



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

WINTER 2010 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT Dawn Mollenkopf



I was standing in line at the customer service counter in a department store to return an item. Several others also had the same goal and it was obvious the wait would be a while. A young father was in line just ahead of me, with a toddler in tow. The father obviously had not expected to have to wait in line so long and was running out of ideas to keep his son occupied. The toddler

soon tired of clinging to his father's legs and began to explore the pictures on the wall. Then he walked over to a display and tried to pick up a brightly colored box of ornaments. The father retrieved his son and handed him a toy car from home. The boy ran the car on the floor in front of us for a few minutes but then an adult bumped the rope divider at the counter, making it sway back and forth. The boy, fascinated, ran over to the rope and tried to swing it. The father again retrieved the boy and handed him the car. The boy held on to the car a few minutes until another customer inadvertently bumped the rope and the toddler immediately dropped his car in mid air to go and play with the rope. Exasperated, the father retrieved both the car and the boy and finally picked the boy up.

He caught my gaze while he rolled his eyes and sighed. I smiled, "Is he two?" I asked. The father nodded. "Yes, the terrible two's". "Don't worry", I reassured the father. "Like other two-year-olds, he will eventually turn three". The father laughed and smiled. "Don't forget to enjoy him, though, at two." I added. "He'll never be two again." The father gave me a knowing smile and nodded his head. The customer in front of him was now done and the father was able to finally return his package.

As I watched the father and his son leave the store, I thought about the moments each of us have with children--some of them rewarding, some exasperating, but all clearly memorable. As we watch these children grow up, may we remember to celebrate not only their future growths and achievements but also to enjoy them in the stages they are currently in.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Linda Zinke



The Omaha World Herald, October 13, 2010, says, "If early voting is any guide, many Nebraskans will sit on their hands this election. Officials in a variety of counties say requests for early ballots, formerly called absentee ballots, appear unlikely to reach the levels of four years ago.

Dave Phipps, Douglas County election commissioner, said "his office has received about 15,000 requests with only three weeks to go before Election Day. Nearly twice as many county residents — 29,150 — cast early votes in 2006, the last election without a presidential race.....The slump in requests bucks national trends and runs contrary to a decade of early-voting growth in Nebraska."

Across the country, the voter turnout is higher during a presidential election. But that is no reason not to vote in this, non-presidential election. Your vote counts even more when fewer people go to the polls. And the decisions of your state and federal congressmen can directly impact your daily life.

There are clear differences between the candidates in several of the state and national elections. Learn about the candidates, and support the one with views closest to your personal beliefs. Voting along party line may not be the best fit for your personal beliefs. It may just be the way your parents voted.



If you haven't registered, it's too late now, as the cut off is over. But if you are registered, **go to the polls on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, and exercise your right to vote.**

NeAEYC emailed a voter flyer to all members on Thursday, October 7. If you didn't receive this, or know someone that might be interested, this flyer is also available on the website at www.NebraskaAEYC.org.

"One worthwhile task carried to a successful conclusion is worth half-a-hundred half-finished tasks."

Malcolm S. Forbes

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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Sarah Ann Kotchian, JD, Omaha, Building Bright Futures Early Childhood Coordinator



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

NAEYC UPDATES



NAEYC Annual Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2010

NAEYC Annual Conference
& Expo
November 3-6, 2010
Anaheim, CA



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.

Leadership Day at NAEYC Annual Conference

If you are planning on attending NAEYC's Annual Conference consider joining us for Leadership Day! The Affiliate Leadership Day will take place on Wednesday, November 3rd in Anaheim, CA. Leadership day is free and open to all Affiliate Leaders and Staff. Advanced registration is required. The RSVP process will open in late August through Eventbrite, an online registration system.

NATIONAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO EMPOWER PARENTS ABOUT DIGITAL MEDIA

NAEYC is joining a group of leading media and advocacy organizations in launching a national television and online public awareness campaign designed to educate parents about the impact media has on our kids' lives and the vital role that parents play. The campaign is supported by a \$40 million television ad campaign, as well as online and social media components.

The media and technology world has changed drastically in the last 10 years. Today, kids are spending more than seven hours each day with media, and it truly has become the other parent in our kids' lives. But though the world has changed, parenting hasn't, and the goals of this campaign is to encourage parents to get engaged in their kids' media lives, and help them make smart, safe media choices.

NAEYC's e-News, 9/7/2010

NACCRRRA RELEASES UPDATED REPORT ON THE HIGH COST OF CHILD CARE

(National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies)

It is well known, but worth re-stating, that the cost of child care is a significant portion of families budgets. According to NACCRRRA's update, "the average center-based child care fees for an infant exceeded the average annual amount that families spent on food in every region of the United States. Monthly child care fees for two children at any age exceed the median monthly rent cost, and were nearly as high, or even higher than, the average monthly mortgage payment in every state." The report is available at www.naccrra.org/publications/naccrra-publications/parents-and-the-high-cost-of-child-care.php.

