



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

May, 2011 Newsletter

www.NebraskaAEC.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dawn Mollenkopf



The day was warm and inviting as I watched three preschoolers playing in the sandbox outside their early childhood center. Two girls and a boy had each found buckets and were exploring the sand. One was scooping sand with the edge of the bucket to dig a hole, another was trying to fill her bucket with sand using a broken shovel, and another was

digging with his hands in the sand, looking for rocks and sticks to fill the bucket. An unused shovel lay over in the sun under a tree. One of the girls spotted it first and began to use it instead of her bucket to dig her hole more efficiently. This perked up interest in the other two children. The boy immediately took the shovel from the girl and went back to his hole to use the shovel to dig up sticks and rocks. The girl started to cry. I brought the boy back over, identified that both wanted a shovel and encouraged the boy to ask for a turn with the shovel. He did so and the girl chose to give him the shovel and to have a turn after the boy. Soon she came back to get a turn with her shovel and I again helped with negotiations.

After a few rounds of negotiations, the girl with the broken shovel now wanted to use the working shovel, but nobody was interested in trading for a broken shovel. So I came up with a different plan. I talked briefly with each child about what they wanted to do with the shovel and showed how they could work together to get what they wanted. The girl digging the hole began to use the good shovel to dig a bigger hole. Instead of putting her sand in a pile, she filled her friend's bucket. The boy used the broken shovel to help pry rocks and sticks out of the hole his friend was digging. Soon the boy had several rocks and sticks in his bucket, one girl had a very big hole, and the other girl had a full bucket. Everyone was happy!

As I watched the children learning how to play together in the sandbox and help one another achieve their goals, I couldn't help thinking about how foundational this skill was. For many years and throughout adulthood these children would need to learn how to play with others, share the "sandbox", and learn to work together so everyone wins. I thought of adults I knew who are great "sandbox" negotiators" and others who are still learning the skill. May all of us remember the value of sharing the sandbox as we work together to better the lives of young children and families.

DECLINING FORTUNES OF CHILDREN IN MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

Info@preknow.org, Tuesday, March 1, 2011

From Pre [K] now:

The latest annual report of the Child Well-Being Index from the Foundation for Child Development shows that the status of children from middle-class families has become more precarious during the last decade.

Compared to the early 2000s, these children are less healthy and more likely to have parents who are single, have lower incomes and less secure employment.

The report did find some good news: middle-class children were more likely to be insured and be enrolled in a center-based early education program. Researchers attributed these trends to increased public investments in children's health insurance and pre-k programs. Whether these advances are maintained will depend on how such programs fare during these tough economic times.

"This study is a stark reminder that policies we set today have very wide and real ramifications in the lives of children - not only children from low-income families but children squarely in the middle class," said Ruby Takanishi, President of FCD. *"The budget decisions we make in the coming months will have consequences that could last a lifetime. They will determine whether our children will inherit a nation that is more unequal and ultimately less economically competitive than the nation their parents and grandparents experienced."*

<http://www.fcd-us.org/resources/declining-fortunes-children-middle-class-families>

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

www.NebraskaAEC.org

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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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

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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 Coord.

Shelley Kahrs, Franklin
Principal, Franklin Elementary Schools

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

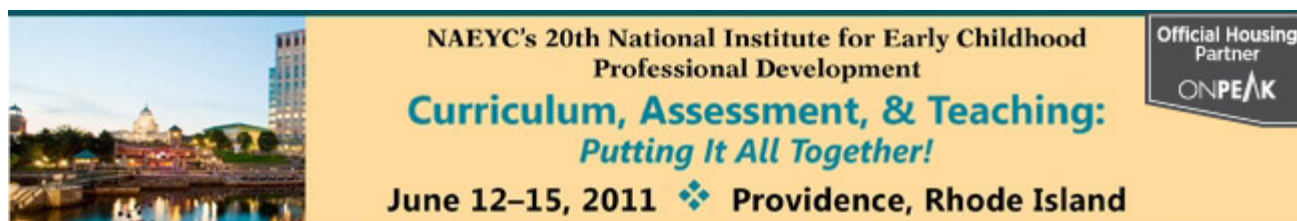
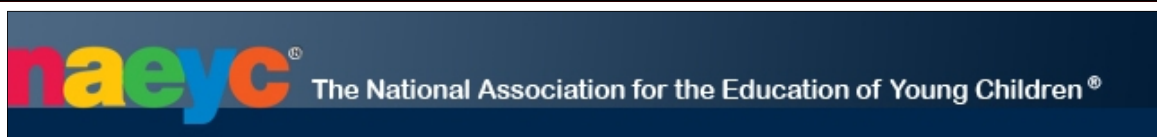
Nebraska AEYC

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



NAEYC Elections

Congratulations to the following individuals that have been elected by NAEYC membership to serve on the NAEYC Governing Board, beginning their term on June 1, 2011.

