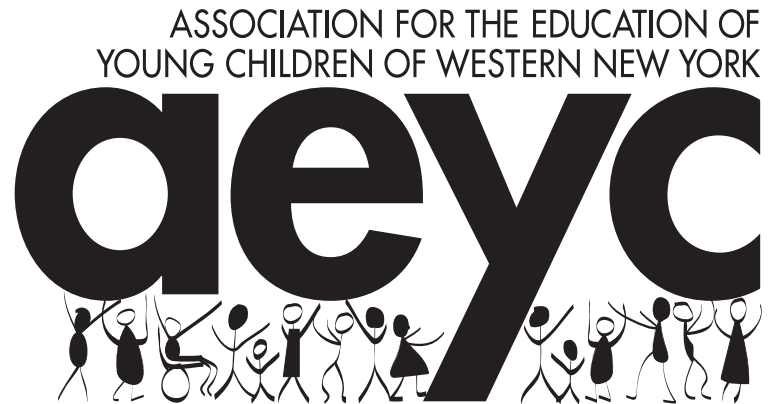


Newsletter

Spring 2011



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The NYSAEYC Conference is April 28-30, 2011 in Rye, NY

Rye is located in Westchester County, twenty miles north of New York City

The preliminary program is on-line at:

www.nysaeyc.org

Keynote speakers for this year's conference include Bob McGrath, Ellen Galinsky, Stephanie Feeney, and John Archambault. But that's not all— there are countless workshops, exhibitors, informational sessions, and networking opportunities.

The conference is also offering many specialized tracks, such as Leadership, Infant/Toddler, Family Child Care, New Teacher, Prek-3, Experienced Teacher, After School & Youth Development and Trainers. These tracks provide a series of workshops that explore a specific area of interest or modality of care.

If you are a student, there is a student hospitality room and events geared for you. It's a great place to meet other students, share tips for navigating the conference, and connect with NYSAEYC.

We hope to see many of our Western New York early childhood professionals at this premier state event!



New York State Association for the Education of Young Children

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 kelli.simpson@brighthorizons.com 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
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2010-2011

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- Week of the Young Child.....*to be appointed*

President's Message...



The Week of the Young Child will be April 10-16. The theme for the Week of the Young Child 2011 is Early Years Are Learning Years.

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 90,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

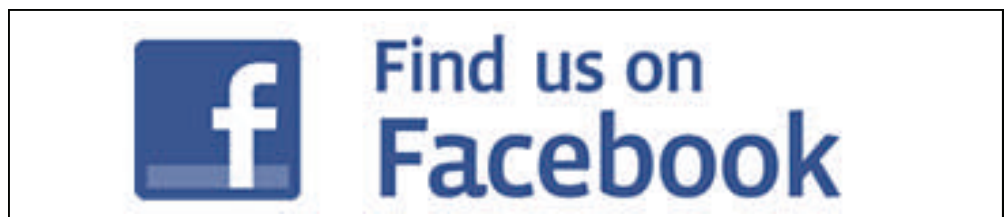
NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we--as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation--will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Yet, never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing.

The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment--at home, at child care, at school, and in the community--that will promote their early learning.

Please take the time during this week to reflect on the importance of children's experiences in these early years.

- *Tracy Touris*



Play: a 4 Letter Word and So Much More!

Kate Dust, M.Ed
NYSAEYC WNYAEYC Accreditation Chair

Who did you play with when you were a kid? My favorite playmate was Kathy Hughes. She had a lot of brothers and sisters and I have a twin sister. There was always a “pile” of kids around. Kathy had a pool in her backyard that had a ladder on the side (her dad thought a deck was too much work). Her mom wore sneakers and made home-made hot fudge for sundaes. I was always welcome in her home and she was always welcome in mine. I didn’t know it, but when I was young and playing at Kathy’s house and she was playing at mine, I was learning all about life while collecting skills I would use throughout every avenue I took in education, family, career and advocacy; skills in socialization, math, literacy, science, social studies, and technology. Apparently the kitchen, backyard, neighborhood and pool were classrooms. Who knew?!

To be part of a neighborhood kick ball game you had to wait, compromise, consider, prioritize, adjust, celebrate, commiserate, follow rules and resolve conflicts. To be part of a backyard picnic and pool party you had to understand sink & float, burning points and combustion, gardens and systems of plant life, nutritional value of foods, ecosystems and weather.

