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SAEYC NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter published by SAEYC

Spring 2008 Edition

A Message From Your President

What is it that we look forward to in the springtime? Warmth, sunshine, lush green grass, multi-colored flowers, playing outside, long days with a visible sun we can see when we head out to work and that is still there when we return home at night. But mostly, breathing a deep breath with out freezing our nostrils up.

It is a time for new beginnings, new life, new ideas, new growth and minds that are refreshed from a winter of rest. These are the cycles of each season, the cycles of our lives and each is important to our existence and to those we serve.

As I reflect on the lives of children and their growth I recognize how all of our springtime's impact each one of them as well. Our optimism, our excitement, our sunshine and our outlook reflects our joy in the outcome we see in children as they grow, have new ideas, new beginnings and use minds that are opened for new life.

In order to see this we must understand that children need early care and education to grow and develop; to make attachments that will support their emotional growth for years to come. We must also understand that only we can fight for them to change policies that don't support those important components of a child's life. Only your voice can stand up and be counted to make a difference in the lives of children in our community.

Don't be silent anymore, speak up and let your voice be heard. Our children are our future and we can not let them down. This primary year know what each candidates stand is on Early Care and Education and vote for the candidate who will take a stand and make a difference in "our" children's lives.

Liddy Hintz

FREE Training for Members

Your membership is now more important then ever. If you are a member of your local SAEYC you now get an additional benefit from your membership.

SAEYC offers members free registration to three of our most popular training events. You can take advantage of attending Stone Soup Supper, the Growing Together Conference and the Utica Conference for FREE. You will still need to register for these events by completing the registration form you receive in the mail and supply your membership number. You will get a training certificate that will satisfy NYS hourly requirements and be able to network with professionals in the field of child care.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*SAEYC "Spring Institute"***DATE: April 5, 2008 (Saturday)**LOCATION: Maplewood Inn
400 Seventh N. St in Liverpool

Our annual professional event that offers a day of inspirational training with a well-known expert in the topic offered. This year join us for "Conscious Discipline" presented by Cheri Sheridan of Loving Guidance Inc. You will learn strategies to help teach children self-control, conflict resolution and social strategies to promote cooperation. Designed for families, child care providers, school teachers, administrators, guidance counselors and human service professionals. Registration materials will be mailed by March 10th and listed on our web site.

*"Week Of the Young Child"***DATE: April 20, 2008 (Sunday)**LOCATION: Banquet Facility
at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

To celebrate the National Week of the Young Child, SAEYC will sponsor a FREE puppet show featuring Tom Knight's Puppets. Tom is based in Ithaca, NY and has been writing and performing for young children since 1988 performing in schools, libraries, theaters and festivals throughout the Northeast. Seating will be limited so come early to join the fun.

*NYSAEYC "Annual Conference"***DATE: May 1-3, 2008 (Thursday to Saturday)**LOCATION: Adams' Mark Hotel in Buffalo, NY
EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: March 17, 2008

Choose from over 150 educational workshops for 16 hrs of training. You should have received your program registration in January if not go to www.nysaeyc.org or call Kathy McLaughlin at (518) 867-3517 to register.

*SAEYC "Annual Membership Dinner"***DATE: June 4, 2008 (Wednesday)**

LOCATION: Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Annual event to announce new SAEYC board nominees to members. A fun night where you can relax, have a great dinner and join our Silent Auction. Our guest speaker for the night will be Thomas Likona. New this year, we will be presenting a member of the Year award based on your nominations. If you know of someone special who exemplified professionalism in 2007 and have not submitted a Nomination Form you have until April 1, 2008. Registration forms for this event will be mailed shortly.

NAEYC Accredited Programs

NAEYC has released a new report entitled "Elevating the Field: Using NAEYC Early Childhood Program Accreditation to Support and Reach Higher Quality in Early Childhood Programs". The report highlights strategies that states are using to improve quality of early childhood programs and their early care and education systems linking to NAEYC accreditation of early childhood education programs. For a printable version of this report go to our web site at: www.saeyc.org.

We would like to congratulate programs that were accredited or re-accredited in 2007. Your hard work is recognized.