President-Elect:

Gera Jacobs, Professor of Early Childhood Education, University of South Dakota, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Vermillion, South Dakota



Governing Board At Large:

- ♥ **Jim Lesko**, Director, Early Development and Learning Resources, Delaware Department of Education, Dover, Delaware
- ♥ **Amy O'Leary**, Campaign Director, Early Education for All, Strategies for Children, Boston, Massachusetts
- ♥ **Ginger Marie Swigart**, Project Specialist, Sacramento County Office of Education, Sacramento, California

NAEYC and VISION 2015

The NAEYC Governing Board recently approved an exciting and strategic Vision 2015 at its September 2010 meeting. NAEYC is asking affiliate leadership at the local and state levels to become acquainted with and aware of this vision. NAEYC is asking that affiliates consider how our affiliate can complement the goals and related benchmarks with Vision 2015 through a plan for our state, and how will this vision influence or impact our future strategic direction.

The six goals identified by NAEYC are as follows:

1. NAEYC is influential and impacts local, state, and national early childhood **public policy and early childhood professional practice.**
2. NAEYC has **aligned its standards for early childhood programs, practices, and professional preparation with its policy stances.**
3. NAEYC demonstrates a strong **commitment to continuous improvement with respect to organizational wellness and organizational excellence.**

4. NAEYC is a model of **diverse leadership and leadership development.**
5. NAEYC has a "**connected network**" of 250,000 people; alliances with other organization enhance this network.
6. NAEYC promotes the expanded **development of the professional status** of individuals in the early childhood field.

naeyc CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS

To receive regular, informative email information regarding legislative issues and early childhood, sign up for Children's Champions. Go to www.NAEYC.org, click on Public Policy, and join Children's Champions. These updates are provided by NAEYC and Adele Robinson, JD, Deputy Executive Director, Policy and Public Affairs.

ADVOCACY/EDUCATION

Hill Visits with Nebraska's Delegation & What's on the Horizon



In late March I had the good fortune to attend NAEYC's QRIS meeting and Public Policy Forum in Washington, DC with Nebraska AEYC's Special Projects Coordinator, Tracy Gordon.

While in town we made a round of visits to the offices of Nebraska's federal delegation. The trip provided a perfectly timed opportunity to share information on the importance of investing in the first five years because the federal government was within days of what now finally seems to be the end of repeated continuing resolutions on the 2011 budget.

The hill visits Tracy and I conducted were of particular importance with the offices of Senator Johanns and Representatives Fortenberry, Terry and Smith because all four of these members voted for drastic and devastating cuts to Child Care and Head Start and Early Head Start in H.R. 1.

Since our visits an agreement has been reached by House Republicans and Senate Democrats to stave off a federal government shutdown. Today it seems early learning funding has emerged mostly unscathed along with positive developments although the bill does require a 0.2 percent across-the-board cut that will be applied proportionately to all non-security discretionary programs. Here is the news on early childhood in the budget deal:

- **Head Start** receives a \$340 million increase for Head Start and Early Head Start. This will allow the additional children funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to continue to receive services.
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant** receives a \$100 million increase which allows some of the children served by ARRA to be maintained. The \$100 million includes a proportional increase over baseline (pre-ARRA) funding levels in the quality set-aside (from \$271 million to \$284 million and the infant-toddler set-aside (from \$99.5 million to \$104 million).
- **Race to the Top** receives \$700 million and a yet-to-be-determined portion of funds will go to a competitive grant similar to the Early Learning Challenge Fund. These competitive grant funds will be administered jointly by the federal Department of Health and Human Services and Education for states to improve the quality of services to low-income infants, toddlers and preschoolers through an integrated system of early learning programs.

