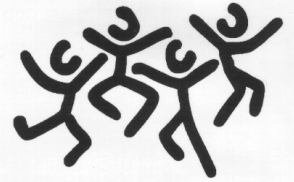


GOAEYC Newsletter

P.O. Box 3213, Barrington, IL 60011

www.GOAEYC.org



President's Message by Juli Chandler

Thank you. You may be asking yourself, why is she thanking me? I have just returned from moving my eldest daughter to her new job in Seattle, Washington. In the hours before she left, she wrote to several of her high school teachers, thanking them for their support, encouragement and role in helping her to achieve her new position. One teacher replied to thank her for the note that arrived at a time when he is responding to so many families disappointed in their child's grades. As a teacher, I often found myself predicting the successes of students in my class. You know... she really likes to build maybe she'll be an architect one day. Or, he enjoys music so much, he should be a musician. But as of today, I really don't know what those children are doing. You have the awesome responsibility of helping to mold the young lives that you touch. Your enthusiasm and encouragement helps children develop skills necessary for future success. You share a joy for learning, an understanding of numbers, an appreciation for words, a love of the arts, a respect for others, and so much more. Yet, in most instances, we touch their lives for a very brief moment, never to read the end of the story. Thank you for all you do.

August, 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, Linda Wywialowski, Karla Berra, Denise Tenyer

Welcoming New Staff by Karla Berra

August is a time of change and often a time to welcome new teachers to your team. A new teacher will be more successful if s/he feels welcomed, appreciated and part of the team from the beginning. Here are a few helpful tips:

- Have a welcome sign by the front door and/or on their classroom door. Add a picture so parents may welcome them too.
- Someone personally greets them as they arrive.
- Paperwork is gathered & in a file with their name on it.
- Tour them through the center again, showing them where supplies are, where to eat, store their personal belongings, bathroom, etc. Introduce them to everyone.
- Assign a Mentor—someone the new teacher can go to for guidance and support with center program, policies, procedures.
- Assign a "Buddy" - a peer to be available to share things such as: what teachers do on their break, where to get food or a drink, closest gas station, etc.
- Whenever possible, allow the new teacher a day or two to be out of ratio. This is time for orientation to your center and their classroom: Read employee handbook, parent handbook, go over benefits, emergency procedures, payroll procedure, calling in sick, etc., review curriculum materials and responsibilities, observe in their classroom as well as others, meet parents and other teachers, etc.
- Be sure they have someone to eat lunch with at lunch time for the first week - Director, Mentor, Buddy, etc.
- Introduce them to everyone in your next newsletter, staff meeting and parent meeting. Share their personal and professional story.
- Meet with them at least once a week for the first month to see how they are doing.
- At the end of each day, take a few moments to tell them thank you, you are glad they are a part of your team, and to compliment something you saw or heard them do.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to welcome your new staff with warmth, appreciation and information.

Trends in Early Childhood Education by Wendy Mertes

As the field of early childhood education faces many changes - NAEYC accreditation, Headstart, Illinois Early Learning Standards, Preschool for All, No Child Left Behind and the ever increasing program accountability - I realize that even though I'm very excited about them, I feel a twinge of anxiety. Change is difficult. It is scary. There is a natural sense of loss of being on top of everything and then losing control. We can either allow that fear to paralyze us or recognize the opportunity to improve our field for the benefit of young children and their parents.

As our programs are required to justify what we do with young children, we can react by putting our heads in the sand OR we can work together to

assure that we remember to include what we know children require of their caretakers, their environment and their activities. If we truly understand what we are doing is developmentally appropriate, we should be able to justify it by documenting it. It has always been difficult to explain to parents why play is important. As we document what the children are learning from it, we may finally have found a way to demonstrate it.

Harper College will be hosting a presentation on the Preschool for All program in the fall. Details will be forthcoming. I hope you will attend and join me in this journey of change.

BOOK REVIEW by Amy Vandament, Manager, the Book Vine for Children

When you look back on childhood, your imagination was boundless. While you were unencumbered with the thoughts of a grown-up, you could create an entire world within a small space (refrigerator box) or you could live on an island (ottoman) for days without much care or notice to the world around you. Similarly, the desire for companionship can drive us to create imaginary pals, someone to kick around with and to be a party to our inner world. The imagination is not limited to imaginary friends and places but it also spawns the cleverness needed to overcome life's obstacles. The following book gives us an insight into the ways we develop our imagination and create worlds for ourselves.

***Tops & Bottoms* - Written and Illustrated by Janet Stevens**

What happens when an enterprising hare outwits a lazy bear? The result is a cunning tale that teaches young readers to pay attention to the details of any agreement. When the hare (with a passel of hungry bunnies to feed) propositions the groggy bear about a business venture in farming, he merely asks which end of the plant the bear would like from the harvest, tops or bottoms? In an effort to return to his self-indulgent nap on the front porch, the bear quickly selects the tops. While the hungry hare and his hard-working family plants, weeds and waters, the bear snoozes. Later the rabbit family harvests the delicious bottoms (carrots, radishes and beets), and the bear receives only the tops, the leaves. This theme is repeated until the bear gets wise to the plan, only after the hare has grown enough food and made enough money from the crops to set up his own business. Written and illustrated by Janet Stevens, the watercolors are vibrant and lush and the characters are skillfully drawn, full of emotion and humor.

