

AAEYC NEWSLETTER

Austin Association for the Education of Young Children
825 East 53rd 1/2 St.
Austin, TX 78751

A Note From Our President By Amanda Hernandez

Dear AAEYC Members:

It is hard to believe that two years have passed and a new year is ahead of us. It has been a wonderful experience for me serving as your President. As I reflect in my role as your President, I have had the pleasure of making new acquaintances, representing you in the community and working along the side of a dedicated board.

AAEYC has accomplished many things this past year. I can only thank the dedication of the board members in helping me fulfill the organization's goals. This past year we have worked to meet the NAEYC *Affiliate Restructuring Process* requirements. It has taken our affiliate a year to meet the requirements for this process and I am happy to say that we have completed the requirements and will continue to maintain them.

Throughout the year, we have had many projects that have included other partners in the community. These partners have collaborated with us to continue serving the membership, children and families in the community. We have continued



our partnerships in the following projects: "Dia de los Ninos, Dia de los Libros Fair", Connections Annual "Celebration of Families" and our "Week of the Young Child" Events where we partner with Austin Families, Inc., the Fund for Excellence-Child Care Career Center, South Austin Professional Home Child Care Association and the WorkSource- Greater Austin Area Workforce Board. Through these partnerships, we are able to share costs, reach our local and rural community providers and provide quality services to all. In the year ahead, I look forward to AAEYC continuing their upcoming Annual AAEYC local training conference and the "Week of the Young Child." This past year we had a wonderful reception with over 400 participants in recognizing providers

and a successful rally at our state capitol steps and rallied for the Children of Texas. I hope that we can continue to rally and support the children, families and providers with the upcoming elections. I encourage each of you to continue your efforts in advocating for children and your profession. You can make a difference if we all join as one in advocating for the children, families and providers of Texas.

The Austin Association for the Education of Young Children has grown and accomplished much more due to collaborations with other organizations. I thank you for the honor of serving as your President and will continue to serve on the board as Past-President. I look forward to working along side with your new President, Kathleen Bradley and the board. I will also serve on the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children Board as Co-Chairperson for the 2005 TAEYC conference that will be here in Austin. If you would like to assist in anyway with the state

December 2003

Newsletter Editor:
Cindy Gamez

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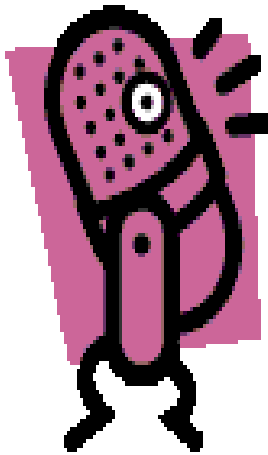
conference, please do not hesitate to contact me. Remember, together we can make a difference!

Your friend in children,
Amanda R. Hernandez
President, 2001 - 2003

CALLING ALL DIRECTORS by Sue Gartner

AAEYC is continuing to build a network to link Child Care Directors and Family Child Care Providers to AAEYC activities and related events in Austin. We plan to introduce an AAEYC Website in the Spring to provide better access to information for members and providers in our area. Each spring the excitement of the Week of the Young Child, the annual Awards Reception and our Spring Conference bring us together and we hope to make the coming year the best yet. So be watching for new developments!

If you are interested in connecting to other NAEYC Members and the Austin Child Care community or participating in Week of the Young Child planning or a local NAEYC Accreditation Network, send your



email contact information to Sue Gartner at sgartner@austinctc.edu. Please specify if your primary interest is Accreditation or Week of the Young Child activities.

Schedule of Events

- 12/8—AAEYC Board Mtg
- 12/15—Draft Criteria posted on NAEYC website for input
- 1/12/04—AAEYC Board Mtg
- Jan 2004—TAEYC Winter Board Mtg
- Jan 2004—New Board member / officer transition
- Feb 2004—final draft of criteria posted on NAEYC Website
- 2/9/04—AAEYC Board Mtg
- 3/8/04—AAEYC Board Mtg
- 4/3/04—Celebration of Families
- 4/12/04—AAEYC Board Mtg
- 4/18-4/24—Week of the Young Child
- April 2004—Awards Banquet
- 5/17/04—AAEYC Conference
- Fall 2004—new accreditation assessment instruments field tested in several sites around the country



RESTRUCTURING UPDATE BY MARY JAMSEK

Restructuring—when you hear this word do you think “Oh no, not again!”, “Restructuring still?”, or “Restructuring, what’s that?” Well, whatever your response, the news about Restructuring is good—we are nearly finished with the 3 years of planning and reorganizing!

