



SAEYC NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Newsletter published by SAEYC

Winter 2009 Edition

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Message From Your President

I was fortunate to be able to attend the NAEYC Annual Conference in Washington, DC in November. It was a great conference and the highlight for me was sitting in the audience during the opening session and listening to the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, address the crowd. As an early childhood educator, I was impressed by Secretary Duncan's knowledge not only about early childhood education, but also about the needs of children and the professionals that serve those children. He has worked tirelessly since his appointment to gather information from those of us who work in the field to be used to amend the "No Child Left Behind Act". As he travels the country gathering information, he talks about the changes he would like to see: national standards for students, well-trained teachers, a longer school year, safe environments for students, family involvement, curriculum changes, and yes, accountability.

I was energized by his speech and his obvious commitment to early childhood education. When referring to the future, Secretary Duncan said, "This is a unique moment in time when early learning is no longer an after thought, but has come into its own and is recognized as the first and most crucial stage in human development. Today we have a special opportunity to build a bigger, better coordinated system of early care and education".

(Secretary Duncan's speech is available in its entirety at www.ed.gov)

Pat Gridley

Upcoming Events / Save the Date

Spring Institute

Date: Saturday, March 6, 2010

Time: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm (lunch included)

Location: Driver's Village in Cicero

Keynote Speakers: Kim Hughes & Nancy Gabriel

Event Topic: Supporting Children with Challenging Behaviors in the Early Childhood Classroom offering three workshops: 1. Conscious Discipline, 2. Sensory Interventions & the Spirited Child and 3. Visual Supports & Social Stories.

Cost: FREE for Members Student & Non Member fees - To Be Announced

Annual Dinner & 75th Anniversary Celebration

Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Location: Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Looking for candidates for **Member of The Year** (check web site for details)

Information and registration forms will be mailed out prior to event dates. Keep your membership current so you continue getting our mailings.

www.saeyc.org

SAEYCsupport@gmail.com

Contact phone: 294-8478, Patricia Gridley

ACCREDITATION

NAEYC developed the Right Choice for Kids campaign in 2005 to promote NAEYC Accreditation to families. The web site www.rightchoiceforkids.org, a brochure, and flyers were created to help families learn and understand more about NAEYC Accreditation and why they should seek NAEYC Accredited programs for their children. Over the past year, the campaign has grown and been re-energized with the support of more resources and funds. Some of the ways that the campaign is working on delivering the message to families are:

- Revamping Right Choice for Kids web site
- National advertising campaign in local parenting magazines (select areas)
- Online advertising in some top parenting web sites
- Promotional videos
- Promotional items for programs to give away
- Outreach to groups that work closely with families

These are just a few ways that NAEYC is working to promote NAEYC Accreditation to families!

Daria Webber, SAEYC Accreditation Committee Chair

POLICY UPDATES

QUALITYstarsNY (QSNY) is NY State's new quality improvement and recognition system for early childhood programs. It is designed to recognize programs that demonstrate quality above and beyond State regulatory standards and provide resources and supports to help programs improve their quality.

Syracuse is one of 13 communities from across the State chosen to take part in a QSNY field test in 2010. Child Care Solutions was chosen to serve as the lead agency responsible for coordinating the local QSNY field test. We'll be looking for 15 - 20 early childhood programs in Onondaga County willing to participate. The field test sample will include regulated programs of all types. Information meetings for prospective field test participants will take place on Friday, January 22nd from 10am-12noon and Tuesday, January 26th from 6:30-8:30pm. Both meetings will be held at Child Care Solutions. Contact Patti Sofranko at 446-1220, ext. 312 for information.

To learn more about QUALITYstarsNY, visit www.earlychildhood.org/qсны.

Peggy Liuzzi, SAEYC Advocacy Committee Chair

IF I HAD MY CHILD TO RAISE OVER AGAIN

by Diane Loomis

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd finger paint more and point the finger less.
I'd do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious and seriously play.
I'd run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I'd be firm less often and affirm much more.
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I'd teach less about the love of power
And more about the power of love.