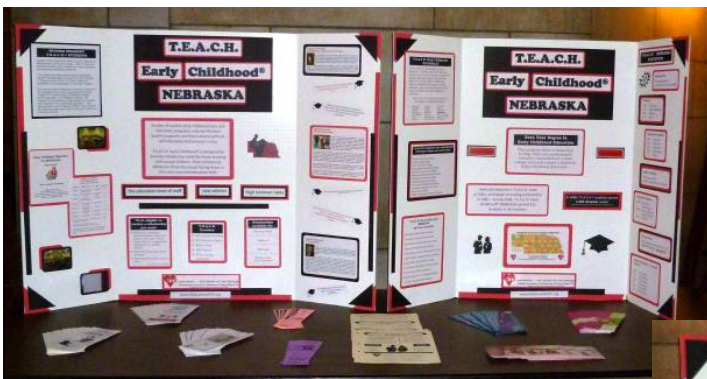
As we breathe a sigh of well-deserved relief on behalf of children, the FY 2012 appropriations process is already underway in the House and more doom and gloom is in the forecast. What we will need to work toward is a timely agreement on this budget to support the access to high quality early childhood programs for at-risk children.



Sarah Ann Kotchian
Public Policy Chair



Week of the Young Child Display at the Rotunda



Nebraska AEYC provided a display in two "corners" of the rotunda during the Week of the Young Child. Displays were about Quality and what it looks like, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood@ NEBRASKA, Outdoor classrooms, and the Accreditation process. Also included were a variety of examples of children's art.

NeAEYC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Welcome!!!!

Shelley Kahrs

Shelley Kahrs has been elected to serve as the Public Schools representative. Shelley is the Elementary Principal at Franklin Elementary Schools, and lives in Franklin. Past positions include a Kindergarten teacher and an early childhood administrator.

She holds a Bachelors of Arts in Education with an Early Childhood Endorsement, and a Masters of Arts in Educational Administration.

Michelle Rupiper, PhD

Michelle has been elected as a Community Representative. She is the Assistant Professor of Practice and the Director of the Ruth Staples Child Development Center at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Past positions include Child Development Director, Salvation Army, Omaha; and Family Service, Omaha

She has a BA in Psychology from the University of Northern Iowa, and MA in Developmental Psychology from University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a PhD in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Michelle serves on the Board of the National Coalition of Campus Children's Centers. She previously served as President of Nebraska AEYC from January, 2002—December, 2003. During this time, we received the T.E.A.C.H. grant and she led us through restructuring. She also has served as past president of Midwest AEYC, and is a recipient of the Distinguished Service to Children Award.

Sarah DeWald

Sarah DeWald has been elected as an At-large member representative. She is the co-director of Trinity Child Care/ Director of Children's Ministries at Holdrege. A past position includes the Director of Education at the Lincoln Children's Museum.

Sarah has a BA in Art History from UNL, and a MA in Museum Studies with an emphasis in Education, also from UNL.

"I have a love and a passion for working with young children. I would like to be able to be a part of an organization that supports young children and the people that work with them."

PRESIDENT ELECT

Michelle Rupiper was identified by the nominations committee and unanimously recommended for the position of President Elect. The board voted her into this position at the April meeting. She will serve as President Elect during 2011, President during 2012 & 2013, and possibly 2014, and Past President during 2015.

Congratulations, Michelle!!



SURVEY MONKEY VOTES:

Over 70 members voted in the election for Michelle Rupiper and Shelley Kahrs. There was one write-in vote, and the rest were all in support of the candidates.

SURVEY MONKEY VOTES, Part 2:

The survey was distributed to 66 At-Large, Northeast, and Sarpy/Cass members. 23% of those surveyed voted, all in support of the candidate, Sarah DeWald.

***A Very Special Thanks to all the board members
who donate their time and energy and are willing to serve.***

TECHNOLOGY

FEATURED WEBPAGE

www.NebraskaAEYC.org/Research

This page provides an overview of the importance of early childhood education.

