

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

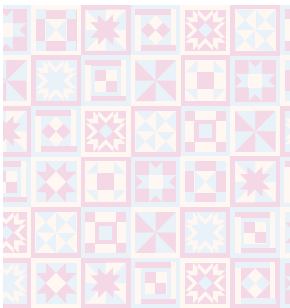


President's Note *by Terry Green*



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The Governing Board of KAECE held a retreat in January to work on some long range goals for the organization. It was a wonderful day and a half. The Board members gave up a weekend with their families in order to work on behalf of you, the membership of KAECE. They volunteered their time and leadership to focus on issues that impact you. It speaks volumes about their dedication to the KAECE membership and to Early Childhood Education in KY. We got to know each other better as a Board and also had excellent discussions that generated lots of ideas. We identified many areas where KAECE can support early childhood educators in our state. We revisited our identity as an organization and how we want to grow. We realized that many areas need our attention.

But after much discussion there was one overriding idea on which we all agreed: **The local chapters are very important and need to be supported and nurtured.**

Each community in our state is very different with different needs. The local chapters can identify and meet those needs far better than we ever can at our state level. They are able to provide professional development that is close by, advocate on issues that matter locally and connect members to each other.

KAECE is committed to providing leadership and support to the local chapters that are up and running and to help begin new ones. I encourage you to take advantage of all that your local chapter has to offer. The local contacts for each chapter can be found on the KAECE website www.kaece.org If you do not have a local chapter and are interested in getting one started, contact me at tgreen@audubon-area.com or the Chapter Liaison , Susannah Dickman at susannah.dickman@kctcs.edu and we will be glad to help.

Director's Corner

by Sarah Taylor Vanover, Director
Faith Lutheran Church Preschool, Lexington, KY



Supporting the Family

How does your center support the families that are enrolled? Family support can start with small steps to make your center more accessible. Are parents invited to visit the classroom to see what their children are learning and creating during the school day? Are extended family members welcome? Are families invited to visit at any time or are there restrictions on when they can attend?

Many households have dual-working families now, so parents do not have the ability to stop by their children's school in the middle of the school day. If that is the case, how do you support those families outside of the typical school day? Here are some examples of family-friendly supports:

- Children's toy or book lending library
- Family resource library
- Information and referral to supportive services regarding family issues
- Home visits
- Weekly or monthly newsletters
- Parent education nights or support groups
- Social functions for families and staff
- Child care during parent conferences or meetings
- Transportation to and from the center
- Tuition scholarships
- Spots for parents to serve on the center's advisory or governing board to help make family-friendly policies

These are all ways to support the families in your care. One of the unique aspects of early childhood education is that we, the educators, are not just working with the children. We are educating and assisting the entire family, so see if your center can add one more way to reach out to the families in your care.

Accreditation Recognition

**Congratulations to the following programs
for achieving NAEYC Accreditation
in March 2010!**

Saint Benedict Center for Early Childhood Education, Inc.
Director: Margaret L. Evans-Dulin

Community Action Council West Lexington Child Development Center
Director: Tori Black

Paducah Head Start/Preschool - McNabb Elementary
Director: Tanya A. Jones



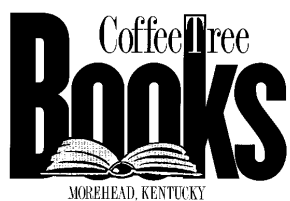
Book Review

by Susan Thomas
CoffeeTree Books, Owner/Manager

The Quiet Book by Deborah Underwood, Illustrated by Renata Liwska. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children. 32 pages. ISBN 9780547215679. Ages 4-5.