It was important to speak clearly, organize your thoughts, read party invitations, write notes to your boyfriend, know what the cool book to read was and be able to read it. Telling time and keeping sequence, knowing beginnings and ending of stories, games and events was critical.

During neighborhood play you took care of your property, and made sure you didn’t ruin the grass next door, knew the schedules for garbage day and what time the mail and paper were delivered. I knew where I lived and who lived near me. As I grew up, the circle of neighborhood changed to include school, work and politics. I was expected to take on the responsibilities of this.

It was cool to play music on the ever changing machines that came along. I learned how to manage devices that helped me keep track of scores, interact with my friends, enjoy and adjust entertainment and contribute to introducing my parents to the newest way that “the world works”.

I played. I played every day inside and outside. I played organized games and “pick up” games. I played on playgrounds and in backyards, with dress up clothes, Barbies, trucks and footballs. Along the way I made friends and lost friends. And apparently I was learning what I needed to know. Who knew?!

To some, play is a four letter word – to be avoided and removed. So it continues to be critical that the early childhood field advocate for play on all levels and in every arena. There is clear data and research that points to play being an ever constant necessity to early growth and brain development. (www.naeyc.org, www.aap.org) . While neighborhoods and games change, the act of playing doesn’t. Playtime continues to be the favorite time of all children and apparently the best time to learn.

*Playtime has always been a part of quality early childhood settings.
Who knew?! We did.*



AEYC Membership Meetings

Membership meetings are held in centers throughout WNY, giving members an opportunity to visit other programs, as well as receive training. Host centers can choose any topic they'd like to highlight. Our two most recent meetings, held at Monarch Little Learners and EduKids on Niagara Falls Boulevard, highlighted outdoor environments. Both evenings were well attended and included tours of the centers. The evenings gave everyone a great opportunity to network with other early childhood professionals for new ideas. If your center would be interested in hosting a future meeting, please contact our AEYC Membership Chair, Shawna Carlton at shawna.carlton@yahoo.com or 841-7762.



Submitted by Shawna Carlton, AEYC Membership Chair:

On November 9, 2010, Monarch Little Learners Academy hosted our first membership meeting of the 2010-2011 year. Director Katie Cartwright, along with her administrative team put together a wonderful presentation on The Outdoor Learning Environment. They showcased the recent enhancements they've made on their playground including new climbing structures, dramatic playhouses, and an outdoor classroom with the same learning centers you would find in a typical indoor classroom. They also discussed how these updates have enhanced the children's learning and assisted teachers with planning outdoor lessons and activities.

Submitted by Kathleen Kiblin, M.Ed. Education Specialist, EduKids, Inc.:

The January Membership meeting was held at EduKids' newest facility, 2715 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Amherst.

The topic presented for all in attendance was Environments – Inside and Outside, with a special focus on Natural Playscapes. Natural Playscapes include vegetation (including trees, bushes, flowers, and long grasses), places and features to sit in, on, under, lean against and provide shelter and shade, and structures, equipment and materials that can be changed. Traditional playgrounds include jungle gyms, swings, slides, and teeter totters. They are the socially acceptable perception of a playground in America.

As we all know, being outdoors can be an effective way to stimulate young children's development. When children are presented with an environment that is rich in a wide variety of play opportunities of every imaginable type, they display more constructive play than children in traditional playgrounds. Children more often than not get bored with the traditional playgrounds because they are very one dimensional and only emphasize exercise and physical development. Injuries happen when these children push the limits of the structures. In a Natural playscape, children can push the limits of the environment with a different result every time.

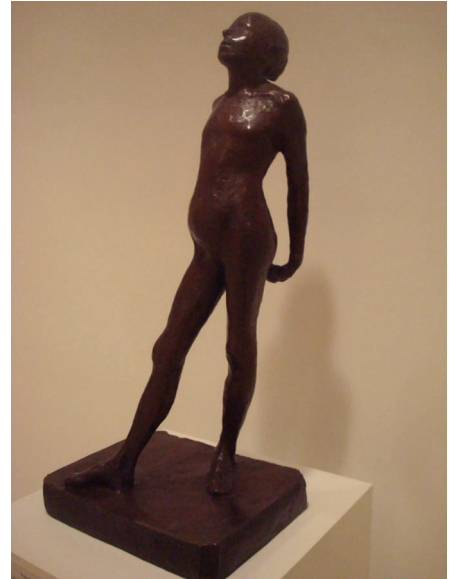
For more information, please read Natural Playscapes by Rusty Keeler.