In addition, there are Links to multiple national research articles about early childhood, including:

- ♥ *Early Learning, Later Success: The Abecedarian Study*
- ♥ *Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return* (Art Rolnick & Rob Grunewald)
- ♥ *Invest in the Very Young* (James Heckman)
- ♥ *We Can Do Better: NACCRRRA's Ranking of State Child Care Center Standards*
- ♥ *The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study Through 40*
- ♥ *President Helping Children* - 7 minute video from Every Child Matters

State or regional research information is also available:

- ♥ *Midwest Child Care Study* (Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri)
- ♥ *Economic Impact of the Nebraska Early Care & Education Industry Report* (both the executive summary & full report)
- ♥ *Kids Count, 2010*

We continue to update this page (and all the webpages) and add additional articles as appropriate. If you have an idea for an article for this page, please let us know.

SURVEY MONKEY



NEWSLETTER SURVEY—110 responses

In the fall of 2009, NeAEYC switched from mailing the newsletter to sending an electronic notice. Was this a good change? 84.3.7% Yes 15.7% No

Do you read the newsletter? 85.3% Yes 14.7% No

If you read the newsletter, please identify the top 4 pages you read:

Nebraska AEYC updates/activities	72.4%
Upcoming Conference Information	60.2%
National AEYC Updates	49.0%
President/Executive Director Letter	45.9%
Outdoor classroom spotlights	39.8%
TEACH Early Childhood NE Information	31.6%
Local Affiliate/Chapter/Student groups	29.6%
Advocacy Page	27.6%
Quality Enhancement Project info	21.4%
Accreditation information	20.4%

FACEBOOK

NeAEYC is on Facebook

If you are a Facebook Member just type: facebook.com/NeAEYC in your browser and it will lead you directly to our page. Click the "LIKE" button at the top of the page.



The 7 Deadly Sins of Web Design

1. Pop up ads
2. Being required to install extra software to view site
3. Dead Links
4. Confusing navigation
5. Required registration to access content
6. Slow-loading pages
7. Ineffective site search tools

Source: www.adminesolutions.com March 2, 2011

"One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work on one extraordinary man."

Elbert Hubbard

BRANDEE LENGEL RECOGNIZED AS ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Brandee Lengel was recognized by the Nebraska Family Child Care Association as 2011 Advocate of the Year at the Annual Providers Day Out event. This event was held on April 2, in Lincoln at the Center for People in Need.

The Advocate of the Year Award is presented to a person or group who has championed the cause of family child care providers and the children they care for, or the profession in general. The recipient is someone who is not directly involved in caring for children. NFCCA members and affiliated support groups make nominations for this award.

CONGRATULATIONS, BRANDEE!!!

Brandee Lengel, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Manager



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

2011 Annual Survey

In February, we reviewed the results of the 2011 Annual T.E.A.C.H. survey.

Highlights:

- 100% of recipients and sponsoring programs are satisfied with the scholarship program, as an overall evaluation.
- 100% of sponsoring programs feel the scholarship recipient has increased his/her knowledge of child development.
- 100% of recipients and sponsoring programs felt that, when they needed assistance, T.E.A.C.H. staff responded in a timely manner and were helpful.
- 98% of scholarship recipients found their sponsoring program to be supportive.



Comments from scholarship recipients:

- *Wow-where do I begin? It has given me hope for a better future. It is reassuring and encouraging and has helped me feel better about myself and what I do.*
- *It has allowed me to be a good example to my children!*
- *I would not be taking classes if not for T.E.A.C.H. I could not afford it. It means the world to me and I appreciate all the help. Thank you!*
- *I have been able to go back to school and finish a degree I started 20 years ago. I have 4 children so the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship made it possible for me to take the classes I could not afford otherwise.*
- *You are allowing me to reach my dreams in life and I can't thank you enough!*

Comments from sponsoring programs:

- *Thank you for offering a way to educate our teachers. They deserve it and the families they serve deserve it!*
- *The T.E.A.C.H. program is a wonderful opportunity. I hope to use it again. For (my staff) it was very informative and she shared what she learned. T.E.A.C.H. has been a great way to improve on education and skills.*
- *This program is fantastic for staff development and encouraging staff to reach their goals. It gives great support in all necessary areas - time, knowledge, finances, etc. We love it!*
- *My staff on T.E.A.C.H. have become better teachers!!*



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

2010 NeAECY Annual Report:

We have completed the 2010 Annual Report. The full report is available on our website at www.nebraskaaecy.org.