NAEYC Children's Champions, August 16, 2010

"When children feel good about themselves, it's like a snowball rolling downhill. They are continually able to recognize and integrate new proof of their value as they grow and mature."

Stephanie Marston

ADVOCACY

As October inundates us with campaign slogans and signs, and as we are told what we want and do not want and what is or is not “political theater,” let’s focus on the issue no one seems to be talking about, shall we? Let’s bring all this talk around to the one issue we know can simultaneously increase productivity and decrease inequalities, and that is effective early childhood care and education. This issue knows no party lines. And as the majority of Nebraska leaders continue to remain mute on the fact that we have the worst eligibility level for our child care and education assistance program in the nation and rank 50th for our standards in child care licensing rules, regulation and oversight, let’s shift our focus momentarily to Congress.



Sarah Ann Kotchian
Public Policy Chair

Congress has adjourned but will come back in early December for a lame duck session in order to continue work on a long list of unfinished business. It is our hope that when Congress comes back they will pass an appropriations package for 2011 that includes increases for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Head Start and Early Head Start, as well as additional funding for the Early Learning Challenge Fund. Both the House and Senate put increases into their initial proposals for CCDBG and Head Start although not at similar levels. The House included increases of \$700 million for CCDBG and \$770 million for Head Start. The Senate included a \$1 billion increase for child care and a \$989 million increase for Head Start, plus an additional \$300 million for the Early Learning Challenge Fund. Our challenge before and after the November elections is to show Congress why the ARRA funding was crucial to our work and why it must be made permanent in the 2011 funding.

We must continue with good advocacy to show how important ARRA funds have been to early childhood programs. Contact your member’s offices in whatever way makes you feel most comfortable - by phone, email, or even schedule a group visit of child care providers to talk with members about the children and families you serve and what cuts will mean. Share the good things going on in classrooms and with families. And remember in your messages and meetings to spread the word that early childhood providers and advocates will be sharing all across the nation this fall – when Congress returns in December, we want to see a \$1 billion increase in CCDBG, a \$1 billion increase in Head Start, and an additional \$300 million for the Early Learning Challenge Fund.

*“Influence comes out of the work that you’ve done and the things you’ve stood for.
Influence and power shouldn’t be given to just anybody who wants them.”*

Millicent Fenwick

The information about this Colorado conference came from Joyce Kinney.

Joyce was active in Nebraska AEYC for several years, and is a past recipient of the Distinguished Service to Children Award.

For more information on this conference, go to our website:

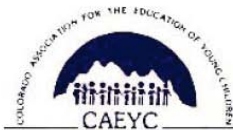
www.NebraskaAEYC.org and click on the ROCKY MOUNTAIN CCC Link.



Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference

SAVE THE DATE — APRIL 15-16, 2011

Presented through the collaboration of:



Early Childhood Education
Association of Colorado
Shaping the Future

Colorado Convention Center • Denver, CO

www.ecconference.com • info@ecconference.com • 303.860.7174



NeAEYC ACTIVITIES

Planning Retreat

Goals

Here are the goals identified by the four teams at the Strategic Planning retreat, held June 18, 2010.

Advocacy Goals:

- Meet with candidates and get them on board with early childhood
- Find money to invest in early childhood systems
- Support a business roundtable to gather business support for early childhood
- Stay involve in the maternal child health home visitation funding opportunity
- Support the new website for state senators at Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
- Support data gathering and tracking system to help gather information to inform the field

Chapter Goals:

- Support student groups on line, in the newsletter, on campuses
- Identify ways to encourage and recognize student leadership
- Focus on kindergarten teachers as members
- Continue to develop the electronic newsletter

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Goals:

- Identify ways to improve dialogue about education and compensation initiatives
- Increase awareness of recruitment with licensing, community college faculty
- Identify ways to gather information on the early childhood workforce and needed initiatives
- Think about ways to celebrate the 100th graduate.

Quality Initiative Goals:

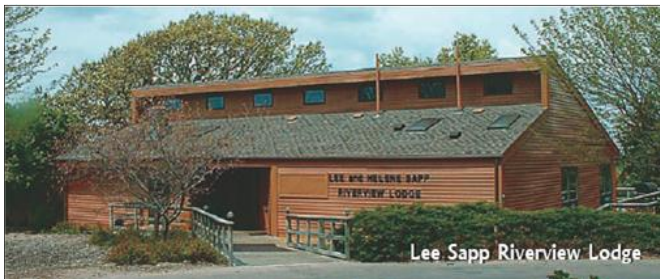
- Support Accreditation, including assessment of new processes.
- Fill in gaps in services—family child care support groups, workforce information, user friendly training delivery methods, assist with data gathering
- Look for additional revenue sources
- Identify researchable questions for university(s).