Professional Development by Brian Michalski

Calling Field Testers for the Illinois Early Learning Standards for Children Five-2-Six(Kindergarten)

You probably have already heard about the Illinois Early Learning Standards(ILELS) for children 3 to age 5, benchmarks that are developmentally appropriate for all children 3 to 5. In November of 2004, the Illinois Early Learning Standards for Five-2-Six, aka "Kindergarten," was introduced in draft form to bridge the Illinois Early Learning Standards 3-5 and the Illinois Learning Standards K-12. The five-2-six standards in draft form were developed by the Illinois State Board of Education: Division of Early Childhood along with a team of kindergarten teachers across the state of Illinois. Research based and aligned with the Illi-

nois Learning Standards K-12, the five-2-six standards form the basis for measuring children's progress over time. The benchmarks reflect eight learning areas: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Social-Emotional, Foreign Language, Physical Development and Fine Arts. The benchmarks are not an on demand assessment tool, a checklist or skills to be taught in isolation as the benchmarks are to be woven into daily learning experiences and environment.

Field testing for the five-2-six standards is currently occurring around the state. The final round for information/field testing sessions are tentatively scheduled for late August, early September. Completion of field testing concludes on November 30, 2005. For more information including training schedule and becoming a field tester, visit the five-2-six.org website.

Membership Update by Carol Allar

DID YOU NOTICE?

See anything different at the top of the newsletter? GoAEYC has a new P.O. Box—P.O. Box 3213, Barrington, IL 60011-3213. Mail sent to the Schaumburg box will be forwarded for a while but for the fastest service, send your mail to the new box address.

MEMBER SURVEY WINNER

Congratulations to Tim Downey whose name was drawn from those who sent back their GoAEYC membership surveys. Tim wins a one year membership!

GOAEYC BOARD MEETINGS OPEN TO ALL

The GoAEYC Board is currently meeting every 6 weeks and will begin meeting once a month in 2006. We welcome all members to attend our meetings. They begin with a social time at 6:00 p.m. and the meetings begin at 6:30. The next scheduled meetings are:

September 12

The Center, 1855 Mt. Prospect Road, DesPlaines

847-803-4381

November 9

Child Care Center of Palatine, 721 S. Quentin Road, Palatine

847-991-1030

It is a good idea to call on the day of the meeting to make sure there has been no change in date or site.

Classroom Activities by Katie Collar

Fall is an exciting time to be using items found in nature for the classroom. Children may be beginning school for the first time so what better way to make them feel more comfortable than by using natural items found around the home? Listed below are a few simple art projects that can be accomplished by using items found right outside your front door.

Leaf and Flower Prints on Muslin fabric:

Gather fresh, green leaves or a variety of flowers from your garden.

Small, square pieces of muslin fabric (available at any fabric store, even Walmart-between 2 and 4 dollars a yard) or if you like you can cut apart an old sheet.

Rubber mallets, child size goggles

Children lay leaves and flower petals down onto a piece of fabric. Another piece of fabric may be placed on top or not. Children pound the leaves or flower petals onto the fabric. The colors from the leaves or flowers are transferred onto the fabric.

Contact Paper Art:

Small squares of contact paper (8 x 8)

Variety of leaves and flowers

Peel the backing from the contact paper. Tape down onto a flat surface, sticky side up. Have children create designs by placing leaves and flower petals onto the contact paper. Hang up in windows.

Acorn Rolling:

Acorns, Paint, Shoe Boxes, Containers, Spoons, Paper

Pour paint into containers. Add a few acorns to each container of paint. Children spoon the acorns out and place them into the shoebox (paper is in the bottom of the box). Put lid on top. Allow the children to roll the acorns around in the box. Repeat using different colors.

You can also incorporate fingerplays and stories to revolve around the topic of trees and leaves:

5 Little Leaves

5 little leaves so happy and free

Were dancing about the branches of a tree

The wind came blowing through the town

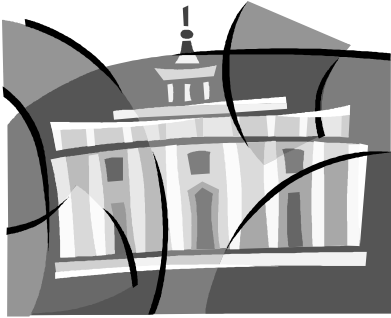
And one little leaf came tumbling down.

4 little leaves so happy and free. . . .

“Micawber” by John Lithgow. This is a delightful story about a squirrel named Micawber who loves the paintings he sees through the windows of the nearby art museum. One day he notices an artist copying the old masters, and he decides to do the same—with surprising results.

“Have You Seen Trees? By Joanne Oppenheim. This is a wonderful story that describes trees during each season of the year. Very detailed illustrations as well.

