



SAEYC NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter published by SAEYC

Fall 2009 Edition

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Message From Your President

It's hard to believe that the summer is almost over! It seems just like yesterday that I wrote the last President's Message for our Summer edition.

After a quiet summer, the SAEYC Board is making preparations for an exciting Fall and Spring. The Board met in June and an event-filled calendar was developed. Along with many of our "traditional" events like *Stone Soup Supper* and the *Growing Together Conference*, we will be holding our *Spring Institute* in the north area on Saturday, March 6, 2010 at Driver's Village in Cicero. In addition, we are planning some special events to celebrate SAEYC's 75th Anniversary which occurs in 2010.

Another exciting event will be the NYSAEYC's Annual Conference which will be held April 30 through May 1, 2010 at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino. Since this conference will be in our service area, we will be providing "hospitality" for the duration. We're working on some "fun" activities for participants; this will be an event you don't want to miss!

I would like to welcome our new Board members who are ready and willing to serve our members (currently totaling 248). Our dedicated Board of early childhood professionals represent a wide-range of programs throughout the Central New York region, and serve as the voices for those programs. I look forward to working with these dynamic individuals as we strive to meet the needs of each and every SAEYC member.

Pat Gridley

NAEYC Accreditation TORCH

EasyFolio Portfolio Manager was created for use with the NAEYC Accreditation process. EasyFolio is a comprehensive software solution for early childhood programs to create and manage their classroom portfolios and the program portfolio.

Using pre-loaded NAEYC Standards and Criteria, teachers spend less time labeling, printing and filing and more time with the children. Creating portfolios is a lot easier with *EasyFolio Portfolio Manager's* 3-step framework - enter, classify and save. *EasyFolio Portfolio Manager* is a web based service so there is no need to install and manage software on your school computers. All that is needed is a computer that can access the internet and you're ready to get started.

To learn more about EasyFolio Portfolio Manager and its easy-to-use features, visit, www.portfoliomyday.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAEYC "Stone Soup Supper"

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2009**Location:** Onondaga Community College
Whitney Atrium**Registration:** 6:00pm **Dinner:** 6:30pm**Featured:** "Play: Where Learning Begins"

Keynote: Dr. Karen Hutchinson, RPT

Cost: SAEYC Members - Free

Students - \$5.00

Non-members - \$15.00

Flyer/registration form enclosed. Don't forget to bring a non-perishable item for the Salvation Army Christmas Bureau. Dinner and dessert for this event are provided by OCC catering students.

"The Growing Together Conference"

Date: Sunday, October 18, 2009**Registration:** 8:30am**Cost:** SAEYC Members - Free

Students - \$15.00 with valid ID

Non-members - \$25.00

The day will include a wide variety of workshops to choose from and a keynote presentation by Regi Carpenter at lunch. Be looking for your flyer/registration by mail.

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

Reading Rocks!

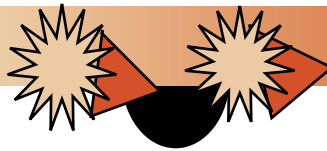
and the "World's Largest Bedtime Story"

Date: Saturday, October 17, 2009**Location:** Bellevue Elementary School
530 Stolp Avenue, Syracuse, NY**Time:** 10:30am to 3:30pm - Reading Rocks**Time:** 4:00 to 5:30pm - World's Largest Bedtime Story**Cost:** FREE

Success By 6 will host the 10th Annual Children's Book Fest. A dozen classrooms with reading and literacy-based crafts & activities along with a performance by puppeteer Tom Knight will be featured.

To end the evening the Onondaga County Public Library Foundation and the County Executive's Office partners with SB6 to host the World's Largest Bedtime Story featuring celebrity-guest readers.

Activities are targeted towards children ages 2 through 10.



Book Review

First The EGG by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
(Caldecott and Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book)
Roaring Brook Press, 2007

Beginning with the die cut on the cover, which completes the title and hides a secret underneath, this delivers a string of delightful surprises as Seeger crisply explores the stages of development in the natural world and, then, how a story grows.

Thickly textured backgrounds provide visual energy for minimalist images that cleverly incorporate additional die cuts. "First the EGG," reads the text on the opening spread, which pictures the egg through an appropriately shaped hole. When children flip the page, they'll find a fuzzy chick and its adult counterpart - "then the CHICKEN." So it goes through the life stages of frog, flower, and butterfly enjoying a beautiful day together. A funny finale sets up the book's beginning.