T.E.A.C.H. Highlights:

- **224 students** from 47 counties
- 80% working on AA degree/20% on BA degree
- 45% of classes are accessed on-line
- Earned **1,625.5** semester **credits**
- Average **GPA 3.67** (B+)
- 8 students graduated with an Associate Degree/2 students graduated with a Bachelor Degree
- **Turnover** less than **5%**
- **86%** of programs accept **child care subsidy**
- Average **salary increase** for teachers: Just under **6%**

TOP TEN CLASSES IN 2010

Of all the classes the T.E.A.C.H. students took in 2010, these are the top ten...

1. Intro to Early Childhood Education
2. Observation, Assessment & Guidance
3. Preschool Child Development
4. Children with Exceptionalities
5. Family & Community Relations
6. Infant/Toddler Development & Care
7. School-Age Development & Care
8. Pre-Practicum Seminar
9. Language & Literacy
10. Expressive Arts

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

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."
Sydney J. Harris

ACCREDITATION

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.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPORT

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for FAMILY CHILD CARE ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

Arnold, Olivia	Bellevue
Baumann, Jennifer	Chadron
Drozd, Cheryl	Columbus
Ebell, Michelle	Bellevue



Fryman, JoAnn	Bellevue
Hand, Shawna	Bellevue
McMillian, Analisa	Bellevue
Mercer, Cara	Papillion

CHILD CARE INSURANCE OPTIONS



Understanding Property Insurance

The Sticks and Bricks of Your Business

A late night storm came through your community with strong winds ripping a hole in your buildings roof; heavy rains caused water damage to your interior and business property. Let's examine how each part of your property policy will respond and understand the importance of **accurate & adequate** limits of insurance.

Building and Business Contents: Replacing the roof and cleaning up and repairing the interior will be a big job. Your insurance company will approve for a professional to come in and tear out water logged drywall, flooring and dispose of damaged contents as well as with contractors to do any outside repairs. You may be asked to secure estimates for the work from one or more contractors.

It will also be your duty to make a list of all damaged contents from books, toys, furniture and fixtures. Having a video or pictures of each room will help you remember all the items you have purchased over they years. Be certain when you purchase your coverage outdoor play equipment is not overlooked or if you are a tenant in your building you have insured for improvements and betterments you have made to the structure. You don't want to find out after the claim that these items were not included in your coverage.

It is important you understand there is two ways to insure for your building and contents. **Replacement Cost** or **Actual Cash Value**. If you purchased an Actual Cash Value policy you will suffer the cost of depreciation along with the cost of your deductible. Replacement Cost is our preferred coverage form which allows you to purchase new for old up to the policy limits after you meet your deductible

- ♥ **Accurately identify your exposures & insure for Adequate limits** Your policy can only pay up to the limit shown on your policy.
- ♥ **Business Income and Extra Expense:** Make sure your policy has provisions for this coverage providing at least 3 to 6 months loss of income. Some insurance companies will allow for automatic coverage up to 12 months. Business income will help replace your lost income for families that temporarily have relocated to another daycare while your building is being repaired.
- ♥ **Extra expense** will help you establish a temporary location to care for your children paying the cost to move, get equipment, supplies and setting up phone lines so you can provide the service to your families and maintain your clients.
- ♥ **Insurance is Important.** I encourage you to once a year to review your insurance needs. Protect your investment and your livelihood with adequate property coverages.

Information provided by Becky Haufle, CIC, INSPRO Insurance

As a new 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.

NeAEYC ACTIVITIES—WOYC MINI-GRANTS



Week of the Young Child Mini-Grant Recipients

COLUMBUS CHAPTER of NEBRASKA AEYC



The Columbus chapter coordinated a large art fair, featuring the art work of nearly 300 children ages one-six in the Columbus area.

The children's art was on display all during the Week of the Young Child at: Kentucky Fried Chicken, St. Anthony's Preschool & Day care, Mike's Auto, Terri's Child Care, and at the U.S. 30 Center.

The Columbus Telegraph featured a large article on the Week of the Young Child in their paper on Sunday, April 10. Kathy Zadina, NeAEYC board member and

representative of the Columbus chapter, was quoted frequently. Kathy is the director of St. Bonaventure Preschool and Child Care.



SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT GROUP



The SCC Student Group kicked off the Week of the Young Child at the Early Childhood Celebration on April 9th.

