



CHILDREN . . . THE HEART OF THE MATTER

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Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.

An affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children



FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Steve Wilson



Do you ever notice how the media uses children to promote a cause, service or a product? What little time I watch television, there doesn't seem to be a time that goes by without me watching a child or children being presented in a promotional ad for everything from hospitals to food. Is this a bad thing? It used to be that in advertising, the buzz was "sex sells". Now it is those cute

little children promoting something in the media. I'm always asking why things happen the way they do, and this is an issue that I am curious about. Are we seeing ads with children because children are more in the hearts, thoughts and minds of you and I, and therefore it's easier to relate to children? Or maybe the sex appeal is dwindling and promotions need to find a new angle?

I am not writing this as a judgment for or against having children lead my attention to some service or product but one of interest and curiosity. I will admit that I think those kids I see on the television are cute, entertaining and yes, make me believe in the goodness of the event or product they promote. Who wouldn't? Actually, I think the more children are displayed in a positive light anywhere in the media might just be a good thing regardless of the purpose. I enjoy the unique value children bring to our world even if it is to promote something on the television. They could sell me just about anything!

I will say, the more children are presented in appropriate, meaningful ways in the media the more our world will respond to them in the same way. I say, let us continue to see these young children's smiling happy faces entertaining us to promote a product I might need. Who knows, maybe this can be the angle we need to pursue the next level of services for children across Nebraska.



"I can make something out of the children...they have the essence of greatness in them."
Zora Neale Hurston

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Zinke



As some of you know, I've had a difficult year personally. As is often the case during times of crisis, this has become a time for me to assess my priorities and gain a renewed appreciation for those around me.

Thanks to all of you for your kind words and thoughts regarding the death of my mother, and following my hip replacement surgery.

I want to publically thank my truly excellent staff, who went above and beyond their duties to do whatever was needed to keep the organization running smoothly. I especially thank and appreciate Pat Hoffschneider, Office Manager, for her hard work and dedication.

I also am so very proud of my children, who re-arranged their lives to develop a schedule to take care of me, while also visiting my mother, (who was very uncomfortable in the hospital), during her bout with cancer.

Recently, I helped with a benefit for a young man who was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. He is paralyzed from the neck down. His life changed in an instant.

I encourage you to spend time with those you care about, and take care of yourselves. Life can be shorter than you expect - value each and every day.

"Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time we've got."
Art Buchwald



Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children Mission Statement

The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. is committed to supporting high quality care and education for young children in the state of Nebraska.

The mission of the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. is to:

- ♥ promote professional development activities
- ♥ advocate for issues relating to children and families
- ♥ serve as a resource for local affiliates and for other agencies involved in working with and for children and families
- ♥ disseminate information supportive of quality services, education, and care for children and their families
- ♥ provide networking opportunities for early childhood professionals and families throughout the state.

Strengthening and supporting Nebraska's early childhood community since 1976

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The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children newsletter is published four times yearly - Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. NeAEYC supports developmentally appropriate practices for the care and education of young children. It also promotes inclusiveness, cultural awareness, and gender equity through its publications and conferences.

Send articles, information, comments, suggestions, affiliate reports, and address changes to:

Pat Hoffschneider, Office Manager
650 J St, Suite 23, Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: 402-476-2092 Fax: 402-476-5665
e-mail: phoff@NebraskaAEYC.org

Nebraska AEYC

Linda Zinke, Executive Director
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www.NebraskaAEYC.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

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Central Nebraska Community Services Exec Director

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(402) 476-5653 - cjennett@NebraskaAEYC.org

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(402) 476-5658 - TEACH@NebraskaAEYC.org

1-877-656-2005

Staff For Hire

Our highly qualified staff is available to hire for specialized training. Options include:

- Accreditation training (individual centers or groups)
- Training mandated by licensing
- Early childhood information (room arrangement, biting, discipline, etc.)
- West Ed Infant/Toddler
- Creative Curriculum Training
- CDA advising

For more information visit our website: www.NebraskaAEYC.org
- ABOUT US page and click on the "to hire" link.

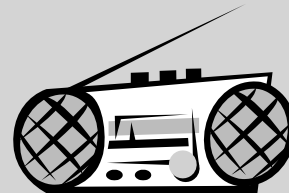
"One worthwhile task carried to a successful conclusion is worth half-a hundred half-finished tasks."
Malcolm S. Forbes

NAEYC Radio Link



One of the most popular new resources available to you is NAEYC Radio. The program enables you to listen to brief, insightful interviews with leading experts in early childhood development right on your computer at any time. Available "on demand," NAEYC Radio provides a fast, easy and convenient way to stay on top of the latest developments and "next" practices in the field.