Survey Feedback

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

(Scale of 1-5, 5 + Excellent)

- 100% rated Working Teams a 4 or 5
- 100% rated Facilities a 4 or 5
- 100% rated Retreat Overall 4 or 5
- 96% rated Overview of Initiatives a 4 or 5



COMMENTS

The best part of the day was.....

- Working teams - great enthusiasm
- Networking, sharing information
- Collaborating
- Overview of initiatives
- The awards
- Having young people involved all day
- Great day for those of us that share early childhood as a passion
- Small groups - but all was great!
- Work teams. Great to have the chance to brainstorm and strategize
- It is just an all-around great day for those of us that share Early Childhood as a passion!

“Work has to include our deepest values and passions and feelings and commitments, or it’s not work, it’s just a job.”

Matthew Fox

NeAEYC ACTIVITIES

Project Homeless Connect

Project Homeless Connect brings together more than 60 local agencies and services in Lincoln, giving the homeless immediate access to services. This event was held on October 1 at the Center for People in Need.

Preliminary numbers show that 172 people participated. Organizers say the latest homeless count found 908 people with no permanent place to live. Of those, 657 were adults, and 275 were 18 and younger. Chris Webster, Homeless Coordinator for Lincoln Public Schools, said the district has counted 200 homeless students, but he estimates 5% of students, or 1,300 are in fact homeless.

Nebraska AEYC provided child care and resources for the parents as they arrived to access services. Resources provided included information about developmental stages, resources to identify a good child care, 6 diapers per child and one book per child.



Gina DeFreece, Special Projects Coordinator, coordinated this project. Three Southeast Community College Early Childhood students provided assistance with child care: Kylie Smith, Janelle Payne, and Veronica Sorensen.



Gina DeFreece, NeAEYC Special Projects Coordinator & Southeast Community College Students Kylie Smith & Janelle Payne, and Linda Zinke, NeAEYC Executive Director

"The cup that is already full cannot have more added to it. In order to receive the further good to which we are entitled, we must give of that which we have."

Margaret Becker.

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 Board of Directors
- ♥ 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

NEWBORN HEARING AID LOANER BANK

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

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



ACCREDITATION

25 Years of NAEYC Accreditation of Programs for Young Children



NAEYC wants to hear from educators and families who have an inspiring or unique story to tell about their connection to a program accredited by NAEYC. The best stories will be recognized during an NAEYC Accreditation 25th Anniversary special event at the 2010 Annual Conference and Expo in Anaheim, California, and featured on NAEYC's website!. Submit your story and spread the word!

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT ACCREDITATION PROJECT



Nebraska AEYC received funds to provide support for currently accredited centers and centers working toward accreditation. This support will include large group activities, on-line training, support for accredited centers serving children and families on subsidy, and limited support for a few centers working toward reaccreditation. The first large group activity will be held October 28, in Kearney.

Tracy has developed an advisory team to help guide this project, consisting of:
Kathy Zadina, Columbus
Kim Madsen, Chadron

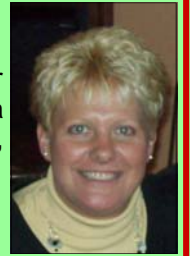
Michelle Rupiper, Lincoln
Niki Gemar, Grand Island

Gladys Haynes, Omaha

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*



NAEYC SUPPORT

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>.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ED 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

FREE JOB POSTINGS NOW AVAILABLE!!!

Nebraska AEYC is now providing a new benefit to NeAEYC members. We are providing a place to post job vacancies on our website. We realize that advertising for vacancies can be very expensive and hope this will become a valuable service for our members.

- ♥ The vacancies will be posted for 3 weeks at no charge for members (non-members can pay a fee of \$60.00).
- ♥ Information about the vacancies will be posted as submitted (must be converted into a pdf. file - we won't retype it.)

A very simple form is available on the website at www.NebraskaAEYC.org - click on Job Posting in the left menu. Form and information can be emailed to phoff44@hotmail.com.