For those of you new to AEEYC, here’s a brief recap of the Restructuring process. About 5 years ago, National AEEYC recognized that membership in NAEYC has risen dramatically and the old way of conducting business, both at the National and Local level no longer worked. At the National level, many aspects of the organization became streamlined and modernized including membership processing, data collection, assistance to affiliates, advocacy action and publications

distribution. Of course, reworking the system at the National level wouldn’t have been enough so three years ago work on Restructuring and reaffiliation at the State and Local level began in earnest. In order to be reaffiliated with the state and national organization, AAEYC needed to complete requirements similar to the state and submit them for verification of reaffiliation. We have collected data from members and early childhood professionals, we have looked at demographic trends in Texas and across the nation, we have written job descriptions and policies, we have re-examined our bylaws (and we’ll be voting on them soon) and business practices, we have discovered the power of marketing, we have dreamed

what we want to be—and then set up the systems to make it happen. Through each step we have been supported by the State organization, which also worked through the same processes.

At the State level this summer we looked at our perceptions of what AEEYC is and what we want it to be. We also wrote analysis reports in the areas of Business Practices, Organizational Development, Programs and Services, External Assessment, and Membership and presented them to the membership as represented by the TAEYC Board. Happily we found that our hard data dovetailed closely with the hopes and dreams of the TAEYC membership. The remainder of the summer has been taken up with com-

RESTRUCTURING (cont.)

pleting our strategic reports and developing objectives, goals and action plans to become the organization our members want us to be. We are very close to the finish line and will have our validation visit (similar to an accreditation visit) with our Affiliate Advisor on December 6.

At the Local level, the summer was spent gathering information, organizing our business practices, and writing our own goals, objectives and action plans and putting items in our box in

preparation for AAEYC's validation at the TAEYC Conference in Corpus

tion for the Education of Young Children—we need those of you who have new ideas for reaching current members and early childhood professionals not well represented in AAEYC, we need those of you who know how to make our conference and training opportunities even more effective than they already are, we need those of you who can turn a clever phrase and who want to let others know what AAEYC means to you as an early childhood professional, we need those of you who want to develop your leadership skills through working on a committee or serving as a chair, we need each and every one of you who ever said “You

Christi October 2-4—and the good news is that we are one item away from completing our box!!!!

The members of your AAEYC board have worked diligently to prepare for this new AEYC era. We are on track to be reaffiliated with TAEYC, and consequently NAEYC.

“The members of your AAEYC board have worked diligently to prepare for this new AEYC era. We are on track to be reaffiliated with TAEYC, and consequently NAEYC.”



know AAEYC would be better if only...”. Austin AEYC will only be a good as you make it.



Re-working the system to be reaffiliated with the state and national level.

But of course, our work doesn't end here. Now that we have established a firm foundation for our AEYC, we can begin the exciting work of implementation. New programs and services to look for in the near future are an AAEYC website, increased membership marketing and services, and the expansion of our membership to include the members of the former Brazos Valley AEYC. And remember, the new term, Local Affiliate Chapter means the same as the old term, Affiliate.

Please take this opportunity to become more involved in your Austin Associa-

TREASURER'S REPORT by

Charlotte Bird

Total Income: \$16, 296.88.

Total Expenses: \$11, 259.06.

Marion Monroe Scholarship = \$2000

Reggio Emilia Support Group = \$2, 605.44

Spring Conference 2003:

Gross = \$12, 562.45.

Expenses = \$4, 967.83.

Conference net = \$7, 594.62

As of September 30, 2003 the checking account balance is \$20, 180.42.