Advocating for Young Children by Denise Tenyer



The Illinois General Assembly ended their session on time this year with good news for the supporters of early childhood learning! The following report is taken from ILAEYC's legislative consultant Betsy Mitchell's End of Session report.

Borrowed Funds from Child Care for TANF Payments Restored

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) found it necessary to borrow from their budget line for child care in order to honor required payments to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program (TANF). Due to a huge increase in their caseload, IDHS found they could not meet their payments to TANF. They requested a supplemental from the legislature, however; in the meantime, they were forced to borrow the funds from the Child Care Assistance Program. The good news is that the supplemental request for the TANF program was included in the FY 2006 budget so all funds to the Child Care Assistance Program were restored.

No Cuts to Child Care

Fortunately there were no cuts to the Child Care Assistance Program in the fiscal year 2006 IDHS budget. The child care budget was maintained at level funding, which is good news for all families who utilize this essential

program. At times it looked like this critical budget item could be reduced. A total of \$691.3 is in the FY06 budget for Child Care that serves nearly 200,000 children per month.

Early Childhood Block Grant Expanded

As pledged by the Governor, the final installment of his three-year pledge to invest \$90 million more in preschool for at-risk children will be made in fiscal year 2006. For the past two years, \$30 million has been appropriated by the state into this fund and the final \$30 million payment will be deposited into the FY 2006 Early Childhood Block Grant budget. The Early Childhood Education Block Grant provides learning opportunities for the youngest and most at-risk children. Prior to this program, very few state dollars were devoted to the vital first five years of learning.

Great Start Restored

In 2000, Great Start (Strategy to Attract and Retain Teachers) was created as a wage enhancement program for child care professionals who exceed minimum DCFS licensing requirements, remain employed with the same program for at least one year and who meet several other criteria. Last year this Great START became a permanent program. At the beginning of this session, however, there was much concern over funding for Great START due to the budget restraints in Illinois. However, after revamping of some budget items, the program will be funded in the Illinois FY 2006 budget through the Illinois Department of Human Services.

FamilyCare Fully Implemented

In 2002, the Illinois FamilyCare program was created to assist thousands of low-income adults with health care insurance. Medicaid and KidCare existed for their children, but nothing existed for low-income working parents who lacked, but could not afford health care coverage. Fortunately, this final year of the three-year approach to phasing in FamilyCare as a full program will be funded in the FY 2006 budget. \$5.75 million was appropriated to complete implementation of this wonderful program.

House Bill 485/Senate Bill 324

The bills would raise Illinois' child care reimbursement rate overall and systematically tie the rate to data received from the Market Rate Survey through the Illinois Department of Human Services. Neither bill passed this year as the bills are seen as an on-going campaign to raise the child care reimbursement rate. The bills did receive a subject matter hearing. All have pledged to continue to work on this vital issue.

Senate Bill 143

This bill grants SEIU Local 880 exclusive representation of licensed and license-exempt home child care providers who care for children through the Child Care Assistance Program. This is the first union in the United States to allow family child care providers to be a permanent collective bargaining unit in Illinois. The bill passed both houses and is expected to be signed by the Governor.

I encourage you to take a few minutes this week to contact your local legislators to thank them for their continued support of early childhood programs!

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 05/06 classes!
- Call Linda at (847) 991-1030 to receive an application.

Calendar of Events by Sharyl Robin
Call (847) 640-9590 after Sept. 1 for more information or to register for any of these workshops.

Implementing the Project Approach: How We Did It!	Tues., Sept. 13	Lotus Montessori	Hoffman Estates
The Teacher's Role In Facilitating Play	Mon., Sept. 26	St. Mark's Church	Mount Prospect
How to Channel Aggressive and High Energy Play	Thurs., Sept. 29	Gertrude Nielsen Child Care	Northbrook
Teachers and Teambuilding	Wed., Oct. 5	Elk Grove Park Dist.	Elk Grove
Kaleidoscope Café	Wed., Oct. 12	Jolly Fun House Playschool	Prospect Heights
Positive Approaches To the Problem of Biting	Tues., Oct. 18	The Early Childhood Center at Roosevelt	Schaumburg
Barbara Coloroso workshops	Mon. Nov. 14 or Tues. Nov. 15	Barrington High School Auditorium	Barrington

CAST YOUR VOTE

Enclosed in this Newsletter is an Official Ballot and a list of the candidates running for positions on the GoAEYC board. Please take some time to read about the people who are running for office. Then:

- 1) Mark your ballot, put a stamp on it, and mail it TODAY
- OR

- 2) Mark your ballot and put it in your purse or wallet and bring it to the GoAEYC Conference on Saturday, October 1.

(As a way of saying "thank you for participating in the election process" there will be a small token of appreciation for those who deposit their ballot in the box on the day of the conference)

To add a candidate to the slate: Nominations of candidates may be made by petition of ten current GoAEYC members. Write-in votes are only valid if the candidate meets the same qualifications for service as other candidates. Contact Carol Allar at 847-381—2218 for more info.