



Your AEYC of WNY Board of Directors at Work...

**In
this
Issue:**

The AEYC of WNY Board of Directors held their annual planning retreat on August 10, 2010. Returning board members welcomed newcomers as plans were made for the coming year. Board members dedicated the day to reviewing our mission and developing ideas for increasing

the value and effectiveness of services and support for our membership. Lots of ideas were generated through brainstorming, discussion, and review of successful past initiatives. The board is enthusiastically looking forward to a productive year for our membership— *YOU!*

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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 newsletter@aeycwny.org for publishing consideration. Deadlines are as follows:

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

AEYC of WNY
Board of Directors
2010-2011

Executive Committee

President.....Tracy Touris
Past President.....Tracy Galuski
Co-Vice President.....Kathi James
Co-Vice President.....Kathi Kiblin
Treasurer.....Elizabeth Cercone
Corresponding SecretaryBarbara Stone Reden
Recording Secretary.....Karen Dearing

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Events Co- ChairLiza Franz
Events Co- ChairRebecca Wojcik
Communication/Resources Chair.....Kelli Simpson
Family Child Care Liaison.....Karrie Smith
Head Start Liaison.....Holly Segal
Higher Ed, Co- Liaison.....Judy Piskun
Higher Ed, Co- Liaison.....Sherri Weber
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Primary Education.....to be appointed
Public Policy Chair.....to be appointed
Recognition/Scholarships Chair..... MaryEllen Bardsley
Special Ed Liaison.....Deborah Cleary
Student Representative.....to be appointed
Week of the Young Child.....to be appointed

President's Message...

Hello, I would like to introduce myself to you all. My name is Tracy Touris and I am very excited to be the new President for AEYC of WNY. I previously served the board as the Scholarship and Recognition chair for the past two years. However, I have been of a member of AEYC of WNY throughout my Early Childhood career.

I have been a part of the Early Childhood community for over 15 years in several different capacities. I currently provide training and mentoring for child care programs throughout WNY. It is by far the most exciting part of my career.

That is enough about me. I want you to know that this year is going to be very exciting. We are going to be adding some fun events for members and volunteers throughout the year, as well as Week of the Young Child, educational opportunities, and of course scholarships.

So, please visit our website : <http://www.aeycwny.org/> for information, resources, and future events.

You can find us on facebook too!

- Tracy Touris

Click! Four Ideas for Using Digital Cameras

By Mary Ellen Bardsley

Technology, once the possession of people with means, has become easier, and cheaper to use making various technologies accessible to early childhood educators. Digital cameras are one of these technologies. Prices of cameras have fallen from \$100s to less than \$15. I recently bought some clearance cameras for \$9. They do not display the image on camera but when displayed on a computer or prints are made the images are clear. At \$9 I do not mind 4 year-olds carrying them (and occasionally dropping them). Smiling pictures of children can be found on bulletin boards, walls, cubbies, photo albums, and many other places in early childhood settings. But how else can we use digital cameras? Four ideas for using digital cameras include:

Illustrate Directions: Joanie, a group day care provider, has series of photos illustrating various tasks. For example, near the sink she has photos showing how to brush teeth. Children learning routines can use the photo display as a reference. Other suggestions include hand-washing, setting the table, putting on outside clothes (how many children put their boots on before their snow pants?). Any task that can be divided into steps is a candidate for this.

For Science Observations: Cameras can help you and your students change. We often think of documenting change as children grow plants or animals grow (e.g. eggs to chicks). Documenting changes over time can help children recall events. A kindergarten class “adopted” a tree near their school as a year long project. The teacher, John, and his children regularly visited the tree. They would measure it, write descriptions, draw observations, and use their senses. They were learning what scientists do. Each time the children also took pictures. These pictures helped children remember the subtle changes over a long period of time.

Allowing children to control the camera, and what they document, encourages them to become a researcher. They determine what is important and what perspective to use. They determine the pace of the “data gathering” and the discussion, or analysis, of it. Cameras permit children to capture details that they might not be able to describe or draw.