SSssssshhhhhhhh! (This is *The Quiet Book*) the back reads, and it is a very quiet book. A wonderful just before bed or nap book, *The Quiet Book* reminds us of all the different kinds of quiet. Some are when we are playing, like “coloring in the lines quiet” and “playing hide and go seek quiet.” Others are full of anticipation, “right before you yell “SURPRISE!” quiet” and “top of the Roller Coaster quiet.” Some are moments of regret and embarrassment like “thinking of a good reason why you were writing on the wall quiet” and “jelly side down quiet.” Some are thoughtful, some are exciting, some are sad and, of course, some are sleepy. From “first one up in the morning quiet” to “Sound asleep quiet” the quietly drawn creatures in this book share with us all kinds of moments we might not have thought about before.

Susan Thomas is one of the owners and the manager of CoffeeTree Books. She is passionate about picture books, quiet or not. CoffeeTree Books is proud to be Eastern Kentucky's largest independent bookstore, a family-owned business that has served the region for over 30 years.



Public Policy

As advocates for young children it is helpful to be aware of what is going on at the state and national level that will influence the lives of the children and families with whom we work. Public policy includes legislation and issues such as healthcare, budgets, and quality standards. The information is summarized in easy to understand updates on the Southern Early Childhood Association website. You can also sign up for email notifications. Go to the following link for more information.

<http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/policy.php>



The Week of the Young Child 2010 is April 11th—17th. The theme for 2010 is **Early Years Are Learning Years**® Go to <http://www.naeyc.org/woyc> for more information.



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KAECE Vision Statement

The Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education serves and supports early care and education professionals on behalf of young children and their families.

<http://www.kaece.org/>



West Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education – Chapter News

by Debbie Sisco, president of WKAECE

The West Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education is announcing the launch of their annual SPRING TRAINING INSTITUTE for early childhood educators, students, childcare providers, and parents. This is a unique opportunity for our community. An opportunity for training featuring dynamic presenters of this scope is normally found only in Lexington or Louisville.

The name of the Institute is “Kaleidoscope: A View of the Future” and it will be held on Saturday, Apr. 17, 2010 in the Crouse Building, on the WKCTC campus in Paducah. Registration and continental breakfast begins at 8 a.m. with the Keynote session at 9. The day includes breakout sessions, lunch, snacks, vendors, and 6 hours of continuing education credit. T-shirts will be available for purchase.

Stuart Stotts is the featured key-note speaker for the conference. A songwriter and storyteller from Wisconsin, Stotts provides over 200 entertaining and enthusiastic programs a year. Debbie Sisco, president of WKAECE, says our region is fortunate to have a presenter of Stotts’ caliber at a local conference. His program, “I Am a Teacher- Not a Babysitter” has a critical focus for parents, as well as for providers and educators. Quite often, child care providers are thought of as “just a baby sitter”-but providers spend a great deal of time with children when they are “little sponges for learning”; a window of opportunity when learning experiences should be maximized.

Other exciting presenters include Amy Allen of Harmony Road Music School and Jason Lindsey, Paducah’s very own Hooked on Science guy. Dr Nancy Lovett, Dr. Barbara Singleton, Greg Gierhart, Pat Murphy, and Jeanne Peters round out the training institute with sessions on math moments, music /movement, sensory strategies, behavior management, and other topics. One hour of credit will be included in the lunch session with a special presentation by the area Extension Agents.

WKAECE has recently revived the local chapter with an infusion of community members who are passionate about early childhood education. Sisco points out, “Anyone who spends time with children is an educator. It may be a parent, grandparent, child care provider, or teacher. WKAECE is very focused on its’ future mission-to improve the educational experience of all young children by working with child care providers to enhance the learning environment and increase the quality of in-home daycares, facilities, and other programs.”

Registration forms can be found by clicking “WKAECE Institute” at thelearningrailroad.com, or on KAECE’s website at kaece.org. Registration forms can also be picked up at Learning Railroad’s retail store. You may contact Debbie Sisco at 270-534-3459 for more information. Registration fees are \$15 for students, \$25 for members (NAEYC), and \$45 for non-members and on-site registration. 6 training hours or .6 CEUS offered.