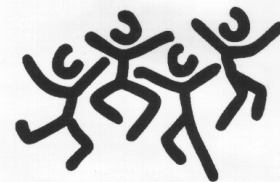


GOAEYC Newsletter

Golden Corridor Association for the Education of Young Children
(an affiliate of NAEYC)



P.O. Box 3213, Barrington, IL 60011

www.GOAEYC.org

August, 2006



President's Message by Terese Amidei

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

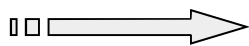
I'm writing this letter as we are setting up and sending out our ballot for this upcoming election. Please take the time to fill out the ballot and send it back. We are looking forward to adding some great Early Childhood people to our board. We do appreciate having your input for our new Board Members.

We had a superb retreat in June for our current board members and I'm very excited about the New Year. We did a great amount of brainstorming and came up with some wonderful ideas. There are new and better things coming your way next year. Keep your eyes out for new information that will be in the upcoming newsletter.

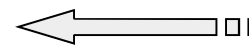
Have a wonderful rest of the summer! Thank you for making a difference in children's lives everyday!!

Board members:

- © Terese Amidei,
President
- © Karla Berra,
Treasurer
- © Colleen Scheitz,
Vice President of
Prof. Dev.
- © Carol Allar,
Vice President of
Organizational Dev.
- © Martha Westerberg,
Secretary
- © Molly Babu,
Membership
- © Members at Large:
Forogh Ganjbakhsh,
Sharyl Robin,
Brian Michalski,
Linda Hermes,
Denise Tenyer,
Jeanne Neifert



The GoAEYC conference is coming!!



Saturday, Sept. 30 is the annual GoAEYC conference! We are very excited to be bringing you over 40 fun and interesting workshops this year. Here are just a few of the topics we'll be addressing:

Environment, Men in Child Care, Humor, Music, Dramatic Play, Observation,
Healthy Habits, Recycled Activities, Cultural Sensitivity, and much more!!

Don't miss our informational breakfast where you can hear the latest news from the field, and new this year - our members only luncheon! Look for your booklet in the mail soon, or go to www.goaeyc.org to download your own copy! Call (847) 640-9590 with questions. We can't wait to see you there!

What About Those Boys? by Sharyl Robin

Last May, I had the opportunity to attend the Leadership Connections conference sponsored by the McCormick Tribune Center for Early Childhood Leadership. The whole conference was wonderful, but my favorite part was the full day workshop I attended called "What About Those Boys" by Dan Hodgins. In the morning, he talked about the latest research on how boys learn and how their brains function differently than girls. In the afternoon, he talked about activities that will heighten boys interest for learning.

Did you know that of all children expelled from preschool last year, 87% of them were boys?

Did you know that boys are six times more likely to be misdiagnosed with ADD or ADHD?

Did you know that boys are four times more likely to commit suicide?

We learned that boys go into sensory overload earlier than girls. Some things that cause them to do this are walls covered with too much "stuff", environments filled with too many choices, and too many signs that say things like "no running" and "be nice to your friends". We also learned that boys' brains go into pause mode after completing a task. To get them to focus again, we need to use "pause breakers" like shouting, spinning, jumping or clapping.



Another interesting fact is that boys have spikes of testosterone several times an hour. When we see boys who can't seem to sit still at circle time, the problem can be physical and not behavioral. In other words, we may be asking them to sit for longer than is developmentally appropriate!

After reading this information, I hope you'll be as excited as I am to know that Dan Hodgins is coming to this area to do a presentation for child care providers! He will be in Rolling Meadows on Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 7-9 pm. Dan's interactive presentation style is both entertaining and informative. Come to this free workshop and learn about the boys in your programs and the older boys in your life! Call CCR&R at (847) 640-9590 after Aug. 21 to register.

Hurry - space is limited!!

On Tuesday, Sept. 19 the Barrington library will host a GoAEYC presentation for parents and/or providers called "What Does a Quality Early Childhood Program Look Like?" This will be from 6:30 to 7:30 in the library meeting room. There is no charge and no need to sign up ahead of time. The library is located at 505 N. Northwest Hwy. in Barrington. For more information, contact the library, or call our board member, Denise Tenyer, at 847-304-1215. Please help us spread the word to families in the area.

Accreditation Update by Michele' Robinson

"The primary gauge of quality has been accreditation by NAEYC... whose seal of approval is regarded as the gold standard by parents, educators, and facilities."

