



Are you Ready for Flu Season?

With the start of flu season upon us, programs serving young children need to be especially vigilant when it comes to stopping the spread of illness. The H1N1 virus (“swine flu”) remains in the news, and is expected to spread throughout this flu season. Programs are encouraged to revisit their illness policies, and follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and their local health department regarding program exclusion.

Influenza viruses are spread from person to person by respiratory droplets from coughs or sneezes. Droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person are released into the air and deposited on the mouth or nose of people in close proximity. Droplets can also be found on other body parts (such as hands) or on objects. If someone touches the person or object where the droplets have settled and then touches their own mouth or nose (or a child’s mouth or nose) before washing their hands, they may contract or spread the virus. Viruses can survive on environmental surfaces for 2 to 8 hours. Early childhood professionals have long known the best way to decrease the spread of illness, but it bears repeating during this time of year. *Wash your hands, effectively and often!*

Please see page 4 for an information sheet you can share with families about how to answer children’s questions about H1N1/swine flu.

Information in this article is from the website of the CDC. The following websites have information available on influenza and the H1N1 virus:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/viruses/types.htm>

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/flu/>

<http://www.erie.gov/health/>

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The AEYC of WNY Newsletter is published four times a year by The Association for the Education of Young Children of Western New York.

The AEYC of WNY Newsletter provides a forum for the discussion of ideas and issues in the field of early childhood education. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of AEYC of WNY.

Contributions from members are welcome, and can be submitted to info@aeycwny.org for publishing consideration. Deadlines are as follows:

- Spring edition- March 1
- Summer edition-June 1
- Fall edition- September 1
- Winter edition- December 1

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2009-2010

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President's Message...

PLAY, a FEW THOUGHTS and a FEW QUESTIONS

It seems like play has been making the research rounds again. I get it; children learn through play. It's hard for me to read one more article about something that seems so basic. So why do early childhood professionals still feel the need to defend play? I see the answer regularly in the toys that my children receive as gifts; language videos with flashcards for infants, coloring books, craft kits that offer little creativity, even computer games and video systems for children as young as 18 months.

Last year I discovered a toy for young children in the shape of a bouncing zebra. Children can bounce up and down or spin while a few lights flash and music plays. I thought it might be a nice gift for a young child just beginning to stand or walk. Recently I noticed that the toy had been updated. Now it comes with cables so you can attach the zebra to a television. As the child bounces, words flash across the screen. What luck, my toddler can teach himself to read while I do the laundry. Is this what play has become? What's wrong with a child simply bouncing, spinning and giggling while mommy claps?

Sometimes I feel like I am old fashioned. I prefer to see simple sand tables, blocks for building, play dough, dramatic play, and large blocks of uninterrupted time to explore them all. I like to see children problem solving, making new friends, and gaining independence, courage and confidence.

So consider this, is it better to observe two children digging in the sand outside with sticks or playing a language game on a computer? Is there room for both in an early childhood setting? Do both of these examples of play have equal benefits?

I guess there is still a need for research and discussion of play in its many forms. Please come to see Sharon Krull in October and join us in the discussion. We have invited her all the way from California for a lively conference day. You won't be disappointed.

- Tracy Galuski, PhD



AEYC of WNY wants YOU!

Members are always welcome and invited to actively participate in events, planning, and programming! Do you have a skill to share, some time to volunteer, or an idea or area of interest you'd like us to know about? Committees are always looking for new members to help out! If you'd like to lend a hand, please contact our membership chair Shawna Carlton, at 841-7762.

Thank you!



New Member Welcome

Join us in welcoming the following members who joined AEEYC in June, July, and August...

Maura Baritot-Finnerty

Stephanie Baumler

Jaclyn Bojanowski

Kimmarie Brown

SherryAnn Chase

Yi-Ching Cheng

Daisy Clark

Mary Cohen

Sarah DiCarlo

Kara Fearby

Adena Festinger

Danielle Gleason

Polly Haessler

Kathy Honsberger

Michael Huff

Melissa Kirkley

Karen Koepfel

Rachel Mehlretter

Tina Meyers

Juliane Polino

Theresa Roberts

Kellyann Scarlett

Colleen Strough

Sarah Tepfenhart

Robin Wagner

Sherri Weber

Sailboats, Sailors & D.A.P.

Accreditation Column

Kate Dust, M.Ed.

NYS WNY NAEYC Accreditation Chair

How do you advocate for d.a.p. with families who don't see play as learning and would rather hang a sailboat on the fridge

that you decided to do
that you selected colors for
you cut out shapes for
you only gave to the child what you thought they needed
you told them exactly where to put one glue spot
you gave them exactly what they should paste on each glue spot
you told them when to "make" the sailboat
you told them where to sit and wait for their things
you told them when they were finished
you wrote their name where you wanted it to be
you took it away immediately and put it on the cupboard
you had to read the names (because each boat was exactly the same) then
you gave a boat to each child so they could put it in their folder so
you could tell families to be sure to get the sailboat that
you – I mean their child – made.

After all, "theirs" looks exactly like yours that you showed children in the morning.

People will come into the house and say, "Look! A beautiful sailboat, did Andrew make that in school?" And Andrew's mom will beam and say, "yes – he sure did!"

But Andrew doesn't know about this because he is 2 and is getting his diaper changed so he can get his blanket and take an afternoon nap. And Andrew doesn't know what a sailboat is or why he was taken out of play and away from friends to sit and wait for everything and now people say he made a boat in school.

And even when he is in the kitchen, he keeps looking for his boat.

Best practices, genuine knowledge of appropriate expectations of children and respect for each child – *celebrating children for who they are when they are there* – point us away from the above scenario.