Contact Linda Zinke (Izinke@NebraskaAEYC.org) or Pat Hoffschneider (phoff44@hotmail.com) if you have any questions or call (402) 476-2089 or (402) 476-2092

ACCREDITED CENTERS—10/20/10

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Preschool - Grand Island
Candlewood KinderCare Learning Center #796 - Omaha
CEDARS Carol Yoakum ECDC - Lincoln
CEDARS Downtown ECDC - Lincoln
CEDARS Northbridge ECDC - Lincoln
Child Saving Institute CDC - Omaha
Children's Respite Care Center - Omaha
Clay County Head Start - Clay Center
Clay County Learning Center for Children - Fairfield
Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska - McCook
Community Action Partnerships of Western Nebraska - Gering
CSC Child Development Center Laboratory - Chadron
Educare Center of Omaha, Inc. - Omaha
Edward Zorinsky Child Development Center - Omaha
Elgin Early Learning Center - Elgin
First National Bank CDC - Omaha
Franklin County Head Start - Franklin
Hamilton Heights CDC - Omaha
Head Start Child & Family Dev Program, Inc.- Grand Island
James R. Russell CDC - Omaha
KinderCare - Bellevue
KinderCare Learning Center - Lincoln
Kindernook Preschool - Omaha
Knowledge Beginnings - Lincoln
Lawrence Early Learning Center - Lawrence
Lillie's House Intergenerational CDC - Bellevue
Lincoln Public Schools @Bryan Community - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools @Holmes - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools @Northstar - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools @Arnold - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools @Brownell - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools @Calvert - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools @First Presbyterian - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools @McPhee - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools @Saratoga - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools @West Lincoln - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools ExCite @Belmont - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools ExCite @Riley - Lincoln

Lincoln Public Schools ExCite @Roper - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools ExCite @Campbell - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools ExCite @Cavett - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools ExCite @Lincoln High - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools ExCite @Prescott - Lincoln
Lincoln Public Schools ExCite @Everett - Lincoln
North Platte Community Childcare Center - North Platte
Nuckolls County Head Start - Superior
Offutt CDC - Bellevue
Parent-Child Center - Falls City
Peace Lutheran Preschool - Grand Island
Rockbrook Early Childhood Center - Omaha
Ron & Carol Cope CDC - Kearney Family YMCA - Kearney
Ruth Staples CDL - Lincoln
Saint John CDC - Seward
St. Bonaventure CCC Preschool Program - Columbus
University of NE at Omaha CCC - Omaha
Wazhinga Ti Zhing ECC - Walthill
Webster County Early Learning Center - Blue Hill
Webster County Early Learning Center - Red Cloud
Webster County Early Learning Center @Silver Lake - Bladen
Western Nebraska Child Development Center - Scottsbluff
Westminster Preschool - Lincoln

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

Olivia Arnold - Bellevue
Jennifer Baumann - Chadron
Cheryl Drozd - Columbus
Michelle Ebell - Bellevue
JoAnn Fryman - Bellevue
Shawna Hand - Bellevue
Analisa McMillan - Bellevue
Cara Mercer - Papillion
Stacy Taylor - Columbus

ARRA—AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDS

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children has received some of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (or stimulus) funds.

We'll be using these funds for the following:

- T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA: 30 additional students in Lincoln and central Nebraska
- Accreditation: We be using these funds to provide support for providers that are facing re-accreditation. Additional support will be provided to those serving children and families on subsidy
- Coaching/Center model: This project will provide support to 15 classrooms. Support will consist of pre and post Environment Ratings Scales, development of the Quality Enhancement Plan, coaching, and targeted training
- Coaching/Family Child Care model: This project is very similar to the Coaching model above, but will be for 5 family child care providers.

We are excited to be able to expand T.E.A.C.H. NEBRASKA, provide help for those currently accredited centers, and implement our coaching model in 20 early childhood facilities.

Tracy Gordon will be managing both the Accreditation project and the Coaching/Center Model project, and Cindy Jennett will be managing the Coaching/Family Child Care Model project. Brandee Lengel will manage the expansion of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT DATA T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®

July 1st, 2009 - June 30th, 2010
Nebraska Highlights

- 219 Students (increase of 17 students from last year)
- 26% Minority
- 2085 semester credits earned (increase of 433 credits from last year)
- Average Credits Earned Per Contract: 14 for AA and BA Students
- Average Salary Increase for Associate Degree Students: 6%
- Turnover: 6%
- Graduates: 12 AA & 3 BA
- Associate Degree GPA: 3.5 (B+)
- Bachelor Degree GPA: 3.65 (B+)



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



DID YOU KNOW...

- ♥ All T.E.A.C.H. students are required to apply for other federal and local financial aid.

Although students do not accept loans that need to be repaid, they frequently are awarded Pell Grants, Board of Governors Grants, and numerous other types of financial aid. This aid always pays for tuition/books first and help us stretch our dollars as far as possible.



Students are still eligible to participate in T.E.A.C.H. and receive all the other benefits.

Student Spotlights: Joy Kyhn & Lisa Pleschourt



JOY KYHN & LISA PLESCHOURT

Lisa and Joy met while taking the Management Training Program at FYI in Cozad, NE during the fall of 2006. Both graduated, with honors, from Central Community College this past spring.

