CHAPTERS OF NeAEYC

WELCOME

We welcome two new chapters of Nebraska AEYC. Both were organized following the conclusion of the Portfolio Project.



Stephanie Phye,
High Plains Chapter

The High Plains Chapter of Nebraska AEYC includes several counties in west central Nebraska. They have selected officers and are in the process of making plans. President is Stephanie Phye, Director/Owner Lady Bug Child Care Center

The Southeast Chapter of Nebraska AEYC includes several counties in southeast Nebraska. They too are making plans. President of this group is Danielle Schwab, Infant/Toddler Quality Initiative Coordinator, Blue Valley Community Action



Danielle Schwab,
Southeast Chapter

Both chapters are now a part of NeAEYC & NAEYC's electronic membership options. Current members can't switch membership options mid-year, but at renewal time, they can make different choices and will be able to join these chapters.

Remember, one membership fee includes membership in NAEYC, Midwest AEYC, Nebraska AEYC and a local chapter or affiliate.

Northeast Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

Teaching Through Play and Engaging Projects

Wednesday, September 21, 2011
7-9 PM

Wayne State College – Gardner Hall
Gardner Auditorium, (Parking in Lot 6)

Featured Presenter:

Gera Jacobs

NAEYC President Elect
Professor of Early Childhood and Elementary Education
Department of Curriculum and Instruction, USD
University of South Dakota



Please join us

in welcoming **Gera Jacobs** to Nebraska

Network with your peers in the Early Childhood field.
2 In-service hours provided. This program is free.

NORTHEAST NEBRASKA TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- 9/24: Fremont Early Childhood Conference, Midland Lutheran College. Jeff Johnson, Keynote speaker
- 10/1: Tri-State Child Care Providers Conference, *Building a Bright Future*, Marina Inn, S. Sioux City
- 10/15: 5th Annual Infant & Toddler Mental Health Conference, Life Long Learning Center, NE Community College, Norfolk



Susan Strahm,
ESU #1 Coordinator

Conference flyers available through the NeAEYC calendar on the website.



"The illusions of childhood are necessary experiences: a child should not be denied a balloon because an adult knows that sooner or later it will burst."

Marcelene Cox

AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

Lincoln Association for the Education of Young Children

Are you interested in what LAEYC can offer you? Check us out on the Nebraska AEYC website You can access our website through a link on nebraskaaeyc.org. You can renew your membership or join NAEYC from the NAEYC website. LAEYC also has an email account.



Pat Enevoldsen,
LAEYC
Representative

- ♥ **The treasurer position on the LAEYC board is vacant.** Vicky Heyen moved to Minnesota. We miss her and wish her well. We are looking for someone willing to volunteer for this position. We welcome any suggestions you might have.
- ♥ We are in the process of **planning trainings** for the coming year. Possible topics include: *Classroom Management, Special Care, Make and Take Literacy Kits, Coaching parents, Assistive Technology, Sensory Integration.* Send us your ideas or interests for upcoming trainings.
- ♥ **New mailing address** : LAEYC has a new mailing address: LAEYC, P O Box 57134, Lincoln, NE 68505-7134
- ♥ **Early Childhood Celebration 25th Anniversary:** LAEYC and the Early Childhood Celebration Committee are beginning to plan for the 25th Anniversary of the Early Childhood Celebration. Think about joining us on the planning committee. We love new ideas. Please contact Crystal Kozak 402-437-2403 or Pat Enevoldsen 402-437-2401.
- ♥ **Upcoming Events**
 - October 17th LAEYC Meeting, 6:00 p.m., followed by the Early Childhood Celebration meeting at 7:00. Both meetings will be at Southeast Community College
 - November 12th Building Family Relationships - -Together on the Same Page (See more information below)

Building Family Relationships - -Together on the Same Page

Mark Your Calendar—NOVEMBER 12, 9-NOON

Presenter: Beth Gausman, Early Childhood Education Consultant
Registration and refreshments at 8:30 am, workshop 9-12.
Location: Southeast Community College G 1
In-service hours: 3 hours certificate

This workshop is designed for child care providers and teachers who work with children birth through 8. Many of us have found that the parents are not on the same page as we are. In this busy world how do we build a relationship with families so that we can better meet the needs of the children we work with? Beth will share many tips for building meaningful and successful relationships. We are excited to have this expert from Minnesota present. This workshop will qualify for in-service training hours.