The students created a "Spin & Learn" game targeting adults and the importance of quality care and education. Participants were able to spin a large wheel and answer a question relating to quality care and education. Small prizes were given to those who answered the questions correctly. The students also provided handouts that can inform the community on what to look for in a quality child care program and how to make the best child care decisions for their child and family.



Students set up a booth on the SCC-Lincoln Campus throughout the week of April 11th enabling our student community to "Spin & Learn" about the importance of quality care and education for young children. Our activity was an amazing success and proved to be an excellent learning tool!

Photos provided courtesy of the SCC student group

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STUDENT GROUP

The student group has an ongoing partnership with the Autism Society of Nebraska (ASN) and Project Exceed. They used their grant award from NeAEYC to plan an event in partnership with ASN to celebrate the Week of the Young Child.

The student group planned a free event for children with Autism and their families at Lost in Fun (an indoor play center) on April 20th. The evening was spent interacting with large motor activities and ended with a pizza party. Over 30 children with their families attended the event.

UNL students are: Hannah Griffith, Julie Feldman (President), & Britnee Felici

Photo provided courtesy of the UNL student group



*"Luck is what you have left over after you give 100%."
Langston Coleman*

NeAEYC ACTIVITIES



Week of the Young Child Mini Grant recipients

KEARNEY CHAPTER

The members of the Kearney Area Chapter of NeAEYC were very grateful for the mini-grant money and used it to purchase a banner to be displayed at NeAEYC events.

They displayed the banner at the Hilltop Mall in Kearney during the Week of the Young Child, where there was an art display from area child care centers.

The banner will be available to use at any area events for many years to come.



LINCOLN AEYC

The Lincoln AEYC sponsored the 24th Annual Early Childhood Celebration on Saturday, April 9th. Held at Southeast Community College, the celebration had participation from over 25 community agencies, child care programs, and dance groups. Interactive displays offering hands-on activities for children were prevalent. UNL student volunteers participating in the Big Event offered their time and energy to assist, SCC's Fire Protection Technology Program and students assisted Lincoln Fire and Rescue with fire safety displays and equipment tours. Overall, the event was a huge success and we look forward to next year's 25th Anniversary of the Celebration!



Mary Phillips, LPS & Mary Brockmeyer

The Lincoln Public Schools Foundation presented **Mary Brockmeyer** the Ruth Eickman award which recognizes an outstanding early childhood educator in the LPS District.



LAEYC recognized staff in the early childhood programs **Family Services & Messiah Lutheran School** for their contributions to EC education.



Crystal Kozak, LAEYC President & Vicky Heyen

Vicky Heyen was proudly awarded the Sally Wysong Award which recognizes her positive contributions to the Lincoln community in the field of early childhood education.



Photos provided courtesy of LAEYC

AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

Omaha AEYC



Kaleidoscope Conference, Saturday, March 27, Burke High School: Almost 450 child care providers and early childhood staff attended the 2011 Kaleidoscope Conference featuring Lisa Murphy, the Ooey Goey Lady. Plans are underway to expand this conference into a 2-day event for 2012.

Week of the Young Child: The Omaha area theme for WOYC was "Go Out and Play!"

- ♥ The celebration began with a professional development day in early March focused on nature play and young children with over 100 attendees.
- ♥ The kick off event began with a proclamation presented by Mayor Jim Suttle
- ♥ The event helped the Omaha Children's Museum achieve a record attendance day at 2,400 children and adults visiting on Sunday, April 10!
- ♥ Over 50 agencies and organizations provided information for families while NAEYC Accredited early childhood programs and UNO early childhood students offered activities for the children. Omaha AEYC co-sponsored the kick off with Building Bright Futures Early Childhood Services ECCOA and MORE Nature.



Jen Haggart
OAEYC President

Member Outreach: Omaha AEYC will sponsor a Networking Night on Monday, May 2 that will include a tour of the Early Childhood Training Center Media Center and professional development on community resources available to support early childhood professionals in their work.

Lincoln Association for the Education of Young Children

LINCOLN AEYC hosted the 24th Annual Early Childhood Celebration on April 9th at Southeast Community College. This event was a huge success. A slide show about this event is available on the Nebraska AEYC website, and award recipients are listed in the Mini-Grant recipient article on page 10.