About Joy - Joy earned her entire degree while participating on the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship and held a GPA of 3.94. She is the director of Little Angels Child Care in Ravenna. She is also the Vice-President of the Kearney Area Chapter of the Nebraska AEYC. Joy and her husband, Aaron, are the proud parents of a 2 year old son, Arnold. In her spare time she enjoys scrapbooking and spending time with her family.

Joy Says: "I can't tell you enough how proud I am of myself for completing this hurdle in my life! I now can proudly say that I am a college graduate and that I have my degree in the field of Early Childhood, the career that I love and cherish! The classes held at FYI became a second family to me. I've been at my center for 12 years and am so proud to be the first, but not last, student of the T.E.A.C.H. program! My family and friends have been so supportive of this process and proud of my accomplishments! The support of Lisa was amazing. I can truly say that T.E.A.C.H. not only got me my degree, it also got me my best friend!"

About Lisa - Lisa earned 45 credits while participating with a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship and maintained a GPA of 4.0. She is the director of Kinder Haus Child Care in Eustis. Lisa is a very proud single parent of 4 children: Ashley- 18, Alex Jean- 16, Sara- 11 and Spencer- 9. She keeps extremely busy with their sports activities and high school adventures. They are always on the go.

Lisa Says: "T.E.A.C.H. scholarship was the only way I could have ever even imagined furthering my education. Having a degree in Early Childhood only solidifies my career choices now. The biggest reason for entering the T.E.A.C.H program was MY KIDS!!! They are my world and my life. I do what I do for them. Being a single parent and a woman I am their sole provider. I have three daughters who look up to me and see everything I do. I am now so proud to say I DID IT. I hope I can show them they can make it through anything. It took a lot of effort and commitment on my part as well as some sacrifice on theirs. I also couldn't have done it without a lot of work and help from Joy. Joy has become my best friend."

Brandee Lengel has recently been promoted from the position of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Coordinator to the position of T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Manager. CONGRATULATIONS, BRANDEE!!!

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS SPOTLIGHT



Digging Supplies

Certified
Nature
Explore
Classroom



Pioneer Park Nature Center
LINCOLN, NE



We have been offering early childhood nature programming for many years. The Nature Center Preschool began in the fall of 2000 with one session and 11 children. Since that time it has grown to four school-year long sessions with an enrollment of 48 children per year.

Our staff is deeply committed to the natural world, to active learning, and to fostering each child's strengths and potential for growth.

Pioneers Park Nature Center has been a pioneer in nature education since its founding in 1963. We are open to the public daily except for major holidays.



*"In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect.
Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they're still beautiful."*

Alice Walker

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS SPOTLIGHT

Nared's Pee Wee Palace is a privately owned, licensed child care facility, strategically located in the heart of a densely populated urban community with a diverse population and income levels.

The Nared sisters, along with their mother Jacqueline, started Nared's Pee Wee Palace child care center in 1979 in a vacant church in north Omaha and the operation has remained a family business for nearly 30 years.

Nared's are also the founder and leader of the North Side Quality Childcare Association, an organization of 14 minority owned child care providers.



"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

Albert Einstein

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

Building Bright Futures Quality Initiative



We have nine Family Child Care Providers involved with this project, funded through Building Bright Futures. The project involves relationship building, coaching, a pre and post Environment Ratings Scale, funds for supplies, and training as needed. The coaching process is individualized to participants/sites and based on needs and learning styles. This is a group that has not been involved with initiatives in the past,, but most are showing an interest in acquiring additional education, searching for additional funds to support their business, and have an interest in establishing a support group/cohort.

We have gathered information from the Family Child Care Ratings Scales. In this scale, the highest score is 7, the lowest is 1. We use this information to provide individualized support to the family child care providers, and to work to develop training that will meet their needs. This project is managed by Gina DeFreece, Special Projects Coordinator.

Demographics:

- 100% of the providers are African American
- 90% are female
- 90% are interested in more education
- 74.3% of the families being served are receiving child care subsidy

They have identified the following topics as training needs (in no particular order):

- Schedule/Managing the day
- Setting Up Space
- Introducing Math/Science
- Nature & Discovery
- Child Development
- Group Times
- Activities for Infants
- Music and Movement



*Gina DeFreece,
Special Projects
Coordinator*

Early Head Start Infant-Toddler Quality Initiative

We are nearly the end of our second year of sub-contracting for the Early Head Start Infant-Toddler Quality Initiative with the Community Action Partnership of Lancaster & Saunders Counties.

Eleven Option 1 providers have all completed the pre and post environment ratings scales, received their supplies, and been involved in regular coaching and support activities. The **increases** from the pre to the post Environment Ratings Scale scores ranged from **4 points to 75 points**. The area with the highest percentage in points was the area of Listening & Talking. The Use of Books category especially increased. **Three categories increased nearly 50% from the pre to the post scores:**

- ♥ Activities,
- ♥ Interaction, and
- ♥ Program Structure.