Create Matching Games: Photos can be used to create matching games for a variety of purposes. Printing duplicates of pictures can be used for a typical memory game; children look for the same picture to find a match. Photos can be used to encourage awareness of peers. For example, Yolanda, a Head Start teacher, took pictures of her students’ eyes. Students matched their classmates’ eyes to a picture of their face. You could create a similar game using pictures the back of heads, some other personal belonging (e.g. backpacks). Yolanda feels this helps her students realize how distinctive each person is and helps them be more observant.

Create Feeling Materials: Helping children develop language around emotions is a goal in many early childhood settings. Photos can help you create a variety of curriculum materials. Children can match one set of faces showing emotions such as happy, upset, etc. with a different set. This can help children understand that “happy” looks different on different faces. “Feeling” posters illustrating a range of emotions can be created using photos of all your students. Or, children can make faces showing several emotions and each child could have their own poster.

Digital cameras can be found at a variety of prices and quality. Above are four ideas but we are sure you have many more unique ideas. What are yours? How do you use audio recorders? Video cameras? Post your suggestions at the AEYC Tech Wiki at <http://aeyctechpage.pbworks.com/FrontPage> or send them to Mary Ellen Bardsley at bardsley3@verizon.net We will use these ideas for future articles in upcoming newsletters.



New Member Welcome

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

Allen, Elisa

Allen, Karen E.

Calderon, Ines

Castle, Kathryn

Cook, Jessica

DiStefano, Marleen

Dupra, Whitney

Erny, Brea Rae

Fortunate, Jeannine

Graziano, Sandra

Hayes, Carol E

*Pellicano, Stacey
Knights*

Sickau, Ashley

Weber, Natalie B

Wylie, Jessica

Yaeger, Donna Marie

Zebracki, Rosemary

Did You Know That AEYC of WNY is on Facebook?

By: Karrie Smith—Family Child Care Liaison

Some of you may already be a regular Facebookie, and some of you may think you do not have time for social networking, or fear that it will become too addicting and interfere with your life too much. It IS addicting and CAN be a huge distraction, but it is also great for finding out current information on just about any group, event or place of business—including AEYC of WNY!

Currently, AEYC of WNY has 66 Facebook friends and keeps growing. This is a fabulous tool for tracking down someone you met at a conference and meant to get their number so you could try to collaborate with them or ask questions or need help. It is also great for those of us, and I am one of them, who can sit with someone at a workshop or conference and talk all day to them and as soon as I get home—I can't remember their name! You can find them as a friend of AEYC of WNY and keep yourself from having to ask the embarrassing question of "I know we sat together all day but what is your name again?" Seeing things in print always helps me.

Facebook is also really the best tool out there as far as networking goes. I know that I met AEYC Past President Tracy Galuski on Facebook before I ever met her in person because Carol Rogers sent us both a Facebook message introducing us and telling us we should get together! If you are struggling with an issue at your school or center, you can just post your question (and I would be vague and keep the children anonymous) on the AEYC Facebook page as a comment and I will guarantee that you will have a lot of different people from all different aspects try to help you out.

Since Facebook is a lot easier to update and post new information on than a regular website, this page is always changing, updating and under construction. This might be your fastest and most accurate way to see what is going on with us as well as find out dates and times of upcoming events that AEYC of WNY is holding or being a part of. Also, already on our Facebook page, there are links to several events and helpful information, as well as local organizations that may be of help or interest to you.

If you haven't made AEYC of WNY your friend yet—you should seriously consider it. The benefits are endless—and hey, who couldn't use another friend?

To find us quickly, go to this web page:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/AEYC-of-WNY/199927489504?v=wall>

You can also find us by typing *aeyc of wny* into the search bar when you are on any Facebook page.

Starting Again

Kate Dust, M.Ed.