The Wall Street Journal (March 23, 2006).

As early childhood educators we all understand the importance of NAEYC accreditation. We know that it is the indication to our parents and children, and an affirmation for us, that our programs are doing outstanding things for children. Just as in the days past it was difficult to get parents to understand Developmentally Appropriate Practice and that learning really does occur through play. Today we find it equally challenging to help parents understand what accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) really means. Well, you will be thrilled to know that NAEYC has created a new Web site for parents which will help us all in our efforts to better educate them on what true quality programs look like.

The Right Choice for Kids, at www.rightchoiceforkids.org was created because of the growing number of families that gather information online about programs for young children. The attractive Web pages introduce parents to NAEYC Accreditation and the benefits of quality child care, preschool, and other early education programs.

There are links to NAEYC's main Web site and to the popular NAEYC-Accredited Program Search page. Another important way that families-and other stakeholders-will learn about the new NAEYC Accreditation system is through the news media. Yes, it is true; NAEYC will be in the news! NAEYC is going to be reaching out to national news organizations, parenting magazines, and newspapers in major markets across the United States. In addition there will be special focus on innovative media outlets such as Internet chat rooms and online message boards.

This is a very exciting time for all of us in the field of Early Childhood Education. As our families become more informed about NAEYC accreditation and its many benefits, they will be eager to assist you and your program with pursuing accreditation or re-accreditation. Are you ready to join the ranks of the thousands of programs that carry the NAEYC torch for accreditation? You can begin your self-study right away. For details and information on the new NAEYC Accreditation process, visit www.naeyc.org/accreditation/steps.asp.

Michele' Robinson - Assistant Professor, Early Childhood Education: Coordinator, Child Learning Center Harper College – Palatine, Illinois

Excerpts reprinted from Accreditation Update Vol. 7

GoAEYC Welcomes Back Dr. Lilian Katz!

Dr. Lilian Katz, an international leading authority in early childhood, will give a lecture/workshop on *The Teacher's Role in Fostering Social Competency in Preschool Children*, Tuesday, September 26, 2006 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the Neihoff Building (Alexian Brothers Hospital), 955 Beisner, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007.

In this lecture, Dr. Katz will describe and define the social elements in young children and discuss specific teaching techniques to help children strengthen their social cognition and skills. Cost for this workshop is free, but space is limited. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. A confirmation call/email will be made approximately 1 week prior to the workshop. Walk-ins will not be accepted. To register, visit www.goaeyc.org to complete the online PDF registration form and fax to (847)803-2945. Questions? Please call Brian Michalski at 847-803-4381.

Registration deadline: *September 13, 2006.*

NAEYC Accreditation – A New Standard of Excellence by Elaine Quinn

Why we sought NAEYC Accreditation and how the SAM Project helped us.

Our center was a wonderful place for children but our curriculum was not as comprehensive as the critical early learning years warranted. The staff was conscientious, competent and caring but they considered continuing ECE classes a burden rather than an opportunity. We got along very well with our parent community but it could not truly be described as a “partnership”. The facility itself was pristine and spacious but wasn’t as child friendly and warm as a preschool could be. We had full enrollment and enjoyed a good reputation but seemed to primarily attract a specific population. We had reached a plateau of mediocrity; a comfortable coasting where an abundance of possibilities lay dormant. Amongst the staff, there was confusion over concepts like “developmentally appropriate” or “diversity” and the staff could not come to consensus on the meaning of “best practices”. We needed to reassess and recommit to our goal of doing our very best for the children in our care.

Being familiar with NAEYC, I felt seeking accreditation would help us do exactly that. The initial reaction to the idea of accreditation can be met with resistance but I believe it is because directors and staff members alike may be intimidated by three aspects of the accreditation *process*: 1) the amount of energy and work involved, 2) fear of being evaluated and falling short of the mark and 3) the accompanying costs. While these are valid concerns, they do not encapsulate accreditation in its entirety. When you consider only the amount of time involved or the costs or if you process only the evaluation component you miss the numerous, invaluable and rewarding aspects of the *process* itself!

I was very fortunate to hear about the Statewide Accreditation Mentoring program referred to as the SAM Project. Through the SAM Project, I joined a cohort of directors who were also seeking NAEYC accreditation. The cohort group also included two very supportive and knowledgeable mentors who guided us through the criterion, encouraged us at every juncture and shared an enormous amount of information. Through the SAM Project, I was able to understand the criterion better and then coach my staff through their apprehension. I came to embrace and then share with my staff the value of the process itself. The SAM Project helps you focus on the very real and very important reason for seeking accreditation – the children and families we serve. Plus, the SAM Project provided partial reimbursement for the fees involved!