The Activities category is often significantly impacted through the receipt and use of new classroom supplies. The Interaction category includes Supervision of Play & Learning, Peer Interaction, Staff-Child Interactions, and Discipline. The Program Structure category includes Schedule, Free Play, & Group Play. Option 1 providers have also received professional development supplies, including curriculum information.

Five providers are participating as Option 2 Partners. Sixty providers are participating as Option3 providers, and have accessed trainings and the lending library. CEFEL Positive Behavior Support training is in progress and is being offered as a 3-hour, 6 evening training.

Cindy was able to attend the National Family Child Care Preconference in Nashville this year. Information from this conference was shared with the home providers through visits and group sessions.



*Cindy Jennett
Special Projects
Coordinator*

"We can't take any credit for our talents. It's how we use them that counts."

Madeleine L'Engle

AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

Omaha AEYC



NAEYC Accreditation Discussions

Two sessions of "NAEYC Accreditation Lessons Learned and a Vision for the Future" were held September 9 and 10, 2010 with a total of 20 participants. Feedback gathered will be compiled and sent to NAEYC academy by the end of the month. The evaluation of these focus groups will be done electronically and will include program needs for the future. This information will then be used to develop a professional development series focused on quality and accreditation.

Brenda Saxe, Chair of Accreditation, attended *Navigating the NAEYC Accreditation Process for Mentors, Coaches, Consultants and Facilitators* training in Denver, CO on October 8, 2010 and the AFP meeting in Anaheim as part of NAEYC Annual Conference.

Networking Nights

Omaha AEYC held a "back to school" networking night in partnership with Playtime Schooltime. We welcomed 5 new members that evening! In addition to shopping discounts, there were refreshments and lots of giveaways.

The Membership Committee is meeting this week to discuss the November networking night...plans are in the works for an evening in "The Big Backyard" at Omaha Children's Museum with a 70's theme to welcome back the Richman Goldman animals.

2010 Kaleidoscope Conference

Save the Date! Another Day with Lisa Murphy, The Ooey Goey Lady
January 29, 2011 - Burke High School



Jen Haggart
OAEYC President

Columbus Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

For 2010-11, the Chapter is again co-sponsoring Early Childhood Networking Meetings with the local training coalition. Topics this year are Large Motor - Indoors, Oh No!, Literacy/Writing with Mary Beth Pistillo, and training based on the book, MIND IN THE MAKING, Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs, by Ellen Galinsky.

The Chapter will also support the 24 hours of ARRA- sponsored training in our area.

For Week of the Young Child, April 10-16, 2011, the group is planning to sponsor a community Children's Art Show.

Kathy Zadina
Columbus Chapter



Student Activities—Southeast Community College Student Group

The SCC Student Chapter is diligently fundraising in preparation for attending the National NAEYC Conference in November. Five student members and two faculty members will be attending the conference in Anaheim.

In the past month the group has held two events; a literacy Make & Take and a Parent Date Night for families in the SCC Child Development Center.

On September 23rd in conjunction with the Early Childhood Education Program Orientation, student members rolled out the "welcome wagon" and served new students root beer floats while welcoming them to SCC and encouraging their involvement in NAEYC.

Crystal Kozak
SCC Student Chapter
Advisor



"Progress always involves risks. You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first."

Frederick B. Wilcox

AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

Kearney Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

The Kearney Chapter of the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children has the following events scheduled until the end of the year.

Our main membership drive will be on Monday, October 18 from 7:00-8:15 p.m. at the Kearney Family YMCA with presenter, Scott Murrish speaking on "Making Positive Memories". Members are at no cost, non-members are \$5.00 which will be reimbursed if a membership is purchased.

Monday, November 15 will be held at UNK from 6:00-10:00 p.m. with in-service training "Safe With You" by Lisa Fulmer. Members are at no cost and non-members are \$5.00.

The Kearney Chapter Officers meet monthly at Perkins, 12:00-1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. The Kearney Area Child Care Center Directors meet at Perkins, 1:00-2:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. Topics are current issues each month. Contact: Karen Decker (308) 440-2418.

For more information on joining the KAAEYC, please contact Judith Riddle, Chapter President, at (308) 234-1883 or Sue Klein, Chapter Sec/Treas at (308) 237-9622. The chapter will pay ½ of the membership fee.



*Karen Decker,
Kearney
Chapter*



Ready, Set, Go!

Why Business Should Support Early Childhood Education

"Early childhood education has a tremendous impact on the national economic security and the viability of the American dream."

These are the words of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce - not typically known for speaking on behalf of children's issues.

