

KAECE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2009

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Message from the President

by Terry Green

The other day I was sharing how I became a member of KAECE. It sounded so strange to say that I had been a member since 1974, when I was a college student. At that time, early childhood education was a sort of underground community. There were a lot of us in the field, but it was not the kind of thing you talked about at dinner parties. During that time, being a member of "KACUS", as it was called then, was a matter of survival. The people in KACUS were "like me". They had some clue about what a wonderful and important profession early childhood education was, so we clung to each other and developed "Forever Friendships" across the state.

As early childhood education grew up and came into main stream America, KACUS changed in order to stay relevant. It became KECA and focused on becoming the driving force toward making early childhood education both available and of high quality in Kentucky. We maintained our "Forever Friendships" and pushed on together, adding new friends along the way. We merged with KAEYC and became KAECE in order to have a united voice for Kentucky's young children.

Today, early childhood education is a major player in any discussion about education and community development. There is funding for a variety of early childhood programs and services, and quality is well recognized in the field. So what should the role of KAECE be now? Are we done? Is there a need for a professional organization to support the field?

I am happy to say yes!!!! Today, KAECE is able to focus on making the profession better. We must not go to sleep on the issues of basic funding, but we are now able to work on taking the profession to the next level in Kentucky. Ensuring the best for our children is a common goal we share. While there may be lively discussions about how to get to "the best," our "Forever Friendships" continue to grow and be a source of strength and inspiration for us all. If you have not yet discovered your "Forever Friends" in KAECE, please find out how you can become more involved. Attend a local chapter meeting, the Annual Institute, or just contact me or another Board member to get started.



Volume 1, Issue 1
April 2009

Special points of interest:

- *Message from the President p.1*
- *CECC Updates p.2*
- *Tips for Teachers by Teachers p.3*
- *Book Review p.3*
- *Newly Accredited Programs p.4*
- *KAECE-KHSA Institute p.5*



Official proclamation of the week of the young child

Calloway County Early Childhood Council (CCECC)

Calloway County Early Childhood Council (CCECC)

The CCECC provided a free training and mini-grant opportunity in October, 2008 to improve quality in the local centers that have a star rating. Centers used the Environmental Rating Scale improvement plan to determine items needed to improve the quality of their centers.

The council has the TIPP training planned in March, 2009 targeted for Directors and lead teachers and will offer screening tools to local child care centers.

The council also has a community screening planned in May, 2009 targeted for children ages 0-3



in order to identify special needs at a earlier age. The screening will be titled "Kids Spring Screen"

Membership has its privileges... by Dana Bush

A membership in KAECE has many benefits.

1) **Membership within Three Professional Organizations** With a paid membership to KAECE you are also a member of NAEYC (the National Association for the Education of Young Children) and SECA (the Southern Early Childhood Association).

tion). Three memberships for one price!!!

2) **Networking with likeminded Professionals** Members of KAECE have opportunities to talk with others in the field of early childhood education. The support of others who work with children and families can be an invaluable resource.

3) **Opportunities for Professional Development** Members of KAECE have access to quality NAEYC & SECA scholarly journals as well as discounts on books, videos, and brochures. Members also received discounted registration rates at the professional conferences of all three organizations.

Membership continued

4) **Further the Early Childhood Profession** Members of KAECE can help promote high professional standards within the field of early childhood. 5) **Promote and Support Public Policy** Members of



KAECE have opportunities to increase the understanding and support for high-quality early childhood education throughout the state of Kentucky and the nation.

These are just a few things KAECE can do for you. Please contact Dana Bush at membership@KAECE.org with your questions or concerns. Invite a friend or co-worker to join KAECE and contact us to see how you can get involved.

Tips for teachers by teachers

Science is all Around Us

by Shelley Simpson Lead Teacher, NKU Early Childhood Center

Have you ever noticed a child trying to build a tower that won't fall down? Comparing the texture of two pillows? Or two children discussing which car is faster? These children are all 'doing science.' Young children are naturally curious and spend much of their day trying to figure out their world. But how do we turn these

seemingly mundane activities into science? Through conversation and documentation. Asking the children, "How can we find out which car is faster?" can start them on an in-depth science investigation. By having the child draw pictures of the tower before it falls down, you are helping to develop the skills of observation, data collection



Children at the NKU Early Childhood Center explore science in the sensory table.

and reflection. Using science vocabulary, such as describe, classify, and predict in every day conversation also helps children develop scientific thinking. By modeling scientific thinking, we help develop every child's sense of wonder.



On January 28, 2009,

amidst white-out snow conditions, the Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education student group from Gateway Community & Technical College departed for Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Destination: The Southern Early Childhood (SECA) Conference. Five students and their professor, Sarah Ransom, attended the conference thanks to the generous matching scholarship awarded by SECA.