Our preschool was awarded NAEYC accreditation in May and we experienced a great sense of accomplishment but the recognition, wonderful as it is, is only part of the reward. The process of establishing standards of excellence in every area of what we do enriched not only the lives of the children, and their families but of our staff! Diversity is a goal; self assessment is an on-going process; early intervention is a must; ECE classes are a benefit; sensitive and nurturing teacher-student interaction is essential to everything we do... and the benefits go on and on. I am grateful to NAEYC and the Sam Project for helping us do the very best we can on a daily basis for those very important little people!

Elaine Quinn is the director of Little Angels preschool in Barrington.

*For more information on the SAM project or accreditation, call
Michele’ Robinson at 847-925-6238 or Brian Michalski at 847-803-4381.*

Advocating for Young Children by Denise Tenyer

PRESCHOOL FOR ALL– We Did It!

Congratulations Illinois! Our state legislature recently passed legislation to create the Preschool for All program, which offers voluntary, high-quality preschool to all 3- and 4- year olds. This legislation goes into effect on July 1st in a tiered format. Children who are at risk of school failure are the first priority, followed by middle income children and, finally, all other children whose parents want them to participate. Preschool for All will be administered by the Illinois State Board of Education. It is designed to provide preschool in a variety of settings, including child care centers, licensed family child care homes, community based organizations, and schools. As part of this groundbreaking program, preschools will be staffed by experienced teachers with bachelors degrees and early education training, and provide at least 2 1/2 hours a day of programs that build children's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills.

I ask that you please take a few minutes out of your day today to call your legislators and thank them for their vote in support of early childhood education. With local and gubernatorial elections around the corner, it is imperative that we as early childhood advocates work extra hard to keep early childhood issues in the forefront of the debates. Make your voices heard and let the candidates know that you value quality preschool education opportunities for ALL children– and that you will be watching this election season to see their level of commitment to quality early childhood education for all Illinois' children.

Please note: As this new program rolls out, we here at GOAEYC realize that you have questions. We are committed to keeping you educated and informed on how this and other issues impact you, your programs, and the children you serve. Keep yourself informed by visiting our website, and attending our professional development conferences and other GOAEYC sponsored events. Details on these activities can be found on our website at www.GOAIEYC.org. Have more questions right now? Contact me via email at publicpolicy@goaieyc.org. Thank you for helping to make a difference in children's lives!

Denise Tenyer is a Board Member and Public Policy/Advocacy Chair for GOAEYC. She is a State of Illinois certified teacher and owner/educator of Learning Trek Academy, an early literacy/reading enrichment program for children.



More Information...

Scholarship money is available!

By Linda Wywialowski

GOAEYC has set aside funds to support its members in pursuing professional development. If you are a Student, Classroom Teacher or Center Director AND a member of GOAEYC, you may be eligible for financial support of up to \$500.

- Funds are available for fall college classes.
- Call Linda at (847) 991-1030 to receive an application.

Calendar of Events by Sharyl Robin
Call (847) 640-9590 for more information or
to register for any of these workshops.

Make it a Print Rich Playtime	Wed., Sept. 13	Children's World Learning Center	Schaumburg
GoAEYC Board meeting	Wed., Sept. 13	Children's Home and Aid Society	Arlington Heights
Children's Health Issues	Tues., Sept. 26	Sears Child Dev. Center	Hoffman Estates
The IL Early Learning Standards	Sat., Oct. 7	St. Mark's Preschool	Mt. Prospect
GoAEYC Board meeting	Wed., Oct. 11	Buffalo Grove Park District	Buffalo Grove
Grant Writing 101	Wed., Oct. 11	Jolly Fun House	Prospect Hts.
Playing to Learn, Learning to Play	Sat., Oct. 14	Mt. Prospect Library	Mt. Prospect

VOTE TODAY!

Enclosed in this Newsletter are:

1. a ballot for the election of our new GoAEYC Board members.
2. the professional biographies of each candidate
3. the revised GoAEYC ByLaws

Take some time to read these and then CAST YOUR BALLOT!

For your convenience, the ballot is addressed, stamped, and ready to be mailed. *All it needs is your X's.* Mark your ballot today and mail it in!