Free to NAEYC members. \$5.00 for non-members who preregister, \$10.00 at the door.

Watch for the preregistration flyer.



Kearney Area Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

The Kearney Area Chapter hosted an appreciation luncheon for **Marcia Fritz and Mindy Young** of FYI for their years of dedication, trainings, and support in Early Childhood. The luncheon was held Wednesday, Sept 7, at Perkins Restaurant in Kearney.

- ♥ **September 19, 2011:** We'll be hosting a Scavenger Hunt. Attendees will tour four local Child Care Centers and end at Pane Bello for refreshments. Information will be shared about NAEYC and memberships will be promoted.
- ♥ **November 14, 2011:** *Safe With You: Shakin' Baby & Nothin' but Baby* will be offered at Sunshine World



Marcia Fritz & Mindy Young, FYI

Submitted by Sue Klein, Secretary/Treasurer, Kearney Area Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

www.NebraskaAEYC.org

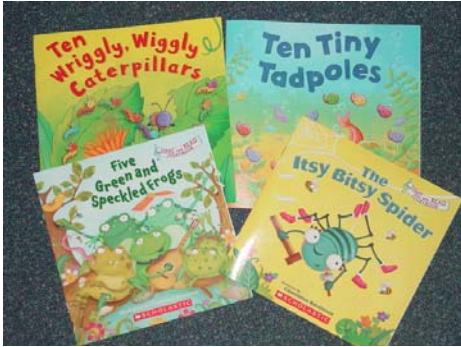
AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

Southeast Community College Student Group

As SCC nears the completion of the Summer Quarter, the Student Group is in full swing with activities. In late August, the Student Group hosted a Make and Take workshop for students at SCC centered around four children's books. Participants created storytelling pieces for either flannel board stories or magnetic board stories. These well-received and well-attended workshops provide a great opportunity for the students to network, meet new students and share ideas for implementing their activities with children.



Crystal Kozak
SCC Chapter
Advisor



SUMMER QUARTER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT:

The group has designated the Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE Zoo Day and Literacy Fair at the Lincoln Children's Zoo on Saturday, September 24th, from 9-noon as the Summer Quarter Community Service Project. This project will enable the Student Group members to interact with members of their community, plan and implement an educational experience with children and families, building professionalism and communication skills.

NAEYC NATIONAL CONFERENCE, Orlando, FLA, November 2-5, 2011

Once again, the SCC Student Group will be traveling to the National AIEYC Conference in November. Four student members and two SCC faculty will be heading to sunny Orlando, Florida to experience the National Conference. Stay tuned to the next newsletter for more details highlighting our conference experience!!!!

NATURE PLAY

From A Parent's Guide to Nature Play, published by Green Hearts. www.greenheartsinc.org

"There is no better place to begin restoring frequent nature play than in your own yard, even if it's a small one. It is handy, familiar, needs no auto transport, and is relatively easy for you to supervise.

Home yards can provide especially good nature play for young children, about ages two to eight. Their interests will tend to focus on tiny, concrete discoveries rather than the big picture. So while you may exclaim over a glorious sunset, your young children will more likely be captivated by 'rollie pollie' bugs, a sweet smelling flower, or a mysterious hole in the flower bed.

Here are some not-too-hard and not-too expensive ideas for 'kidscaping' your yard:

Rough Ground: Set aside part of your backyard for your kids to dig, build, hide, plant, or do whatever they want. You might even write up a simple lease that gives your children 'ownership' of the chosen spot, and then have a 'signing ceremony' with them!

Dirt Pile: Large mounds of loose dirt are an endless joy for kids.

More ideas from this Parent's Guide will be in future newsletters. Green Hearts is a nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to restoring and strengthening the bonds between children & nature. Ken Finch is the Executive Director.



