



# SAEYC NEWSLETTER

published by SAEYC

January-March 2011 Edition

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## **Message From Your SAEYC President**

Greetings and Happy New Year to all! We hope you had a chance to attend one of the SAEYC events this fall. Both the Stone Soup Supper and the Growing Together Conference were well attended and provided excellent professional development opportunities for our membership and the early childhood community. A BIG THANK YOU to all who helped make each event a success.

On December 9, SAEYC co-sponsored the Early Childhood Legislative Breakfast with Child Care Solutions. The purpose of the breakfast was to provide policy makers with information regarding the importance of affording every child in New York State a winning beginning. We know that children who start behind stay behind. By taking action in four key areas: QUALITYstarsNY, Stronger Workforce, Early Care And Learning and Home Visiting, we can strengthen New York's future by ensuring that children are ready to learn and families are able to work. For more information on this campaign visit [www.winningbeginningny.org](http://www.winningbeginningny.org)

The new year brings a renewed commitment to our work with children and families. In these tough economic times it is even more critical to embrace what we know to provide exemplary opportunities for our most vulnerable citizens. Our vision, knowledge, and strategies for working with young children must be clear, purposeful, and aligned. In the words of Marion Wright Edelman and Cathy Grace, *"Our hope is that the world will recognize the children's worth, the adults in their lives will value their innate curiosity and sense of wonder; and the systems designed to educate and keep them healthy will succeed. We hope that Americans will come to value children in the same way they value other national treasures. We all contribute to the preservation of our union; in the future it would be ideal if we could view the education and health concerns of young children in America as critical to its preservation."* Together we can reach this dream. Here's to creating a better tomorrow for all!

Nancy Gabriel

## **Upcoming Events Save the Date**

### **Week Of The Young Child**

**Date:** April 10 - 16, 2011

**Theme:** *Early Years Are Learning Years*

### **Utica Conference**

**Date:** March 5, 2011

**Location:** Mohawk Valley Community College

### **NYSAEYC Annual Conference**

**Date:** April 28-30, 2011

**Location:** Hilton Rye Town & Renaissance Westchester Hotel in Westchester County, NY

### **SAEYC Annual Dinner**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 7, 2011

**Location:** Rosamond Gifford Zoo  
Remember to nominate a "Member of the Year" who will receive special recognition at this event. Nomination form enclosed.

[www.saeyc.org](http://www.saeyc.org)

[SAEYCsupport@gmail.com](mailto:SAEYCsupport@gmail.com)

Phone Contact: 498-2347, Nancy Gabriel

## FEATURED ARTICLE

### An Idea For New Year's Reflection

As we begin a new year, many of us reflect on our personal and professional lives, visiting our old habits, resolving to change. Often we find that reviewing where we come from, our core values and foundations, helps us to know what to keep, what to change and what to throw out.

What can we do to take stock in our professional lives? Where can we start? A good place to start is to take a look at our views on curriculum and assessment, two key areas of early childhood education. In recent years, in some programs, we have drifted away from the core early childhood values, resulting in a slowly moving shift to pushing down curriculum to “accelerate” learning and a shift to inappropriate assessment strategies to meet the call for accountability.

As we begin a new year, let's take a moment to check our connection to our core values on appropriate curriculum and assessment of young children. Simply put: Let's remember what's best for kids. The NAEYC and the National Association of Early Childhood Specialists in State Departments of Education (NAECS/SDE) joint position statement, “Where We Stand on Curriculum, Assessment and Program Evaluation” is a great resource to help us do this.

It reminds us to, “Implement curriculum that is thoughtfully planned, challenging, engaging, developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically responsive, comprehensive, and likely to promote positive outcomes for all young children.”

It provides a quick list to check effectiveness of your curriculum:

- Children are active and engaged.
- Goals are clear and shared by all.
- Curriculum is evidence-based.
- Valued content is learned through investigation and focused, intentional teaching.
- Curriculum builds on prior learning and experiences.
- The curriculum is likely to benefit children.

The position statement also reminds us to, “Make ethical, appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment a central part of all early childhood programs. To best assess young children's strengths, progress, and needs, use assessment methods that are developmentally appropriate, culturally and linguistically responsive, tied to children's daily activities, supported by professional development, inclusive of families, and connected to specific, beneficial purposes....”