Visit our website:
www.NebraskaAEYC.org and click on the NAEYC Radio on the menu. This program is automatically updated monthly.



Public Policy

NeAEYC Public Policy Update – Legislative Advocacy, In Two Parts

By Sarah Ann Lewis

LEGISLATIVE

Last week, the House Education and Labor Committee passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (HR 3321), which includes the Early Learning Challenge Fund. The Early Learning Challenge Fund will provide \$8 billion dollars to Early Childhood Education - \$1 billion per year for the next 8 years. The money is derived from the savings in HR 3221; it is *not* new spending. The bill passed with a bipartisan vote of 30 to 17. All the Committee's Democrats supported the bill, and 2 Republicans, Congressman Platts (PA) and Congressman Petri (WI), also voted in favor of the legislation.

Now that the bill has cleared committee, the next step is for it to go before the full House for a vote. Now is the time to write, email, call, text - whatever it takes – and urge Nebraska Congressmen Terry, Fortenberry and Smith to support the Early Learning Challenge Fund. Nebraska is perfectly aligned to be highly competitive for some of these dollars! So, we can't stop there! If the Challenge Grant legislation gets through the House, it still has to make it through the Senate. We are urging everyone to make as many calls as possible to Senate offices – both in Washington and in Nebraska – during the August recess. This is make-or-break time, so please pick up those phones and write those letters and ask our elected officials to support the Early Learning Challenge Fund as part of HR 3321! To learn more about this incredible opportunity, you can find all the information and easy to read fact sheets at the House Education and Labor Committee website - <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>

ADVOCACY

Are you preparing to email your elected officials about your excitement over HR 3321? Great! It is an easy way to reach them and many people find it less stressful than a phone call. Using email or phone, your voice will be heard and it will count. If you do email, perhaps you would like to help educate Congressmen and Senators and all their staff with some of the latest and greatest in child advocacy – like a link to a stunning new James Heckman video?

A new website has been developed around the work of James Heckman, the Nobel Prize winning economist who is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to the importance of investing early. I highly encourage you to visit his new website at <http://www.heckmanequation.org/> and watch the videos and utilize the tools. Share them far and wide – especially with policy leaders and elected officials who get the final vote on how we budget our money as a state and a nation. And as always, thank you for taking the time to speak out on behalf of children.

**Go to our website: www.NebraskaAEYC.org and click on the Advocacy tab to view this website.

"WINE AND SHOP" SUMMIT RECEPTION

On November 4th from 5pm to 7pm, the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands will be hosting an opening reception for the Midlands Nonprofit Summit called "Wine and Shop". The 2009 Nonprofit Summit: Leveraging for Change will be held on November 5th from 8:30 am to 3:45 pm at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs, IA.

They are looking for organizations that would like to sell items for the holidays. NeAEYC has purchased a booth for this event. The organization is going to do a "basket" theme. We are looking for persons that are willing to donate a basket filled with items. We would like the "theme basket" to be worth \$25-\$50. The profits from the sale would go to NeAEYC to help with the many expenses a "non-profit" agency incurs. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

How YOU can help:

Donate a basket full of goodies.

What to Donate:

- ♥ We are seeking items packaged in an attractive container (wicker basket, new tool box, flower pot, tin, etc.)
- ♥ We will start our silent auction sheets at \$20-\$50 per basket.
- ♥ New Items ONLY please - we cannot present anything used and not in original wrap.
- ♥ Use your imagination! Creating baskets is great fun!



60's, 70's, or 80's

Beach
Book Get-Away
CD's
Chocolate
Coffee Theme
Comic Relief
Computer
Couch Potato
Food and Wine

Garden Lover's Delight

Girl's Night Out
Golf
Holiday Tree Trimming
Huskers
Kitchen
Knitting
Local B&B Escape Week-end
Lottery
Martinis

Movie Night In

New Baby
New Home
Office
Pamper Yourself
Pampering Your Pet
Party Time
Picnic
Puzzles
Salad Lovers

Soup Lover

Spa Treatments
Sports Nut's Delight
Tea Time
Toys
Travel
Tropical Vacation
TV Theme
Wedding
Zoo Day

Don't Have Time?