Advocating for d.a.p. is informing parents, offering resources to families, acknowledging all of the skills applied when children create, encouraging learning through play, offering children extended opportunities, tools & toys to strengthen and extend skills, assuring hands-on activities, using all 5 senses and reading about sailboats, floating sailboats, singing about sailboats, playing with sailboats and boat play props, dancing in "water", blowing on Kleenex sails and laughing about sssilly sssailboatsss!

Enjoy your children, no matter what their age – they are truly wonderful sailors!

To Share with Families.....

Feel free to copy and distribute to families with young children.

Talking to Children about the Swine Flu

My child has been asking questions about the Swine Flu. What do I tell her? I don't want to scare her, but I also want her to be careful. What do I do?

Talking to children about avoiding illness is a delicate balance. We want them to have accurate information, but we don't want to frighten them. When an illness like Swine Flu predominates the headlines, questions from children may be more prevalent. Children sense our concerns. Following are some possible answers to a few of the questions our children may be asking.

What is Swine Flu?

Consider the age of the child before you respond. Children under the age of 5 who have heard the words "swine flu" probably are curious and want a little bit of factual information. Children 5 and over may want and be ready for more detail. For the younger group, you can simply respond that it is a kind of sickness that some people are getting right now.

For older children, you can say, "Some people are getting sick from Swine Flu. Doctors and people who know a lot about children and families are working hard to stop more people from getting sick."

How do you get Swine Flu? Can I get Swine Flu?

"There is a very tiny thing called a virus which can make you sick. But one way to stop the virus from making you sick is to wash your hands really well. That can make the virus go away. Remember how we sometimes sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" when we wash our hands? That is to help us remember that we have to sing for a long time to keep the virus away — we have to wash for the whole song."

Why is it called Swine Flu?

"Swine is another name for pigs. At first, scientists thought this virus was the same one that could make pigs sick. Now they think that it may be different from the virus that makes pigs sick, but people still are calling it Swine Flu."

What will happen if I get Swine Flu?

"You will have to stay home from school or child care and we will take very good care of you. We will have to visit or call the doctor to find out when you can go back to school or child care."

I have a cough — do I have Swine Flu?

"Usually there are a couple of ways you don't feel well when you have Swine Flu — like a runny nose, a fever, and a cough. If I think you might have Swine Flu, I will call your doctor and she will take very good care of you."

Why did they close my school/center?

"Someone at your school/center has Swine Flu. People at your school thought that fewer people would get sick if your school/center was closed for several days because then the virus couldn't spread from one person to another."

Remember to work towards that delicate balance of giving just enough information — don't overload children with more facts than they are asking for.

This article comes from E-Family News, a free weekly electronic newsletter from Bright Horizons Family Solutions. E-Family News provides advice, strategies, tips, resources, and news about current parenting issues. To receive this free e-newsletter, visit www.brighthorizons.com/growing and click the E-Family News button.

Association for the Education of Young Children of Western New York
proudly presents:

Moving and Shaking
with
Sharon Krull

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Sharon Krull is a dynamic and inspiring teacher, trainer, author, and play guru. As an early childhood educator of 40 years, Sharon has taught preschool, elementary school, school-age, parent education, recreation programs, and most recently as a community college child development instructor. She is a member of the national training team for I Am Moving I Am Learning, a childhood obesity prevention initiative from The Office of Head Start and an early care and education consultant for Discount School Supply. With her down-to-earth approach and hands-on teaching methods, Sharon travels across the country conducting workshops, seminars and keynotes as an advocate for children and their right to a childhood of playing, moving, and learning!

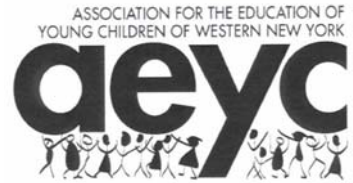
Sharon will lead us in two workshops that will have us moving, shaking, and thinking about using the ideas in our classes and centers! Sharon has presented at numerous conferences including the 2009 NYS AEYC Conference. She believes “play is learning.”

Join us from 8:30am to 12:30pm at the
Westminster Parish Hall,
724 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

8:00am -8:30am:	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30am -10:30am:	Workshop 1: <i>Playing to Learn</i>
10:30am -11:00 am:	Break with light refreshments
11:00am -12:30pm:	Workshop 2: <i>Wiggles & Giggles:</i> <i>Music & Movement in Your Classroom</i>

Certificates for 4 OCFS training hours will be available
Visit www.aeycwny.org for additional information and map information



REGISTRATION FORM

OCTOBER 24, 2009

Sharon Krull

Last name

first name

phone number

Position/Title

Organization/Program

NAEYC Member ID #/Exp. Date
(Required with member registration)

Registration Postmarked after October 1, 2009:

Student *
\$45

Member
\$45

Non-member
\$55

*Enclose a copy of your
current school identification

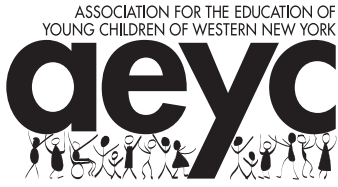
Make checks payable to: *AEYC of Western New York*
(Checks returned unpaid will incur a \$30 processing charge)

Mail checks to: AEYC Fall Conference
Mary Ellen Bardsley
98 Wesley Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14214

Questions??? Contact Mary Ellen Bardsley (834-6445) or Kathi James (829-2352)

Please send email confirmation of my receipt of registration to:

E-mail address:



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The greatest poem ever known
Is one all poets have outgrown:
The poetry, innate, untold,
Of being only four years old.

~Christopher Morley, *To a Child*