

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



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President's Note *by Kathy Attaway*

As I sit down to write this message for our KAECE newsletter, I struggle with what I can say that has not been said before that might spark an interest in you or someone you know. The Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education has just gone through a strategic planning retreat in order to try to redefine KAECE to our membership and to potential members. As we sat around the table asking ourselves the hard questions, it was very evident to me that the people sitting at the table were absolutely passionate about young children and the people who serve them. It is also evident to me that there are many organizations in Kentucky, both large and small, that have the same passion for helping children. In this time of threatening budget cuts, a slumping economy and job loss we all need to work together to accomplish our common goal which I perceive to be the health and welfare of our youngest and most vulnerable.

As your state organization, KAECE is very interested in serving you, the adults who serve the children. We have discussed many ways to do this and have come up with a few ideas. What we really need now is your input and your participation. What is it that you need to help you improve the lives of the children you serve? We really want to hear from you. So please visit the KAECE website at www.kaece.org and contact any of the board members listed to give us your ideas and needs. We will do our best to serve you in the ways that will benefit you the most. So that you can pass it forward to the children you serve. **We hope to see you at the KAECE Institute in Richmond, September 29th through October 1st where the fun will begin.**

2011 KAECE-KHSA Institute
"On the Road to Nurturing the Whole Child"

September 29-October 1
Eastern Kentucky University, Perkins Building
Kit Carson Drive, Richmond, KY 40475

Time is running out! Register by September 23, 2011!
<http://www.kaece.org/institute.htm>

Come to the annual meeting to vote on our revised by-laws and for new officers.
Revised by-laws and candidate biographies are available on our website:

http://www.kaece.org/bd_gov.htm

Director's Corner: Getting Parents Involved in your Program

by Beth Morton, Director
Bracktown Academy Learning Center



Like most directors in the early childhood field I feel one of the most important and useful tools to help a program provide high quality are getting parents involved. We all know that happy parents are one of the key ingredients to keeping our programs up and running. There are many ways programs can involve parents including the following:

1. Parent Committee ~ Form a parent committee at your center. Use this time to give parents the opportunity to provide program feedback, share center updates with parents and to recruit parents to help with center events/activities.
2. Parent Satisfaction Surveys ~ Send a parent survey annually. This gives parents the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback about how they truly feel the program is running.
3. Monthly Center Newsletter ~ Send a monthly newsletter to parents to keep them posted on center events/activities.
4. Parent Volunteers ~ Allow parents the opportunity to volunteer at your center. This could include reading to the children, helping with clean up at the center or any other task that needs to be done where the parent has some expertise. For example if you have a dad who works with carpentry he could help fix a cabinet that is in need of repair.
5. Email ~ Use email as a quick and easy way to keep parents posted on how things are going at the center, how their child is doing etc. This also gives parents a tool to communicate with you as the director on ideas they may have etc.

Health Corner: Caregivers should receive annual flu vaccine

by Susan Guthrie RN, BSN, Child Care Health Consultant, Northern Kentucky Health Department



The CDC recommends everyone 6 months of age and older get their yearly flu vaccine. Plan now for cold and flu season. The CDC recommends that anyone who has close contact with children get an annual flu vaccination. This includes:

- Close contacts and family of children under age 5
- Out-of-home caregivers for children young than age 5 (baby-sitters, nannies, child care providers)
- Close contacts and family of a child of any age with a chronic health problem (asthma, diabetes, etc.)

The vaccine should be available in September and October. Get the vaccine as soon as you are able to.

Each year about 20,000 children under age 5 are hospitalized with flu-related complications. Severe complications are most common in children under age 2. Remember, plan for flu vaccine for all members of your family.

Tips for Teachers by Teachers: Real vs. Fantasy

by Lori Lindsey, Methodist Hospital Child Development Center
Henderson, Kentucky

Has anyone ever given any thought as to why there are so many opinions on the “right way” to teach preschoolers? Some have a philosophy that support using ONLY books with real people, posters with real animals, and no space ships or castles in dramatic play. Because, after all, children need to know what’s REAL.

However, another philosophy supports using storybook characters, talking animals, and dramatic play with magic carpet rides. Children need to use their imaginations to have fun and experience new adventures.

Reality verses fantasy....what to do? Remember the “mullet” (business in the front-party in the back), BAD haircut, GREAT concept! Couldn’t we just present both philosophies and teach the children the difference?

For example explore a “real” whale with pictures and facts, then break out the wiggle eyes, pipe cleaners and paint to make one themselves. Later, involve science by putting water and glitter in a squirt bottle to demonstrate the blow hole. Or by passing around a real starfish, then pull some animated characters from a favorite storybook and use them in a game or song. Watch a short video about scuba diving, and then put on a face mask and flippers for an underwater adventure.

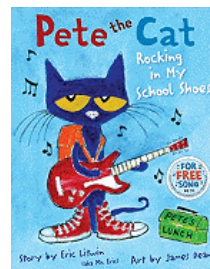
Children are individuals. They have personal styles of learning, different ideas about “what fun is” and are impacted in ways that can’t be predicted. By using both preschool philosophies teachers are able to reach out to both types of children and help them to grow into more rounded individuals.

In the world there will always be “real” and “fantasy” what better way to get a child’s education on the right track than to involve both and teach the difference. Think outside the box, get to know your children, challenge them without pushing them, find what works and enjoy!



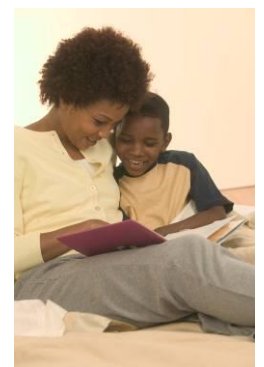
Book Review

by Susan Thomas CoffeeTree Books, Owner/Manager



Remember *I Love My White Shoes*? By Eric Litwin, art by James Dean? If you don’t, please put down this review and go find it. If you do, you’ll be happy to read that they are back, or rather, Pete the Cat is back and this time he is off to school. *Pete the Cat, Rocking in My School Shoes*, well, it rocks. Literally. There is even a free song available online. On his first day at school, Pete the cat reads in his school shoes, eats in his school shoes, plays in his school shoes, and, of course, rocks in his school shoes. It’s how the cool cats start school, and young readers will love Pete and his fabulous red high tops. This is pure fun-- isn’t that what reading should be?

Susan Thomas likes to talk about picture books in her bookseller shoes at CoffeeTree Books in Morehead, KY.





Accreditation Recognition

Congratulations to these programs for receiving NAEYC Accreditation between April 2011 and July 2011!

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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/>



Program Name	Location
Union County Head Start Family Development Center	Morganfield, KY
Earlington Pre-School / Head Start / Early Head Start	Madisonville, KY
Southside / South Annex Preschool Head Start	Madisonville, KY
West Hopkins Preschool / Head Start	Madisonville, KY
Cadiz Family Development Center	Eddyville, KY
Hanson Pre-School/Head Start	Madisonville, KY
North Hancock Head Start Preschool	Lewisport, KY
Kenwood Montessori Preschool, Ltd.	Louisville, KY
South Heights Head Start	Morganfield, KY
Vicki & Dan Renshaw Early Childhood Center	Bowling Green, KY
Jesse/Grapevine Pre-School Head Start	Madisonville, KY
Pride Avenue / West Broadway Preschool Head Start	Madisonville, KY
Jessamine County Head Start	Wilmore, KY
Fleming County Head Start	Flemingsburg, KY
Henderson Community College Family Development Center	Morganfield, KY
Horse Branch Preschool / Head Start	Hartford, KY
Tiny Tot Day Care Center	Marion, KY