In ONONDAGA County:

Bernice M. Wright Child Dev Laboratory School in Syracuse (re-accredited under the new system)
Children's Beginnings in Syracuse
County North Children's Center in Liverpool (re-accredited under the new system)
Onondaga Community College Child Care Center in Syracuse
Upstate Child Care Center in Syracuse

In CAYUGA County:

Cayuga Community College Pre-School Child Care Center in Auburn (one of the 1st programs in the county to earn the mark of quality represented by the re-invented accreditation system)

(for a list of all counties go to our web site at www.saeyc.org)

Bring on The Books

United Way's Success By 6 will hold its 10th Annual "Bring on the Books!" book drive March 1st through March 24th. This is a community wide book collection that provides new and gently used books to local child care professionals as part of Success By 6's efforts to promote reading and literacy.

The drive will kickoff at the Syracuse University men's basketball game against University of Pittsburgh on Saturday, March 1st. Volunteers will collect books throughout the game.

The following community drop-off locations will be collecting books starting on March 8th:

- * Alliance Bank (all Onondaga County branches)
- * Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce (572 S. Salina Street in Syracuse)
- * P & C Stores (Onondaga, Cayuga & Oswego County locations)

Love of Reading

American youths are reading less in their free time than a generation ago. Increasing use of electronic media is largely to blame for this decline but the failure of schools to instill a "love of reading" is also a contributing factor. This information is based on a report by the National Endowment for the Arts. This report draws three conclusions –

1. "Americans are spending less time reading";
2. "reading-comprehension skills are eroding";
3. "these declines have serious civic, social, cultural, and economic implications."

Why read to a child who doesn't understand language or sing to a toddler who can't sing along? Because these activities help children make early connections between words and meaning. When we read and sing to young children, they create a safe, warm environment for children to appreciate the "love" and value of learning. Adults help lay the foundations for reading in a child's early years by pointing at and naming objects while dressing infants, naming foods while shopping with a toddler. Engaging in conversation, reading, singing, and playing games with young children are the most important building blocks for learning to "love reading". Here are suggestions for helping young children become successful readers.



Birth to three:

- Talk or sing to babies when changing diapers, bathing or engaging in play
- Introduce cloth books with bright pictures for looking at
- Point to words on signs at the zoo, in parks or while walking or driving
- When your child begins to notice letters, name the letters; read the words & explain what they mean
- Read stories before bed or nap time and ask questions about characters, setting, etc

Preschoolers:

- Choose books with lots of pictures, simple concepts teaching colors & shapes
- Help children connect words to pictures
- Provide materials for children to "write" stories about themselves
- Play picture card games
- Let children see you reading for pleasure; imitation is a powerful teacher

The Imagination Library

When you think about Dolly Parton your first thoughts are not about children's books. However, maybe it should be. The Imagination Library started in 1995 when she decided to promote a love of reading among children in her hometown. She decided that every child under the age of 5 should have their own collection of books. With support of her foundation she put-together a program to send one book a month to every child under age 5 in Sevier County thus the Imagination Library was born.

The program took-off and is not only offered in all 95 counties in Tennessee but in 700 communities in 43 states including Canada and has recently expanded to the United Kingdom. At last count 417,000 children from birth to age 5 in the United States and Canada have received books.

The SAEYC is proud to participate by sponsoring 5 children for the next three years in this program in Cayuga County.

To find out more about this program or how you can become a sponsor visit the web site at: www.dollysimaginationlibrary.com.

Taking A Stand

The National Education Association is ready to spend \$40 million this election year but not ready to endorse a candidate just yet. Many of the 3.2 million members of NEA are making their own decisions but some are endorsing Illinois NEA's backing of Sen. Obama. With the results from voters in the 24 states from Super Tuesday we may see the NEA ready to pick a candidate.

In contrast, the American Federation of Teachers is working aggressively for U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton. While both national teachers' unions are using different tactics, they are each making decisions that will ensure clout in the long run. Both unions are active this year because there's "so much at stake".

With President Bush leaving office and the next president likely to have a role in shaping the *No Child Left Behind Act* and federal proposals to create merit-pay programs it will be important for us to be savvy and make the best choice to obtain the best results. As Liddy mentioned in her Message From Your President (pg 1) "know your candidate".





Syracuse Association for The
Education of Young Children
P.O. Box 6007
Syracuse, NY 13217

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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.

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 provision of educational services and resources in adults who work with and for children from birth to age 8.



Helpful Information

The first issue of Teaching Young Children is now available through the NAEYC Online Store at www.naeyc.org/shoppingcart. You can purchase single copies or 10-copy value packs that include a staff development guide. The guide suggests ways to build on content of articles while encouraging teachers to adapt and apply appropriate ideas in their classrooms.

- * Single Issue subscription - \$22/yr
- * Bundle of 10 issues plus staff development guide - \$202/yr

Teaching Young Children will be available in Spanish in early 2008.