"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all."

Stanley Horowitz

F as in Fat: How Obesity Threatens America's Future

Obesity is one of the most challenging health crises the country has ever faced. Two-thirds of adults and nearly one-third of children and teens are currently obese or overweight, putting them at increased risk for more than 20 major diseases, including type 2 diabetes and heart disease. It's not just our health that is suffering: obesity-related medical costs and a less productive workforce are hampering America's ability to compete in the global economy.

To focus efforts, last year Robert Wood Johnson Foundation identified six policy priorities that are grounded in scientific research and highly likely to affect obesity prevalence. Together, the six priorities offer opportunities for making an impact quickly, while also leaving a legacy of healthy changes that will endure long past the Foundation's 2015 goal of reversing the childhood obesity epidemic.

1. Ensuring that all foods and beverages served and sold in schools meet or exceed the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
2. Increasing access to high-quality, affordable foods through new or improved grocery stores and healthier corner stores and bodegas.
3. Increasing the time, intensity, and duration of physical activity during the school day and in out-of-school programs.
4. Increasing physical activity by improving the built environment in communities.
5. Using pricing strategies—both incentives and disincentives—to promote the purchase of healthier foods.
6. Reducing youths' exposure to the marketing of unhealthy foods through regulation, policy, and effective industry self-regulation.

An example cited in this report is **VITAL** (Values Initiative Teaching About Lifestyle). It was developed to help reduce childhood obesity and high blood pressure. The program focuses on children between the ages of 4 & 8 and emphasizes healthy foods and daily physical activity.

<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/tfahfasinfat2011a.pdf>

Issue Report 2011, Trust for America's Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

VITAL includes the following key focus areas:

1. **Start early:** instill healthy lifestyle values in young children before they learn unhealthy habits.
2. **Be interesting to children:** emphasize participation over lecture, and integrate messages into fun activities.
3. **Reinforcement:** instill the message every day, and encourage parents to promote the same ideas at home.

NAEYC has fact sheets and other resources on Childhood Obesity Prevention available through the Resource Center

CONFERENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▼ **September 24, 2011: Early Childhood Conference**, Fremont. Contact Kvanness@esu7.org
- ▼ **September 26-29, 2011: ERS Training**, Kearney. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ▼ **October 1, 2011: Early Childhood Conference**, Broken Bow. Contact cschweitzer@cennecs.org
- ▼ **October 1, 2011: Tri-State Early Childhood Conference**, South Sioux City. Contact sstrahm@esu1.org
- ▼ **October 1, 2011: North Platte Early Childhood Conference**, North Platte. Contact croche@esu16.org
- ▼ **October 15, 2011: Western Nebraska Early Childhood Conference**, Scottsbluff. Contact sbrown7@unl.edu
- ▼ **October 18-20, 2011: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ▼ **November 3-4, 2011: Nebraska Head Start Association Conference**, Grand Island. Contact cdenner@bvca.net
- ▼ **November 2-5, 2011: NAEYC Annual Conference**, Orlando, FLA. www.naeyc.org
- ▼ **March 23, 2012: Infant-Toddler Symposium**, Omaha. jhaggart@esu3.org
- ▼ **April 2-4, 2012: National After School Conference**, Dallas, TX. Contact www.naaweb.org
- ▼ **April 22-28, 2012: Week of the Young Child**
- ▼ **May 21-24, 2012: Region VII Head Start Conference**, Kansas City, MO. <http://r7hsa.com/>
- ▼ **June 10-13, 2012: NAEYC Professional Development Institute**, Indianapolis, IN. www.naeyc.org
- ▼ **June 12, 2012: Early Development Network Conference**, Kearney. Contact Martha.nash@nebraska.gov

Please submit any articles or information by the 1st of the month of publication/distribution.

We plan to distribute the newsletters around the 15th of the following months:

January, March, May, July, September, & November.

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

Visit the [website](#)/To Donate, and you can donate to NeAEYC operating costs, any of the projects or student groups.

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