

# GOAEYC Newsletter

P.O. Box 68263, Schaumburg, IL 60168 www.GOAEYC.org



## A New Year's Message from GOAEYC

*I hope you never lose your sense of wonder  
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger  
May you never take one single breath for granted  
God forbid love ever leave you empty-handed  
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean  
Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens  
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance  
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance  
I hope you dance*

- Excerpts from a song by Lee Ann Womack

As you enter a new year, hopefully you are becoming aware that you need to take time to reflect on the past in order to make the future brighter. You must make resolutions and consider if you will do much of the same as the year before, or will you do even more.

As educators and advocates for children, the hope is that you will be reminded of how invaluable you are to GoAEYC and our entire community of Early Childhood Educators. Each of the letters in the organization's name tells the story of how powerful you are in the lives of children and families.

**Golden** - You are like a priceless gem. You are the sunshine in a child's life. You see children's beauty and because you believe in them, they know that they too can shine and be golden.

**Outstanding**- The work you do is *outstanding* and second to none. You do an *outstanding* job of bringing professional development and awareness to the community. You do an *outstanding* job of demonstrating what it means to work as a team for the good of others.

**Affective** - You *affect* each family, teacher, child and program that you come into contact with. You are making a better future for all of us. Because you can never tell where your influence will stop, you *affect* eternity.

**Encouragement** – You are educators & advocates who work together to *encourage* children's individual talents and strengths. You also *encourage* those of their caregivers through your example as role models in the community.

**Years** - Past & Future. May you learn from the *years* past and live for the future. Know that past triumphs will dictate future victories.

**Creativity & Collaboration** - A leader is a very special person who uses his or her *creativity, collaboration* skills, and loving concern as a means of developing the talents in others. The talent to think, to dream, to learn, to try, and most importantly to do.

In the words of Donna Fargo, GoAEYC would like to say:

*We salute the good work you've done. We appreciate the people you are, and we thank you for your positive influence. Thank you for answering the call to be leaders. Thank you for the enduring impression you've made in the lives you have touched. Every community needs people like you. Your contributions are immeasurable. Your lessons are permanent. You improve our world. You are so very important.*

So the challenge becomes for you to make the resolution that in this New Year, you will continue to use your efforts, talents, and energy with GoAEYC to think, to dream, to learn, to try and most importantly to do. In this New Year, when you are faced with the choice to *sit it out or dance*; we hope that in 2005, you will choose to *dance*.

(Excerpt from Michele' Robinson's speech at GOAEYC board appreciation dinner)

January, 2005

People on the board:

- © Juli Chandler, President
- © Terese Amidei, President Elect, Treasurer
- © Michele' Robinson, 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, Colleen Scheitz, Brian Michalski, Stephanie Ford, Linda Wywialowski, Karla Berra, Denise Tenyer

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# Trends in Early Childhood Education by Wendy Mertes

What a surprise to learn that preschool is good for children! Even after 37 years, effects of quality early childhood education are still being felt by a group of people who were fortunate enough to be part of the first preschool program in 1962-67 at the High/Scope Perry Preschool in Michigan. This longitudinal study was the catalyst for the federally funded Head Start. Despite all of this research and proof that we make an impact, we still do not receive the recognition we should as a profession. But all of that may be changing in Illinois.

After two years of "dreaming" about what we wanted for early childhood, it is becoming a reality through the work being done by the Professional Development Advisory Committee. In January the first level of training for entry level personnel in our field will begin and by April we'll have our first graduates. What does this mean to you? It means that a wide contingency of professionals have agreed to what all individuals working with young children should know and be able to do. We are now in the process of leveling these skills and knowledge. Once a person has demonstrated certain competencies, or core content areas, they

will be qualified to work at a specific level. It can be compared with the Nursing profession. An RN is qualified to do certain jobs while an LPN can do other jobs. The "Core Content Areas" agreed upon for the early childhood field is now available for you to review at [ilchildcare.org](http://ilchildcare.org)..... I heard you. Immediately you ask, "Does this mean I have to go back to school to keep my job?". That is not necessarily true. We are also investigating ways to evaluate prior experience.

So after over thirty years of research demonstrating how important our jobs are, someone may actually be listening - BESIDES the children in our care. What you do IS critical to children's lives and although it sounds trite, you really do make a difference.

Make 2005 the year that you focus on the professionalism in our field. Attend GOAEYC's or other local workshops and conferences, sign up for a college course and be on the lookout for the new website currently under construction for our field. We don't sit on children; we care and educate the future of our society!

## **BARBARA COLOROSO SPEAKS ON BULLYING**

Monday, Feb. 7 Barrington High School, 616 W. Main St. (Lake-Cook Rd.) in Barrington

Two times to choose from!