It provides a quick list to check for appropriateness and effectiveness of assessment strategies:

- Ethical principles guide assessment practices.
- Assessment instruments are used for their intended purposes.
- Assessments are appropriate for ages and other characteristics of children being assessed.
- Assessment instruments are in compliance with professional criteria for quality.
- What is assessed is developmentally and educationally significant.
- Assessment evidence is used to understand and improve learning.
- Assessment evidence is gathered from realistic settings and situations that reflect children's actual performance.
- Assessments use multiple sources of evidence gathered over time.
- Use of individually administered, norm-referenced tests is limited.

Use this resource to take stock of your old habits in this New Year. You can find the entire position statement at [www.NAEYC.org](http://www.NAEYC.org), under Position Statements and Where We Stand (direct link: <https://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/StandCurrAss.pdf>)

Patricia Martin Ph.D., SAEYC Board Member

## POLICY UPDATES

### Early Childhood Legislative Breakfast

The SAEYC and Child Care Solutions hosted a Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at the Empire Room at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse. Fifty-one people braved the snowy morning, including Senator David Valesky, Assemblyman Will Barclay, Assemblyman-Elect Sam Roberts and aides representing Senator John DeFrancisco and Assemblyman bill Magnarelli.

The event was designed to provide legislators with an opportunity to learn more about the critical role high-quality early care and learning programs play in our community and across NY state. Participants were welcomed by SAEYC President Nancy Gabriel and everyone then watched the new video, “It's Our business” which was developed by Winning Beginning NY. Guest speakers included, Michele Ferguson (OCC Early Learning Center), Peggy Liuzzi (Child Care Solutions), Chandra Smith (The Salvation Army), Karen Howard (Syracuse City School District), and Patricia Gridley (Cayuga Community College). Topics presented included: “Quality and Why It Matters”, “QUALITYstarsNY”, “Keeping Child Care Accessible to Low-Income Families”, “Maintaining the PreK Promise”, and “Building a Strong Early Childhood Workforce”. At the end of the presentations Assemblyman Barclay and Senator Valesky both reaffirmed their commitment to Early Care and Education and pledged their support.

To view the video, visit [www.winningbeginningny.org](http://www.winningbeginningny.org).

Patricia Gridley, SAEYC Policy Committee Chair

## News &amp; Updates

*Museum of Play* in Rochester, NY



Open all year long and easily accessible from the New York State Thruway and regional expressways, the *National Museum of Play* offers your family so much fun, so close to home.

- More than 150,000 square feet of dynamic, hands-on exhibits, plus fascinating displays of artifacts of play
- Upstate New York's only year-round indoor butterfly garden
- The National Toy Hall of Fame
- A full slate of family-friendly programs and events
- Outstanding guest service, a convenient food court featuring Pizza Hut Express, Subway, Taco Bell Express, and Louie's Sweet Shoppe
- Two museum shops
- Convenient, on-site parking

Plan for your visit now and you will want to return once you see how much fun you can have. Visit [www.museumofplay.org](http://www.museumofplay.org).

**Don't Forget to  
Nominate Your Choice for  
SAEYC  
"MEMBER OF THE YEAR"**

This award is given annually to an SAEYC member who exemplifies the profession by demonstrating commitment to children, colleagues, the community or the profession. To nominate a special person complete the enclosed Nomination Form and return it to Barbara Ridley by April 1, 2011. One person will be honored at our SAEYC Annual Dinner in June 2011.

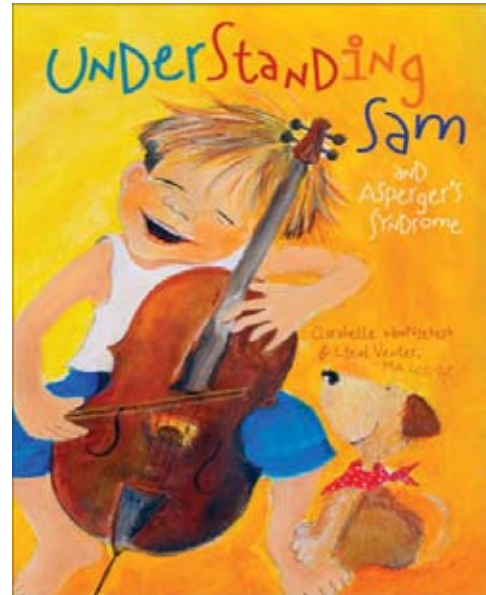
Don't forget to visit our website for updated information on special events, conferences, news and highlights at:

[www.SAEYC.org](http://www.SAEYC.org)

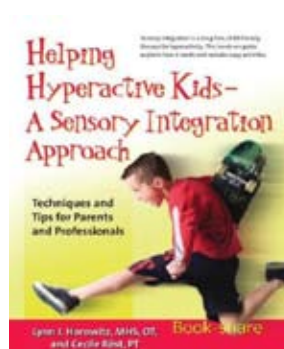
## BOOK REVIEW

## Understanding Sam

by Clarabelle van Niekerk  
published by Independent Publishers Group



One out of every 110 children (one in 70 boys) in the United States is diagnosed with some form of autism. *Understanding Sam and Asperger Syndrome* gives readers a glimpse into the life of Sam, an undiagnosed child. There is something about Sam that causes him to behave a little differently than other children, making him an easy target for bullying at school. One evening, without telling anyone, Sam and his dog, Oscar, leave home to visit the fair. This is a defining moment for his worried parents, who decide that very night that it is time to see the doctor. Parents are told that Sam has a form of autism called Asperger Syndrome. Once Sam is diagnosed, life becomes a little easier for Sam and his family. The story concludes on a "high note" when Sam participates in the school concert, and the whole town celebrates his talent! Letter to the children and 10 Helpful Tips from a speech-language pathologist and author provide practical pointers on how to interact with a child or friend like Sam.



For another great read on this subject try *Helping Hyperactive Kids - A Sensory Integration Approach* by Lynn J Horowitz, MHS, OT, Cecile Rost, PT; published by Hunter House. This book provides you with sensory integration techniques that can be used immediately to help hyperactive children develop more integrated behavior.

Darcy Barber, SAEYC Board Member



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Web Site: [www.saeyc.org](http://www.saeyc.org)

E-mail: [SAEYCsupport@gmail.com](mailto:SAEYCsupport@gmail.com)

### Welcome to Our New Members

**Auburn**

Mary Breese  
Katie Dennis  
Penny Gahn  
Kelly Guy  
Sarah Nurse  
Heather Perkins

**Clay**

Jeff Martin

**Locke**

Adrianna Marie Woodard

**Rome**

Beverlee Crawford-Campany  
Lori Reno  
Margaret White

**Utica**

Emily Laramie Murphy  
John Christopher Tomei

**Cortland**

Alicia Marie Lockwood

**Memphis**

Romeyn Christopher Smith

**West Chester**

Elizabeth Samson

**Croghan**

Mary Ann Haigh

**Mohawk**

Sarah Johnson

**Senca Falls**

Mary Frances Paradis

**Baldwinsville**

Breanna Scannell

**Fulton**

Brandi Cooper  
Dayna Davis

**New Hartford**

Mary Halwig

**Stittville**

Allie Kristine Kiernan

**Boonville**

Karin Lyng

**Georgetown**

Farin Littler

**New Woodstock**

Magen Ashley Slocum

**Syracuse**

Patricia Babello  
Nusea Adia Days  
Ashley Delee  
Rebecca Louise Jones  
Marisa Lynn Lamanna  
Colleen Nolan Mayberry  
Aubrey Lynne Phillips  
Rebecca Scheel

**Brewerton**

Courtney Rose

**Holland Patent**

Amanda Ann Dembrow

**Oriskany**

Beverley Burton  
Kim Schillaci

**Camillus**

Laura Constable  
Kelley Rake

**Liverpool**

Heather Dougherty  
Paula Lamberson  
Sheila Simons

**Phoenix**

Angela Goulet

**Tully**

Kristen Martocchio

**Chittenango**

Daithi Borges

**Pulaski**

Kristin Pulvermiller

### Members

Remember to keep your membership updated.

If you register for 3 years you save  
15% on your total amount of dues.

A membership makes great Holiday and birthday presents.

### New this winter:

NAEYC Resources Catalog is now available online.

Visit [www.naeyc.org/store](http://www.naeyc.org/store) and begin purchasing books, brochures,  
posters, and more through the online Resources Catalog.

You can request a copy mailed to you by calling 800-424-2460.

Members save 20% on all resources in this catalog!

### SAEYC 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.