PHOTOS FROM PAST SAEYC EVENTS



SAEYC President, Patricia Gridley & Treasurer, Penny Lupo man the Membership Table at the *Growing Together Conference* (Oct 18th below)

Neighborhood House attends *Growing Together Conference* (Oct 18th above) and *Stone Soup Supper* (Oct 6th below)



FEATURED ARTICLE

Seasonal Stress

In addition to times of warmth and joy, this time of year brings with it a great deal of pressure and anxiety, and our children feel it as much as we do. For those who thrive on routine, these may be interrupted and special events may occur that are out of the ordinary. Families might be traveling to places that are not comfortable or visitors may be arriving whose interactions may be different.

Parents and caregivers may be under stress, because of finances or expectations of family members, and children react to the tension of the adults. Relatives may not understand a child's style or developmental skills and parents are in the middle, trying to help children be on their best public behavior and at the same time protect them from pressures of the circumstances. Shopping, can be a sensory nightmare and the cultural press for gifts can lead to unrealistic expectations for a preschooler.

How can we support our children through these stresses?

- Make an effort to maintain daily routines as consistently as possible.
- Provide advance notice to your child about changes in the usual schedule; use a calendar and rehearse the sequence of upcoming events.
- Use visuals to show children what will happen, where you are going, and who will be there.
- Talk to family and friends about a child's needs and the best way to support them.
- Provide an area to take a break and be alone; bring favorite toys or books.
- Get exercise in ways that help everyone relax, walk in the neighborhood, hike at a park, go ice skating.
- Prepare the child's favorite foods to supplement meals at home with guests or at other family gatherings.
- Keep track of how each child is handling a situation and provide support before a meltdown.
- Celebrations should be for everyone. It is counter-productive to continue to do stressful things just because we have always done them. Maybe now is the time to create your own rituals and traditions, to meet the needs of all family members.



Be safe and make this a memorable year for your family by eliminating extra stress.

Ellen Barnes
SAEYC Board Member

BOOK REVIEW

The RED Book

by Barbara Lehman
(Scholastic Books, 2004)



This is a wordless book that tells the story of a little girl and a magical red book. The story begins with a little girl who finds a red book in the snow. As she looks through the book she discovers a map that leads her to an island where a little boy finds a red book in the sand on the

beach. Each child's book mirrors the other child and eventually the two meet. The conclusion of the story is open-ended and the journey continues. This is a Caldecott Honor Book.

submitted by Patricia Gridley, SAEYC President

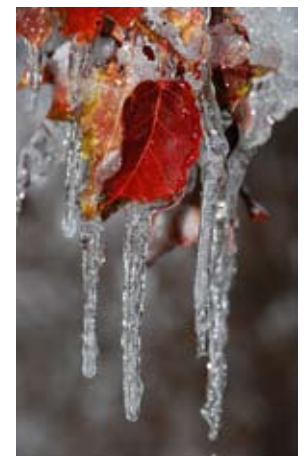
ACTIVITY

Ice Sun Catchers

Objective: cause & effect

Category: Science & Language

Project: use styrofoam balls or other disposable "molds." The children pour water in and then add items such as pine cones, leaves, twigs, etc. - natural items. Yarn loops can be added making sure they are submerged and then the molds placed in the freezer. Once frozen, pop them out and have the children hang them on trees or bushes.



Discussion: discuss how it changes in the winter from the summer; ex: snow, ice, sleet, etc. Then discuss how items are when they are frozen (stuck) in the water; ex: do things move around when water is liquid or when it is solid, how water expands & freezes to hold materials, and as the warm sun hits the ice how water begins to melt and materials within being to fall.

activity used by Pre-K teacher, Cynthia Williams



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Current Resident or:

Welcome to Our New Members

Auburn Sara Schwartz Crystal Sixberry	Genoa Mary Malseed	Mexico Kay LuAnn Wells	Syracuse Kimberly Ann Centore Erin Coyne Laura Eriksson Debra Faes Aleksandra McCadam Kathy McDaniels Malinda Stephens
Baldwinsville Jean Testa	Hannibal Chantal Rainford	New Hartford Joanne Carol Powers	
Chittenango Catherine Mulholland	Lafayette Deborah Wilson	Oneida Robin Jean Fallon	
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MEMBERSHIP

Each year SAEYC recognizes a special person who exemplifies the profession of early learning for children by demonstrating their commitment to children, colleagues, the community or the profession of childhood education. One person will be chosen out of the nominations submitted and recognized at our SAEYC Annual Dinner.

Nomination forms will be available on our web site in February 2010 and also be included in our next newsletter.

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