WHAT IS A CLUSTER AND WHY DO WE HAVE ONE? By Mary Jamsek

If you haven't noticed already, you will be finding out soon that Austin AEYC has expanded. As part of Restructuring, Texas Local Affiliate Chapters (formerly Affiliates) have examined their structure and support systems, and some have decided to dissolve and others have chosen to cluster with a nearby Local Affiliate Chapter (LAC). In the Central Texas area we have had some major changes. The Waco LAC has chosen to dissolve. Some of their former members may join

with Austin AEYC. The Brazos Valley LAC (College Station area) has chosen to become a Cluster Group of Austin AEYC! This an exciting, and pioneering, move on the part of Brazos Valley and Austin. Members of the Brazos Valley Cluster will be members of Austin AEYC and maintain their own activities as well as participate in and contribute to Austin programs and services. Austin will gain new members, new

energy, new ideas, and be able to reach more early childhood professionals in central Texas, as will the Brazos Valley Cluster of Austin AEYC.

If you would like more information about clustering, please contact Mary Jamsek at mjamsek@attglobal.net or at 795 8628.

HELPING TODDLERS BECOME PROBLEM SOLVERS

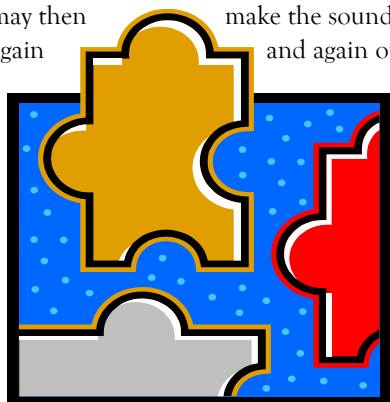
All parents and teachers have seen the unique ability of toddlers to use toys and materials in unexpected ways. One child may turn a cup into a hammer or a basket into a hat. Another toddler may stand on a riding truck to try to reach a toy or pull over a chair to climb onto a bookshelf. Observant adults recognize these innovations as signs that children are learning to use their thinking skills to solve problems.

Experiences in problem solving help children develop curiosity and patience, along with thinking skills such as flexibility, and understanding of cause and ef-



fect. They learn to work toward achieving a goal, and gain confidence in their ability to reach a solution.

Even very young children make discoveries on their own. An infant who accidentally creates a noise with a rattle may then make the sound again and again on



purpose. An older infant discovers that by looking under a blanket, he can find a hidden toy. A toddler who cannot pull a wagon up a hill by herself learns that she and a friend can push it up from behind.

By not rushing in and rescuing young children who are facing minor everyday problems, adults can help infants and toddlers develop confidence and increase their thinking abilities.

It's also helpful for parents and teachers to provide materials that encourage children to explore. Some toys, such as

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jack-in-the-boxes and busy boxes, provide opportunities to explore simple cause-and-effect relationships. Other common materials like empty cardboard boxes, plastic bowls, or scarves can provide open-ended experiences through which toddlers can make choices and decisions, and find different ways to manipulate the materials.

Other activities can involve materials

ramps of wooden blocks, a toddler can watch what happens as objects roll down inside the tubes. She may discover that some objects roll faster than others. He may learn about actions and reactions when he sets plastic bottles at the bottom of the ramp to create a unique bowling game.



Other activities can involve materials such as clear plastic tubing (such as the tubing used for aquariums) which children can fill with bright materials, and watch the materials move as they shake the tubes. If you provide inclines or

solving, remember to be very careful about choking hazards.)

These everyday materials are fun, and can hold children's interest for long periods. They also help children experiment with cause and effect and with gravity and physics. In addition to supporting cognitive development, problem-solving activities help in the social arena as well. Groups of children

engaged in these activities negotiate with their friends and learn how to solve interpersonal problems. By providing interesting materials and enthusiastically reinforcing children's attempts to explore and solve problems, parents and teachers can stimulate children's development, promote advanced critical thinking, and help children take pride in

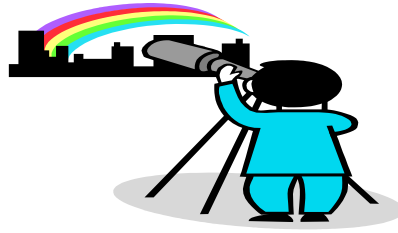
their own abilities to find out more about how their world works.