Yet business leaders and economists are becoming some of the best advocates for young children. They know early childhood investments are critical to keeping the United States competitive in a global market. After all, their future workers are today's newborn babies. Building a strong and productive labor force largely depends on how well we baby-proof the economy today.

Just as parents baby-proof the top of the stairs to prevent a dangerous fall, policymakers must protect the economy from making a major misstep. Investments in early childhood education are the economic equivalent to investments in gates for stairs and covers for electrical outlets.

So what does economic baby-proofing look like? It starts with investing in high-quality early childhood programs. Science has shown that early experiences have biological consequences. . .

For instance, these experiences shape the brain's wiring, determining whether a child's brain architecture will provide a strong or weak foundation for all future learning. In addition, brains, like houses, are built from the bottom up. You can't put the second story on until you have built the foundation. This is why remediation is less effective and more costly than providing what children need to thrive from the get-go. Simply put, the building blocks for learning are well established before a child enters kindergarten.

The Chamber's new report, "Ready, Set, Go! Why Business Should Support Early Childhood Education," addresses these essential building blocks. It recommends that states support hiring qualified and effective early childhood educators, integrate early learning and care systems for children from birth to age 5, develop seamless transitions from the early childhood education system to the K-12 system and increase the availability of high-quality programs that support working parents.

This article is from Smart Start at Tracy Zimmerman [info@ncsmartstart.org], and is about a report, funded with the help of the Pew Charitable Trusts and Knowledge Universe. It focuses on early learning as an investment in workforce development by supporting policies that proffer high-quality, evidence-based learning programs.

The report is available at <http://icw.uschamber.com/print/900>

WEBSITE UPDATES

FEATURED WEBPAGE “ABOUT US”

This spot will feature one of our web pages each issue. We make every effort to have information readily accessible and available, and intend for nothing to be more than 3-4 “clicks” deep. We hope this helps the NeAEYC website to be even more user friendly for you.

Links to:

NAEYC’s website
NeAEYC Association brochure
Membership-
 NAEYC’s website or NeAEYC’s form
List of 10 year+ members
List of Distinguished Service to Children Recipients

Links to:

2008 & 2009 Annual Reports
NeAEYC Mission & Values
Bios of Board members
Bios of NeAEYC staff members
Goals & info from Strategic Planning Retreat (3 yrs)
Info from Week of the Young Child

ARE YOU A FACEBOOK MEMBER??

We now have a “FACEBOOK PAGE” and are in the process of deactivating our “FACEBOOK GROUP”.

Groups and Pages serve different purposes on Facebook. Groups are meant to foster group discussion around a particular area while “PAGES” allow entities such as public figures and organizations to broadcast information to their fans.

If you are a Facebook Member just type: facebook.com/NeAEYC in your browser and it will lead you directly to our PAGE. You then have the opportunity to click the “LIKE” button at the top of the page.

We have 52 people that “LIKE” the page at this time, but would like to have all of our NeAEYC Members (and lots of additional people) be a part of this group. New information will be added to the site on a regular basis. We hope to include short articles and information about upcoming events. Join for interesting discussions, links, etc.

For instructions on joining facebook: Go to **www.facebook.com (it’s free!)**

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

If you have any questions or ideas for this page, feel free to email Pat at: phoff44@hotmail.com or call (402) 476-2092.



WEBSITE STATISTICS



The Nebraska AEYC website continues to grow as new information is being added on a regular basis! This past quarter we had 5,033 page views on our site!!

The top pages viewed continue to be:

- ♥ T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA
- ♥ The Calendar
- ♥ Nature Explore,
- ♥ Job Postings,
- ♥ The Newsletter

**Take time to check out the site:
www.NebraskaAEYC.org**

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.
- ♥ 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.

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



“Once a new technology rolls over you, if you’re not part of the steamroller, you’re part of the road.”

Stewart Brand

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members 3rd Quarter, 2010

Armstrong, Nancy
Beachler, Kacie
Becker, Roger
Beins, Stacie Ann
Black, Kayla Lyn
Boeschen, Susan
Bryan, Heather Rene
Christensen, Amber
Dirks, Connie
Fitzgerald Cynthia
Florendo, Jackie
Glasshoff, Brooke
Green, Melissa
Hankins, Jodie
Killingsworth, Melissa

Klein, Jamie Ranae
Lee, Judith
Miller, Dana Lore
Murdoch, Holly
Osborn, Stephanie
Rippe, Angela
Schardt, Julene
Schinck, Chelsey Marie
Sokol, Chelsea J.
Svoboda, Pam R.
Topil, Denise
Vodicka, Milissa
Zimmerman, Esther S.
Zimmerman, Kurt E.

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

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!