12:30 – 3:00 pm for Early Childhood and Elementary School Staff

7:00 – 9:00 pm for Staff and Parents

Barbara Coloroso, author of many books on the topic of parenting, teaching, and conflict resolution will speak to teachers of children of all ages at a daytime workshop and to teachers and parents in the evening. The afternoon workshop, from 12:30-3:00 is free to all GoAEYC members, but reservations are needed because of space limitations. Non-members may also attend during the day at a cost of \$25.

The evening workshop is free to all and reservations are not needed. ***Please copy and distribute the enclosed flyer to all the parents in your program and post it on your bulletin boards.*** Call Carol Allar at 847-381-2218 for daytime reservations or questions. Spread the word! You will not want to miss this workshop and the parents of the children in your program should hear this important information.

In-service certificates will be available during the day and in the evening.

# Professional Development by Susan Budde

## "Where does the snow go?"

A couple years ago around this time, I was talking with teachers about how literacy experiences can happen throughout the day with children. It happened to be around the winter holidays. Teacher Sarah described a conversation she had with her preschoolers. They were sharing their ideas about Santa Claus and what happened at Christmas time. Then they drew pictures about Christmas. One 3 year old boy, James, drew lots of different circles all over his paper.

Sarah: So, what have we got here? Tell me what's going on here.

James: That's Santa Claus and that's my mom and that's the Christmas tree.

Teacher Eva relayed her experience about making snowmen with her children. She cut out the round shapes, the carrot nose and sticks. The children put them together anyway they chose. The pieces were all over and the pictures didn't really look like snowmen, but that was okay.

I then asked this group of teachers, if they were 3 years old, which would they prefer to do; put pre-cut shapes together to make a snowman or draw 'circles' using their own ideas about Santa and Christmas.

Teachers: The circles.

Susan: Why?

Teachers: Because the circle drawing shows the child's own ideas. It's more important.

Our literacy conversation continued.

Ms. Jones: I told the children that Christmas is when baby Jesus was born. It's his birthday. They got all excited about that.

The group nodded in agreement with some comments of "That's nice" and "That's a good idea." Indeed this was a group of people who shared the same idea about Christmas. Yet our world consists of a variety

of people who have different thoughts about Christmas and religion. How will James have an opportunity to develop his own ideas about religion as well? Isn't it important that we include the different ideas that people have in the world? Isn't this also part of 'Anti-Bias Curriculum?'

Do we want children to think in only one way?

Do we want children to think the way we do?

There are many possibilities in the world.

How literate and well versed are we in understanding the different ways of thinking in the world?

The role of educator is complex. We must make time to think about what we do and why we do it. From planning art activities to celebrating holidays, what messages are we relaying to children? What opportunities are we giving them to express their ideas, understandings, and wonderings of the world? What opportunities are we giving ourselves to expand our understanding of the world?

Teacher Sarah also cut out Christmas trees for the children to decorate for ornaments. She said that she thought they could put snow on the bottom, so found some old tinsel from her Christmas tree and cut it up for them to use as snow on the bottom.

James: I'm putting snow on top. I'm putting snow all over.

How can we remind ourselves that there are many possibilities to questions such as, "Where does the snow go?"



## Accreditation Update by Michele' Robinson



Effective **January 1, 2005**, all NAEYC-accredited program are required to **file their own annual reports**. Reports are to be filed according to your accreditation anniversary date as found on your program's accreditation certificate.

Over the course of the new five-year term, every program will file four annual reports. Be reminded that failure to submit an annual report will be grounds for revocation and reports indicating significant changes will be grounds for a verification visit.

You can download the form for program annual reports from the NAEYC website at [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

### SAM COHORT

Are you interested in pursuing accreditation through NAEYC? Are you are little afraid and unsure of where to start? Never fear, help is here. There is a cohort in your area that is made up of many different programs, all interested in pursuing accreditation. For more information and meeting times, contact Brian Michalski: [bmichalsk@goaecy.org](mailto:bmichalsk@goaecy.org) **OR** Michele' Robinson: [mrobinson@goaecy.org](mailto:mrobinson@goaecy.org)  
847-925-6238

## IAEYC Update by Carol Allar

### **CONGRATULATIONS!** from Illinois AEYC

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children extends its congratulations to all of its affiliate chapters and chapter of the state who have successfully completed the strategic planning process and recently received validation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

We understand, first hand, just how much time and effort each of the members have dedicated to this important process. The result is a stronger organization, better poised to work together to improve the lives of young children and their families.

With the process completed, we look forward to getting "back to business." In the next year we look to strengthening our public policy initiative to better represent our members and their issues. By working together with professional partners, the organization hopes to expand its role in the professional development arena and develop new resources to assist our members.

The bottom line is.... we couldn't do what we do without the hard work and support of each of our members. We thank you and look forward to serving you in 2005.