They are also hosting a workshop on Saturday, May 14th, "Inspiring Imaginations Through the Power of Play", presented by Denita Dinger.

Visit the LAEYC web page at www.NebraskaAEYC.org/Affiliates/LAEYC webpage

NeAEYC Student Leadership Award

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE nominates two students for the NeAEYC Student Leadership Award

Angela Rippe has served as the Vice-President of the SCC Student Group for the past year. She has shown tremendous growth in her public speaking skills, organization of group events, and sharing the importance of involvement in our professional organization with other students. She takes her role as a group officer very seriously and shares her knowledge, passion and enthusiasm for NAEYC with other students. Following graduation in June, Angela hopes to open her own-in-home care business, and will be the first SCC graduate with an Entrepreneurship focus.

Brittney Cambern came to SCC from another state community college. Seeking a way to become better connected to her new school, she attended a student group meeting and became hooked! Elected to the office of Secretary of the Student Group, Brittney has blossomed in her involvement on campus, public speaking skills and passion for sharing appropriate practices. After attending the national NAEYC conference this past fall, she has become more passionate about incorporating appropriate practices at her work site, modeling for and mentoring fellow students, and encouraging others to become involved in our student group and NAEYC.

"Learning is the best of all wealth; it is easy to carry, thieves cannot steal it, and tyrants cannot seize it; neither fire nor water can destroy it; and far from decreasing, it increases by giving."

Naladiyar

Children who are poor readers face higher risk of drop-out, study shows
Detroit Free Press, April 8, 2011

Children who can't read well by third grade, and those who live in poverty, are more likely to drop out or not finish high school on time, according to the results of long-term research released today.

The national report, commissioned by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is based on a study of nearly 4,000 students who were born between 1979 and 1989. Researchers followed them through the years, surveying their parents every two years to find out their family's economic status and other factor, according to a news release from the foundation.

Among their findings:

- One in six children who don't read proficiently in third grade fail to graduate from high school on time. That rate is four times greater than for proficient readers.
- Twenty-two percent of children who've lived in poverty don't graduate from high school, compared to 6% of those who have never been pool. This rises to 32% for students spending more than half of the survey time in poverty.

“...”These findings suggest we need to work in three arenas: improving the schools where these children are learning to read, helping the families weighed down by poverty and encouraging better federal, state and local policy to improve the lot of both schools and families,” Donald Hernandez, who conducted the research, said in the news release. Hernandez is a sociology professor at Hunger College and the Graduate Center, City University and a senior advisory to the Foundation for Child Development.

ACTIVE PLAY

Childhood is a time when children develop bones, muscles, nerves, and physical skills, resulting in coordination and endurance.

When most adults think of being physically active, they imagine lifting weights in a gym or jumping around in an aerobics class.

For children, being physically active consists of active playing. Through play, children build a foundation for learning as they interact with people and the world around them.

Play improves all aspects of children's well-being: developmentally, physically, socially, and emotionally.

<http://childcaremap.org/02activeplay/index.html>

Healthy Child Care, 4-25-2011

“An understanding heart is everything in a teacher.”

Carl Jung

CONFERENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♥ **May 16-17, 2011: Early Development Network Annual Conference/Bridges Out of Poverty**, Kearney. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **June 12-15, 2011: NAEYC Professional Development Institute**, Providence, Rhode Island. Contact naeyc.org
- ♥ **June 15, 2011: Early Childhood Conference**, Seward. Contact Annette.oliver@cune.edu
- ♥ **June 21-23, 2011: ERS Training**, Lincoln. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **July 13-14, 2011: 14th Annual Kindergarten Conference**, Kearney. Contact marybethpistillo@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **July 19-21, 2011: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **July 20-23, 2011: National Family Child Care Conference**, Henderson NV. Conference@nafcc.org
- ♥ **August 12, 2011: Helping Babies From the Bench**, Grand Island. Contact Amy at 402-471-9329
- ♥ **September 24, 2011: Early Childhood Conference**, Fremont. Contact Kvanness@eus7.org
- ♥ **September 26-29, 2011: ERS Training**, Kearney. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **October 18-20, 2011: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **November 2-5, 2011: NAEYC Annual Conference**, Orlando, FLA. www.naeyc.org

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.

To Donate

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.