If you still want to be included, but don't have time to make a basket on your own, send your donation of \$25-\$50 to:

Nebraska AEYC - 650 J Street, Suite 23, Lincoln, NE 68508 by **October 1st, 2009** and we will make a basket for you. Please note on your donation that it is for a basket.

A Donation Gets You The Following Benefits:

- ♥ A sign at the basket table recognizing who provided the basket.
- ♥ Recognition in the Nebraska AEYC Winter Newsletter.
- ♥ Recognition for the top grossing basket.
- ♥ The opportunity to support the Nebraska Affiliate of the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children.

QUESTIONS??? Contact Pat at Nebraska AEYC - (402) 476-2092 or phoff44@hotmail.com



We Welcome Your Donation



Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children provides a variety of projects and services, all designed to strengthen and support Nebraska's early childhood community. We welcome your donation. If you wish to donate to a specific project, the following are some options: Accreditation Facilitation Project, Nature Explore™ Project, Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Bank Project, Student Memberships, or T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA.

All donations are 100% tax deductible. Donors will receive a documentation letter and be recognized in our newsletter. (unless otherwise requested)

A fillable Donor Form is available online at our website: www.NebraskaAEYC.org or contact the NeAEYC office at (402) 476-2092 - email: phoff44@hotmail.com and we can mail you a form.

Thanks for your support!!!



Introducing the new T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Logo

North Carolina has developed a new logo that all T.E.A.C.H. states will begin using immediately and incorporate into existing materials over the next several years. The logo is personalized for each state.

“The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® name is associated with quality and successful outcomes for children, teachers and communities. Using a consistent logo among all administering states will ensure even greater brand recognition as well as a coordinated, positive, professional image.”

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA 2009 Survey Results

Each year, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA scholarship recipients and sponsoring programs are surveyed about a variety of aspects of the program. The results are then tabulated and analyzed. Information is shared with the T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Team, T.E.A.C.H. Funding Team and a variety of other stakeholders. The information that is collected from the surveys is used to measure satisfaction with the program and create positive changes. Below is a sample of the highlights from each survey and quotes from sponsoring centers and scholarship recipients.

Scholarship Recipients Highlights

- 66% of students would not have taken any classes last year, if not for the scholarship.
- Almost all have used what they have learned in classes with the children in their care.
- 100% of students would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to other people working in child care.

Sponsoring Program Highlights

- 42% of programs responded, representing 14 different counties and 6 different colleges.
- Almost all sponsoring programs feel the student has increased their early childhood knowledge and skills.
- 100% of sponsoring programs would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to other programs.

Quotes

“It has given me more confidence and I believe that I am a better educator to the children in my care.”

“I feel very fortunate to be a recipient of this scholarship. It definitely was the key to continuing my education. The early childhood classes I have taken are an invaluable asset to my profession.”

“I feel like my job is actually a job, not just “babysitting”, like I did in high school.”

“I believe that my teachers have greatly benefited from the education they have received.”

“The scholarship has not only given me the means to further my education but also the support and encouragement to finish and excel.”

“College has affected myself and my family in a positive way. It has created educational goals for all of us. No matter how old, learning is fun!”

“T.E.A.C.H. has been a great benefit to our center!”

“Thank you so much! This has kept me in the field when I was about ready to give up.”

SURVEY DRAWING WINNERS

Michelle C– Papillion
Dana L– Cairo
Noemi C– Omaha
Spellman Child Development Center– Omaha
Rosemont Day Care Center– Lincoln

Affiliate Student Group Consultation Program

Nebraska AEYC is one of ten states participating in the Affiliate Consultation Program supported by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Office of Affiliate Relations and Office of Marketing and Communications.

NeAEYC is participating with nine other State Affiliates (Alaska, Kansas, Maine, Montana, Northern Virginia, New York State, Southern Arizona, South Dakota and Vermont) in this project, led by William Shrader, consultant for NAEYC.

The purpose is to consult and coordinate services to strategically support the intentional outreach to students and faculty at two and four year institutions, and to nurture the development of emerging leadership at the local and state levels. This consultation program was designed to provide direction, resources and supports specific to each State Affiliate in accordance with their current or future strategic plan.

Gina DeFreece is coordinating this project for NeAEYC. The current student groups in Nebraska are Metropolitan Community College Student Chapter, Southeast Community College Student Chapter, and University of Nebraska at Lincoln Student Chapter. Future plans include space for the student groups on the website, and the incorporation of technology to improve communication and connections.

For more information about the project or starting a student chapter, contact Gina at gdefreece@NebraskaAEYC.org or 402-476-5672.