# Advocating for Young Children by Denise Tenyer

Welcome to the New Year! 2005 promises to be yet another busy year for us as we continue our efforts to advocate for young children. The 2005 budget plans are being made in both Washington and Springfield.

In Washington we are watching closely for information about two programs in particular: the Child Care & Development Block Grant and Head Start. Both of these programs provide vital services to America's children. It is imperative that we make sure they remain available and strong. Space here does not allow for an in depth discussion. For more detailed information on both of these programs, please visit the Public Policy link at NAEYC.org.

In Springfield there are two critical areas to watch as well during the 2005 legislative session. The first is action aimed at increasing reimbursement rates to child care providers. The 2004 legislative session saw the General Assem-

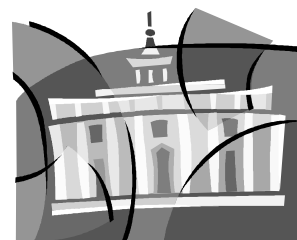
bly unanimously pass SB2900. This was a bill that directed IDHS to develop a comprehensive plan to review the state's childcare reimbursement rates. It will come as no news to anyone reading this that the current Illinois reimbursement rates are too low to provide equal access to low income families and children. It will be our goal during the 2005 session to urge our representatives in Springfield to raise the bar for Illinois children- and increase the base rates for Illinois childcare providers. This increase is critical. Illinois children deserve equal access to quality childcare.

The second focus will be on Preschool for All. This is a campaign backed by several major children's advocacy groups, and thousands of individuals and agencies across the state of Illinois. The Preschool for All initiative attempts to "fulfill a vision of a statewide, high-quality, accessible, and comprehensive early learning system to benefit all young children whose parents choose it".

It will be our focus to advocate for legislation that calls upon the General Assembly to create a vision for Preschool for All in Illinois.

Please be sure to visit our GOAEYC web site- and click on the new Public Policy link. There you will find information and links to assist you in better educating yourself about advocacy issues concerning young children and early childhood education. At that link there is also an area to submit your email address so that you can be notified about issues and events concerning public policy issues.

As always, please free to contact me with any questions you may have. My email address is [dtenyer@goaeyc.org](mailto:dtenyer@goaeyc.org). I look forward to hearing from you!  
-denise tenyer



## NAEYC News by Carol Allar

### NEW NAEYC ONLINE COMMUNITIES

NAEYC is pleased to announce the launching of NAEYC's Online Communities on the NAEYC Members-Only website. NAEYC's Online Communities provide a virtual home for our general discussion area and for our 26 Interest Forums. Interest Forums are groups of NAEYC members who share a common interest related to the NAEYC mission. They provide members with networking opportunities and the chance to learn and grow together.

To get involved in NAEYC's Communities, please visit the information for Members-Only page on the NAEYC website, located at <http://www.naeyc.org>. Click on the link that says "Get Involved with NAEYC online Communities." Enter your Members-Only Login ID and Password. Click again on "NAEYC Online Communities" and you will be automatically logged into the General Community.

# 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.

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- Funds are still available for the Opening Minds conference on Jan 27-29!!

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 and Take File Folder Games	Thursday Feb. 3	Terrace School	Des Plaines
The IL Early Learning Standards and You!	Monday Feb. 7	Kids of the Kingdom	Arlington Heights
What Do I Do With Kids Who Challenge And Worry Me?	Thursday Feb. 17	Trinity Methodist Church	Mount Prospect
Books, Books and More Books!	Tuesday Mar. 1	Atonement Day School	Barrington
Those AMAZING Preschoolers with ADHD	Weds. Mar. 2	Little Hands Child Dev. Center	Northbrook

## Save the date for the spring Infant Toddler conference!

Saturday, April 16 at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Rd., Des Plaines

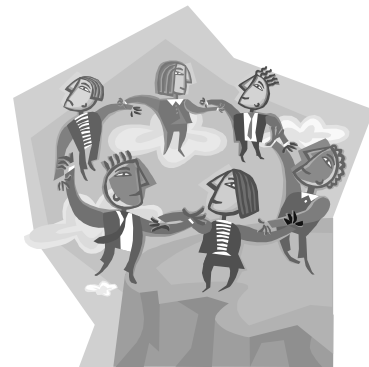
Save this date for the 8th annual Infant Toddler Conference!

Jon Korfmacher will be presenting the keynote presentation

"10 Things Every Infant Toddler Provider Should Know"

### Look for exciting workshops on these topics and more!!

- Literacy for Infants and Toddlers
- Photo Documentation in an Inf/Tod Setting
- Learning Baskets - Interaction with Meaning
- Infants and Toddlers in Family Child Care
- Assessment with Infants and Toddlers
- Supervision in Inf/Tod Programs



Look for your conference book in January or call CHASI

At (847) 640-9590 to get one mailed to you!!