AEYC Evening at the Albright-Knox



On Wednesday, February 16th, AEYC of WNY hosted a free evening at the Albright-Knox for members and non-members. Nancy Spector and Lindsay Kranz provided wonderfully informational and interactive tours of highlighted works of the gallery during “How to Tour the Gallery with Young Children,” which kicked off the event. Nearly 50 attendees gained a variety of ideas on presenting artwork to young children in developmentally appropriate ways. Tips were offered on what to do with toddlers and preschool aged children before, during and after a tour of the gallery. The evening concluded with complementary drinks and light appetizers in the AK Café, which provided a great opportunity for networking with other students and professionals. Be sure to look for information on our final free event of the year later this spring!



Getting Ahead

Tracy Galuski, PhD

I'd like to introduce you to Tiffany. She started college a few years ago, but struggled and dropped out due to financial reasons. Years later she tried again, but dropped out after getting married and pregnant. Now she is 37, and her kids have started school. She is ready to go back to work, and try a new challenge. After years of taking care of her children, her family and even her parents, she is ready to do something for herself. She is energetic and she likes children, can she work in child care?

In the last newsletter I suggested that you take a closer look at your professional growth. Child care providers have a wide variety of options to consider. These options include going to school for a Child Development Associate (CDA), a NYSAEYC credential, an Associate's degree, a Bachelor's degree and beyond.

Have you considered going back to college for a new credential or degree? The New York State Association for the Education on Young Children has 4 credentials that are available. All of them require only a few college courses and a portfolio that illustrates your strengths and skills:

- Children's Program Administrator Credential
- Infant Toddler Care & Education Credential
- Early Learning Trainer Credential
- Family Child Care Credential

I have met dozens of people like Tiffany at Empire State College through the Center for Distance Learning. I rarely get to meet my students directly, but I feel like I know every one of them personally through our online discussions in the courses. They are stay-at-home mothers who are thinking about life after the children start school, social workers looking for a change, even fathers that have been laid off and need fresh skills to pursue new opportunities. Some of them are home-bound with illness and take courses online part time, looking towards a brighter future. Others work full time and study during lunch breaks and in the evenings, hoping to get ahead in life. Many of them are completing the coursework towards the credentials as part of their Associate's and/or Bachelor's degree plans.

Do you know anyone like Tiffany? Perhaps she is your teacher assistant and she has all the skills in the world, but needs to get her degree for a promotion. Maybe she would like to try her skills at being the director? Or maybe she was hired as a director but doesn't feel like she has all the skills necessary to lead the program. With a little help, a new credential or degree, she can do it. Can you?

Find more information at WWW.NYSAEYC.ORG.

New Member Welcome

Join us in welcoming the following members who joined AECYC in December, January, and February ...

Camp, Karen

Chheda, Milan

Dusel, Gillian

Erazo, Judith

Evans, Marlene

Fava, Kristine Marie

Feliberti, Sandra

Friesen, Lisa Marie

Graves, Kelly

Holahan, Amber

Kruger, Jennifer

McBride, Amy Marie

McCabe, Marilyn Lee

McGuire, Jennifer Kathryn

O'Mara, Megan

Okusanya, Enitan

Reinard, Michelle

Roberts, Danielle A

Schuppenhauer, Jillian

Schuster, Melissa

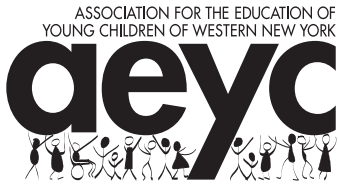
Stirling, Lauren E

Weber, Donna

Wojtaszczyk, Laurie

Wolniewicz, Whitney

Zhang, Jing



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

Non-Profit
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO, NY
PERMIT NO. 122

current resident or:

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 for collaboration!

If you'd like to lend a hand, please contact our membership chair Shawna Carlton, at 841-7762.