Pages are sturdy enough to support poking fingers and repeated viewings, both of which are guaranteed.

Member Vote Needed

On October 6th at the Stone Soup Supper SAEYC members will be asked to vote on SAEYC By-Laws noted in red below:

- 1) Article IX: Committees - Accreditation Committee 6a. The Accreditation Committee provides NAEYC information to the early childhood community regarding the accreditation process **for programs serving children and also two-year degree programs at the college level.**
- 2) Article IX: Committees - Publicity Committee 8a.b. & c. The **Communications Committee** shall (committee name change)
- 8d. **The Communications Committee will provide oversight of regular communication within the affiliate and in collaboration with the State Communications chair when appropriate.**
(added to Article IX 8)

Only members will be allowed to vote.

Creating a Secure World for Children

When children feel secure, we see such joy and energy as they explore and engage in the world. What is it that creates this sense of security? How can we develop environments for our children where they feel safe to create, take risks, explore and grow? Jim Greenman, in his book, *Places for Childhood*, describes the four “pillars of security” being people, environment, routine, and ritual. We know that being surrounded by familiar, trusted adults and peers is critical. This means teachers/caregivers who welcome each child, accept them at their own pace, listen and offer warmth and reassurance. Children also need to have a physical place where they can take comfort in the order, sights, sounds and smells, where they can find treasured things and make memories, and invent their own spaces including a kind of sanctuary, where they can pause and recharge even on a bad day.

There is a centering power to routines, Greenman says, “We all need routine to give shape to the chaos of life”. Especially when aspects of our life are changing (e.g. new school, home, family members), routines reassure us. Structuring of time can provide a sense of stability. We know that predictable routines provide a supportive envelope for children, reduce their anxiety and allow them to initiate within the usual expectations. Rites and rituals help us give meaning to special occasions and transitions whether they be regular beginnings and endings or whether they are big “firsts”, (e.g. losing a tooth, staying overnight with a friend, going off to preschool for the first time, etc). Rituals and their documentation (photos, for example) often serve as the mileposts in our memories of childhood.

How we separate from our loved ones to enter the daily life of school, how we say hello to friends and ask to play, how adults help tired bodies relax comfortably to share a meal, take a bath or go to sleep - all these circumstances are eased by rituals. It is these personal familiar touches that help children get through the days and weeks of a busy and unpredictable world. At home and at school, routines and rituals provide balance for children and adults. The four pillars of security (people, space, routines and rituals) provide a structure within which we all can relax and learn. With the start of a new year we have a chance to create personalized versions of these pillars to keep our children safe and happy each day.



... Ellen Barnes, Jowonio

Crisis in the Kindergarten Why Children Need to Play in School

Kindergarten has changed radically in the past two decades. New research in Los Angeles and New York shows what is happening in today’s full-day kindergarten.

- 2-3 hours per day of literacy and math instruction and testing
- Of that, 20-30 minutes per day of standardized testing and test preparation
- Less than 30 minutes per day - and often no time at all - for play or choice time

These practices may produce higher scores in first and second grade, but at what cost? Long-term studies suggest that the early gains fade away by fourth grade and that by age 10 children in play-based kindergartens excel over others in reading, math, social and emotional learning, creativity, oral expression, industriousness, and imagination.

Developmentally inappropriate practices are putting young children’s health and academic progress at risk. It is time for a change.

By Edward Miller and Joan Almon



The full report, as well as an 8 page summary, can be found at:

www.allianceforchildhood.org
in pdf format for downloading.

A print version of the full report is available for \$16 postpaid. Contact the Alliance for Childhood for more information.

Alliance for Childhood
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Syracuse, NY 13217

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Permit No. 126

Current Resident or:

SAEYC New Members

Auburn

Kristy Alberici
David Gaffey

Calcium

Lakisha Yvetta Davis

Camillus

Laurel Owens

Canastota

Betty Dennis

Chaumont

Nancy Penrose

Fayetteville

Ruthanne Bishop

Manlius

Nancy Mahr-Tyler

Middleville

Brenda Marie Crossett

Syracuse

Melissa Mendez
Karen Sweeney
Lynda Wengle

Watertown

Jessica Branche

Mission Statement

The New York State and Syracuse Associations for the Education of Young Children support the development of professionals to promote quality care and education for the well-being of all young children and their families.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Plan ahead for this event
April 10 - 17, 2010

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the SAEYC is to serve and act on the behalf of the needs and rights of young children in focusing on the provisions of educational services and resources in adults who work with and for children from birth to age 8.