CHAPTER INFORMATION

The Kearney Area Association for the Education of Young Children has some great events planned for the fall. We are kicking off our membership drive with a program Monday, September 28th at the Kearney Family YMCA Child Development Center. Dr. Jan Harriott from UNK will be providing an one hour in-service titled Using Music in Early Childhood Education Programs. This is a free training opportunity for anyone interested.

Our next event is Monday, October 5th from 6:00-7:30. This event is geared towards college student staff members from area centers. It will be a great night of networking and Marcia Fritz and Mindy Young will be presenting a one hour in-service on different activities to do with children. We are also providing free pizza to those attending! Location to be announced at a later date.

The last event for the fall is Monday, November 16th from 7:00-8:15 p.m. at Northeast Elementary School. Chris Wegner, Kearney Public Schools Preschool Special Education Specialist will be providing an one hour in-service on "Teaching our Preschoolers to be respectful, responsible and safe".

Anyone interested in joining KAAEYC can contact Loree Johnson at 308-236-6951 or JoAnna Cordova at 308-865-1576.

Northeast and All Nations Chapters will be co-sponsoring the August 8th Early Childhood Conference in Norfolk and providing conference discounts to members.

Upcoming this fall, we will host a Professional Seminar on an overview of the Nebraska Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals with the Northeast Early Childhood Professional Partnerships project. Watch for the date and location in the Fall Early Childhood Training News.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

BEGINNING WITH THE WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER WE ARE MOVING TO AN ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

Due to our collaboration with the Nature Explore project, NeAEYC is taking a "going green" approach toward information sharing. As both natural and fiscal resources become more and more limited, we are making the attempt to become responsible conservationists of the environment as well as conscientious fiscal stewards of your memberships by offering our quarterly newsletters in an online format.

While we recognize this may be a shift for some, we expect to provide a newsletter with better capabilities for sharing photos, websites, and contacts, as well as more extensive content. A reminder postcard will be sent to all members when the Winter Newsletter is posted on our website at www.nebraskaAEYC.org

We will be sending out a postcard to all of our current members with the information that we have on file for you - address and email. If all is correct, you do not need to do anything. If corrections or additions need to be made, please email Pat: phoff44@hotmail.com or send to 650 J Street, Suite 23, Lincoln, NE 68508

For more information on helping children connect with nature, please visit:

www.dimensions.org



2009 Nebraska AEYC Strategic Planning Retreat Goals from Teams

An overview of the 2009 retreat was provided in the previous newsletter. Here is a summary of the goals, as developed by each of the four teams:

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Team Goals:

- ♥ Continue to recruit new students and market T.E.A.C.H. to under-served populations
- ♥ Move forward with mini-model scholarship
- ♥ Investigate ways to be more cost effective with T.E.A.C.H. dollars

Advocacy Team Goals:

- ♥ Study LB 609/LR 174
- ♥ Review licensing regulations – very poor
- ♥ American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Funding – involvement in plans
- ♥ Support for provider registry
- ♥ Support constitutional language as message
- ♥ Develop an advocacy network

Quality Initiatives Team Goals:

- ♥ Gather ideas for NeAEYC to fill in gaps in service in EC world
- ♥ Generate researchable questions for grad students
- ♥ Renewed focus on accreditation
- ♥ Identify role with Environment Ratings Scales
- ♥ Support the development of the Professional Development Registry

Chapter Development Team Goals:

- ♥ Expand membership and public outreach
- ♥ Foster & grow new student leaders
- ♥ Use Technology(Facebook)
- ♥ Student internships at NeAEYC
- ♥ Student section: website/newsletter
- ♥ Support Week of the Young Child activities

www.NebraskaAEYC.org

The Nebraska AEYC website is in a constant state of change. We periodically check to be sure all the links actually link, but sometimes miss one. If you find one that doesn't work, let Pat, the Office Manager know about it, and we'll get it fixed.

We are in the process of revising the format slightly, and making it even easier to use and search. Our goal is for you to be able to find what you're looking for in no more than three clicks. If we aren't doing this, please let us know.

We've already updated a number of the profiles of the Nature Explore classrooms, so be sure to check those out.

The newsletters and most recent board minutes are also on the website, and in the future, the website will be where you find the newsletter, as this is our last "snail mail" copy.

We recently did some tracking of site page visits, and found the following:

For the past year, two of the pages, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA, and the Calendar were in the top five of the pages visited every month.

The Calendar page was visited nearly **2,000** times and the T.E.A.C.H. NEBRASKA page was visited nearly **2,500** times.