NYSAEYC Accreditation Chair

WNYAEYC Accreditation Chair

Fall starts many changes in childcare centers. Children have transitioned to new classrooms. Paperwork, inventories, policies and procedures are reviewed, updated and established. New teachers and staff have joined teams. Families are literally seeing their babies become preschoolers and still can't believe it! Children have joined us and children have left us. It's a lot of change and we find ourselves starting again.

Children need time. That's the truth and that's all there is to it. Don't lose sight of children in this shuffle! Even our little friends that started with us as infants and are now preschoolers are NEW to their new room and routine and they need time. Offer families and children time this fall to feel great about new beginnings!

Naeyc guides practices to help all children find their place, make friends, develop skills and connect to teachers. Naeyc guides practices that assure families of the highest quality for their child. We know that every child thrives in secure, enjoyable, stimulating and established environments that surround them with wonderful ways to grow and learn. We know that families are first. We are their support.

Make this program year the best you can:

**Connect with each family to reassure them that they are valued partners in the center and classrooms. Work to foster trust and confidence in all aspects of leadership. (1, 7, 10)

**Support learning by engaging children in activities and experiences that strengthen their established skills then help them get to the next level! Make sure materials, toys and supplies are varied, exciting and developmentally appropriate. (2, 3, 4, 9)

**Foster friendship and emotional well being. Talk to children and be a listener. (1, 2)

**Be healthy! Support healthy habits and routines. (3, 5)

**Appreciate qualified, dedicated and motivated teaching staff. Offer multiple ways to support professional development. (3, 6, 10)

Keep your center and classrooms in focus. Make your center the best center children can attend. **Be naeyc accredited! (8, 10)

Naeyc 10 Standards of High Quality Early Childhood Education are referenced above.



In Search Of Clues...

“Kicking, Biting and Screaming-Oh My!”

...Solving the Mysteries of Serving Young Children with Developmental Disabilities in Child Care Community Settings

This FREE workshop is designed for community childcare staff, parents and other service providers working with young children.

** Are you challenged by children with behaviors you can't figure out?

** Do you have children who exhibit the three D's—defiant, destructive, demanding behaviors?

** Are you working with little ones who just seem to be angry all the time, are aggressive, or who disturb other children's play or learning?

This workshop will focus on a few immediate solutions and core strategies for working on these challenges long term. Come ready to work!! We will be getting “into” some real, typical challenging problems, to generate solutions. We will challenge YOU to use at least one of these strategies “back home”.

****This workshop meets the OCFS training requirements of: Principles of Childhood Development, Child Day Care Program Development*

When: October 28, 2010, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Elizabeth Olmstead Center for the Visually Impaired Preschool
Temple Beth Zion building
700 Sweet Home Road
Amherst, New York 14226

Guest Speaker: **Kathleen Gradel, Ed.D. , Associate Professor, College of Education, SUNY Fredonia**

A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

This *FREE* workshop is made possible by the collaboration between the Early Childhood Inclusion Committee of the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY and the Early Childhood Direction Center. To register for the workshop or for more information, please call:

Early Childhood Direction Center
880-3875

Kathy Coe
819-2408

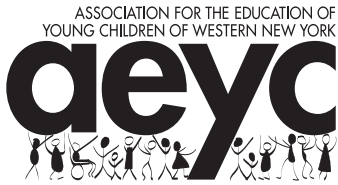
Erie County Medical Center

When registering, please give your name and phone number in case we need to contact you.

Each center attending will receive a FREE copy of “Working with Young Children with Special Needs: A Resource Directory”, a guide to the systems and service linkages available in our community.

Please feel free to duplicate this announcement for distribution to parents and staff.

This training is made possible through funding from the Developmental Disabilities Alliance of Western New York (DDAWNY)



c/o UB Child Care Center
100 St. Rita's Lane
Amherst, NY 14260

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SAVE THE DATE...

Directors as Leaders

Annual Conference

Friday, March 4, 2011

Watch for more information coming soon!