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



One of the most popular new resources available to you is **NAEYC Radio**. The program enables you to listen to brief, insightful interviews with leading experts in early childhood development right on your computer 24/7/365. Available "on demand," **NAEYC Radio** provides a fast, easy and convenient way to stay on top of the latest developments and "next" practices in the field.

Be sure to check out this cool, new resource on our web site!!! www.NebraskaAEYC.org

CONFERENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♥ November 3-6, 2010: **NAEYC Annual Conference**, Anaheim, CA. For more info: www.NAEYC.org
- ♥ November 7-9, 2010: **Parents as Teachers National Conference**, St. Louis, MO. Contact PAT-reg@smart-reg.com
- ♥ November 18-19, 2010: **NE Head Start Assn Conf**, Grand Island. Contact Cheryl Denner at cdenner@bvca.net
- ♥ November 30, Dec 1-2, 2010: **ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ♥ January 29, 2011: **Kaleidoscope Conference**, Omaha. Contact OmahaAEYC@yahoo.com
- ♥ February 5, 2011: **Early Childhood Conference**, Grand Island. Contact Sue.jensen@nebraska.gov
- ♥ February 5, 2011: **Early Childhood Conference**, Ainsworth. Contact Susan at sstrahm@esu1.org
- ♥ February 18, 2011: **United We Stand Conference**, Chadron. Contact Candis at cljones@esu13.org
- ♥ February 26, 2011: **Early Childhood Conference**, Holdrege. Contact lcrandall1@unl.edu
- ♥ March 29-30, 2011: **NAEYC Public Forum**, Washington, DC. For more info: www.NAEYC.org
- ♥ April 2, 2011: **Early Childhood Conference**, Peru. Contact Cara Small at csmall@esu6.org
- ♥ April 4-8, 2011: **National Head Start Association Conference**, Kansas City, MO.
- ♥ April 10-16, 2011: **Week of the Young Child**, Nation-wide. www.NebraskaAEYC.org/www.naeyc.org
- ♥ April 12-14, 2011: **ERS Training**, North Platte. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ♥ April 29, 2011: **Infant Toddler Symposium, Omaha**. For more info, contact: OmahaAEYC.org
- ♥ May 16-17, 2011: **Early Development Network Annual Conf**, 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 19-21, 2011: **ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Jessica.lachere@nebraska.gov
- ♥ 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

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 processes & costs is available on the website.

To Donate

Visit the website/To Donate, and you can donate to NeAEYC or any of the projects. You can also donate to support student groups. You can donate with a credit card - we'll send you a letter for your taxes.

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

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. We also promote 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

Ten Tips for Involving Families through Online Communication

It is crucial for families to be involved in their child's early education. While there are many traditional forms of home-school partnerships, this list from NAEYC's Spotlight on *Teaching Preschoolers 2* book will help you improve communication with your families.

1. Create a classroom website. Many schools and programs have websites that teachers can add to. For teachers without this option, tools to create web pages, such as Google Sites and Facebook, are free and accessible, from any computer.
2. Send individual emails to families to share positive information about their child's activities and accomplishments. Teachers can send e-mails to share short anecdotes about children's developing interest, newly acquired skills, or ability to be a good friend that day.
3. Post photo stories on the class website. To help families see the process through which their child learns rather than just seeing an end product, create photo-essays—a series of photos with captions that capture children engaged in a project.
4. Provide at-home educational activities. Prepare a short list of activities that use readily accessible materials, and include links to age-appropriate sites related to classroom topics. For example, if the children are learning about birds, add a link to the National Audubon Society website, which families can explore with their children.
5. Create a family response link or form on the website to elicit comments, questions, and feedback. This is a good strategy for inviting families to monitor and comment on their child's progress.
6. Establish and moderate a family support discussion forum. The purpose of discussion forums is to offer a place where families can share their thoughts and questions.
7. Communicate logistical information through group emails. Send group e-mails to remind all families about upcoming events, such as field trips and parent-teacher conferences.
8. Ensure families' access to technology. To ensure that families who do not have computers at home are included, continue to communicate through traditional means and by printing and sending home hard copies of your website announcements and general e-mails.
9. Provide opportunities for families to increase their technology skills. In certain circumstances, technology-based solutions can produce an unintended communications gap. To ensure that families receive your communications, offer a brief orientation to your classroom website during Open House or parent-teacher conferences.
10. Set aside time for technology-based communication. Teachers need time for training, maintaining a website, keeping information current, and preparing regular communications. Seek professional development opportunities to learn how to use new technology, or consider contacting experts who can assist with the initial setup.

Authors: *Sasha Mitchell, Teresa S. Foulger, and Keith Wetzel.*

<http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/naeyc/downloads/10tipsinvolvingfamilies.pdf>

*"Parents need all the help they can get.
The strongest as well as the most fragile family requires a vital network of social supports."*

Bernice Weissbourd