Nebraska Nature Action Coordinating Council

Nebraska has taken a leadership role in developing outdoor spaces for children. Much research has shown the value of getting kids out to play, not only for their development, but also for the current and future environment.



Nebraska's Nature Action Coordinating Council (NeNACC) is led by Dimensions Foundation, Nebraska Department of Education/Early Childhood Training Center, Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Nebraska NACC is a part of the International Nature Action Coordinating Council. Anyone can join and be a part of this initiative. To join, go to the following link: <http://worldforumfoundation.org/survey/start/109/>

Much information on the value of outdoor play and Nebraska's initiatives is available on the Nebraska AEYC website at www.NebraskaAEYC.org on the Nature Explore page.



Nebraska Association for the
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Visit our website:
www.NebraskaAEYC.org

What's Happening??

- ▼ **September 9 - 11, 2009** - Nebraska Children's Summit - Grand Island, NE - Contact - Kelli Hauptman - email: khauptman2@unlnotes.unl.edu
- ▼ **September 18, 2009** - Nature Explore - Norfolk, NE - Contact - Susan Strahm - (402) 287-2061 - email: sstrahm@esu1.org
- ▼ **September 19, 2009** - Fremont Early Childhood Educators Conference - Fremont, NE - Contact - Kelly Vanness - (402) 564-0815, ext. 1028 - email: kvanness@esu7.org
- ▼ **September 19, 2009** - North Platte Early Childhood Conference - North Platte, NE - Contact - Lori Poppe - (308) 289-6109 - email: lpoppe@esu16.org
- ▼ **September 21, 2009** - WEST ED: Training - Module III Learning & Development, 2 - Contact Cindy Jennett - (402) 476-5653 - email: cindyjennett11@aol.com
- ▼ **September 21, 2009** - Diversity in Education Conference - Chadron, NE - Contact - Carol Rempp - (402) 471-2960, fax: (402) 471-8127 - email: carol.rempp@nebraska.gov
- ▼ **September 22 - 24, 2009** - ERS Training - Scottsbluff, NE - Contact - Penny Gildea - (402) 557-6895 - email: penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ▼ **October 5, 2009** - WEST ED: - Training - Module III Learning & Development 3, Contact Cindy Jennett - (402) 476-5653 - email: cindyjennett11@aol.com
- ▼ **October 10, 2009** - Early Childhood Conference - Hastings, NE - Contact - Paula Southworth - (402) 756-2375 - email: psouthwo@esu9.org
- ▼ **October 20-22, 2009** - ERS Training - Columbus, NE - Contact - Penny Gildea - (402) 557-6895 - email: penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ▼ **November 2, 2009** - Native American Symposium, Winnebago, NE - Contact Peg Kirby - email: peg.kirby@nebraska.gov
- ▼ **November 5, 2009** - Midlands Nonprofit Summit - Council Bluffs, IA - Contact - Michael Mitiiler - email: Michael@nonprofitam.org
- ▼ **November 18-21, 2009** - NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo - Washington, DC - For more information go to: www.NAEYC.org
- ▼ **November 19-20, 2009** - Nebraska Head Start Association Annual Meeting - Contact: Cheryl Denner - (402) 729-2278
- ▼ **December 1, 2, 3, 2009** - ERS Training - Omaha - Contact - Penny Gildea - (402) 557-6895 - penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ▼ **December 4-6, 2009** - Zero to Three National Training Institute - Dallas Texas - Contact (402) 654-4499 - email: mntinfo@designingevents.com

WELCOME New members - 2nd Quarter, 2009

Keely Cline
Linda Dammann
Debra Drake
Crystal Edwards
Tara Ehrhart
Rachel Frank
Rietta Glesmann

Susan Kindler
Michelle Kreikemeier
Jane Meick
Jessica Neely
Beverlee Paul
Tina Reeble
Wendy Wolfe

ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

Help us to increase our Nebraska AEYC membership. For each "NEW" member you recruit, (up to 3 per year) NeAEYC will send you a coupon for \$10.00 off of your next renewal.

All you need to do is have the "NEW" member that you recruit, fill out the application, write your name at the bottom of the application as the "referred by person" enclose a check and mail to:

Nebraska AEYC, 650 J St., Ste. 23, Lincoln, NE 68508

When you receive your renewal reminder, just attach your coupon to your membership renewal form, your renewal fee minus \$10.00, and mail it to our office. NeAEYC will attach a check for \$10.00, and we will mail it to the National Office!