SECA Conference Report

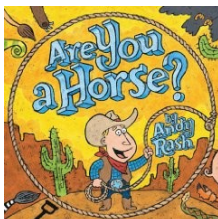
by Sarah Ransom and Gateway IECE students

Gateway students sold pizza six times every week during the Fall 2008 semester, raising over \$1,100 to fund their trip. The SECA conference was the students' first time attending a professional seminar, and they related their experiences as great, positive and inspiring. Molly Simmins said it gave her renewed enthusiasm for her career choice. Janet Samples was inspired by the musical sessions and the public policy luncheon. Tara Goetz liked the diversity of training workshops available, and Katy Creech enjoyed the general sessions,

especially storyteller Rob Cleveland. Julie Hensley said that any student who has the opportunity to attend SECA should definitely attend. The Gateway student group will have a post-conference meeting so that ideas, activities and strategies that were learned at SECA can be shared among all participants. This was a wonderful opportunity for all, and ultimately, Northern Kentucky families will benefit from the students' learning as they work with young children.

Book review: Are You A Horse by Andy Rash

Review written by Amy Schardein



Rash, Andy. *Are You A Horse?* Illus. by author. Unpaged. Arthur A. Levine Books. March 2009 ISBN 9780439724173.

When Roy, a clueless cowboy, receives a saddle for his birthday it comes with instructions to "1. Find a horse 2. Enjoy the ride." Since Roy doesn't know what a horse is, this cowboy has a surprisingly hard time. After

mistaking a cactus, a snake, a zebra, a sloth and several more creatures for a horse, Roy is overjoyed to find his long sought equine pal and asks if he'd like to go for a ride. The horse promptly puts the saddle on Roy and they ride into the sunset!. Although Roy could have spoken to a few less animals to make a tighter story, this silly premise will delight wise children. Rash's bright, cartoon-like illustrations suit the outlandish tone of this crowd pleasing story perfectly. Recommended for ages 3-7



Amy Schardein
Children's Librarian
Early Childhood Specialist
Kenton County Public Library

Accreditation

Kudos to the following programs for achieving NAEYC Accreditation in January 2009!

* Caldwell County Preschool / Head Start (Director: Renee Williams)



* Carroll County Head Start / KERA Preschool - (Director: Pam McNeal)

Congratulations to all of the programs working to enhance quality through NAEYC Accreditation

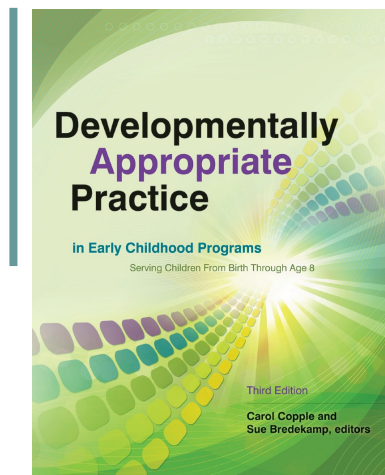
DAP Roll Out

Affiliates and community partners in Louisville, Morehead, Richmond, Owensboro, Cave City, Burlington, Frankfort and Newport KY were involved in conducting community forums to discuss the new distance learning program on "Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP) in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8."

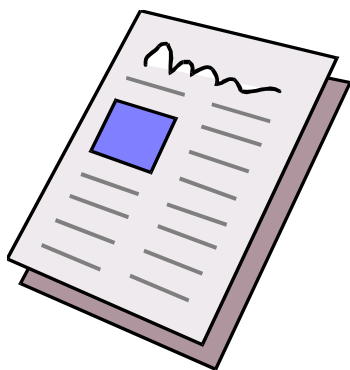
Attendees discussed the implications of the new guidelines and were given time to ask questions on how they can best implement changes into their own classrooms and programs. Questions gener-

ated from these forums were compiled and addressed during a podcast with Carol Copple and Sue Bredekamp, editors of DAP.

Thanks to all who participated in this endeavor as planners, facilitators and attendees. It was truly a collaborative effort. NAEYC thanks you.



Newsletter submissions



What kind of articles and information would you like to see in the KAECE newsletter? Do you enjoy tips for teachers? Would you like to see your program highlighted or learn about what other programs are doing? Would you like to write and submit an article?

We'd like to hear from you!
Please contact the newsletter editor, Helene Harte at newsletter@kaece.org

Kentucky Association for Early Childhood
Education

Phone: 866-514-7265
Fax: 502-607-0771
E-mail: business@KAECE.org

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/>

Please join us for the 2009 KAECE-KHSA Institute

Location: James E. Bruce Convention Center
303 Conference Center Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240

Dates: October 1–3, 2009

Theme: “Children Are Not Things to be Molded, But Are
People to be Unfolded”

Deadline for proposal submission: Friday July 31, 2009

Early Bird Registration Deadline: September 8, 2009

All mailed or faxed registrations must be received
by September 18, 2009

Please visit our website for conference information, regis-
tration materials, the call for proposals, hotel information
and driving directions.

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



KAECE
649 Charity Court
Suite 1
Frankfort, KY 40601

KAECE Member Name
Street Address
City, KY ZIP Code