Excerpted from “Using Everyday Materials to Promote Problem Solving in Toddlers” by Laura Segatti, Judy Brown-DuPaul, and Tracy L. Keyes – an article in the NAEYC journal, Young Children.

THE FUTURE OF NAEYC ACCREDITATION IS COMING

Your Input is Needed Now!

As a crucial step in building the future of NAEYC Accreditation, the Commission on NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria has drafted 10 explicit standards for programs serving children from birth through kindergarten. (In the future system, programs seeking NAEYC Accreditation will have to demonstrate compliance with each of these standards - a change designed to increase the credibility and reliability of the system.) The program standards/criteria commission is now focused on developing accredita-



tion performance criteria for each standard, and designing new accreditation assessment instruments. These materials are essential to the success of the future of NAEYC Accreditation, and the commission is eager to receive your input on the draft accreditation per-

formance criteria.

All of the draft accreditation performance criteria will be on the NAEYC Web site in mid-December. Please visit www.naeyc.org/accreditation to review the criteria and provide your input and comments.

The program standards/criteria commission will review the input and suggestions, and post a final draft of the accreditation performance criteria in late February 2004. We'll ask for your feedback again at that point, but the best time to add your experience and



perspective to the development of the new criteria is now! Please visit the NAEYC Web site and participate in this important dialogue, and please encourage others to participate as well.

The draft NAEYC early childhood program standards are also available for review on the Web. The NAEYC Governing Board recently approved the draft standards, which describe early

childhood programs that consistently promote positive learning and developmental outcomes for all young children, including children with disabilities.

"Please visit www.naeyc.org/accreditation to review the criteria and provide your input and comments."

Next Steps toward the Future of NAEYC Accreditation

December 2003 - draft criteria posted on NAEYC Web site for input and comments.

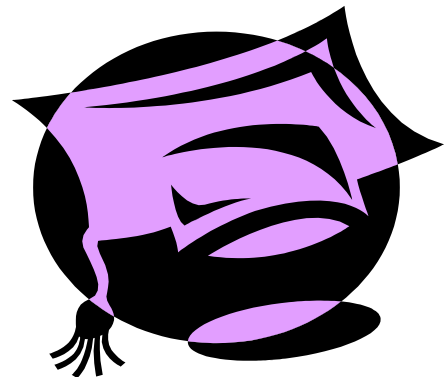
February 2004 - final draft of criteria posted on NAEYC Web site.

Fall 2004 - new accreditation assessment instruments field tested in several sites around the country.

CHILD CARE CAREER CENTER UPDATE by Laura Koenig

The Child Care Career Center is celebrating its first year of operation! After graduating the first entry level training class in August 2002, the Career Center is happy to announce that already 33 graduates have been at the same Child Development Program for over a year. The goal of the career center is to improve and enhance child care services in the greater Austin area through quality training, job placement, and mentoring of the child care workforce.

Please contact the Child Care Career Center today if you are interested in registering for any of our free programs or signing up for the job bank, our phone number is (512) 458-9437. The Child Care Career Center is a program of the Fund for Child Care Excellence, a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the quality, accessibility and affordability of the child care in the greater Austin area.



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FALL 2003 DIRECTORS' SYMPOSIUM *by Cindy Gamez*

This past October 30th–November 1st was the Fall 2003 Directors' Symposium held at the Austin Marriott North at La Frontera in Round Rock. Close to 300 participants attended. Hosted by *WorkSource*–Greater Austin Area Workforce Board and Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board, the Symposium once again brought business management training to directors, registered home providers, administrators and assistant directors. 12 clock hours were issued to participants attending all sessions. The *WorkSource* board and Rural Workforce Commission Regional Collaboration Grant to hold three more conferences next year. A third

board, Central Texas, has been invited to host the event in an effort to expand to the Killeen, Temple and Belton area. An early literacy forum has also been proposed to kick off the three day symposium. If the grant is awarded, the first of the three conferences will be held in Temple, TX in early Spring 2004 with the second and third coming in Summer and Fall 2004 in Round Rock and Austin, respectively. Partners for the Symposium are Austin Families, Inc., AAAYC, ACC, Connections, The Fund for Child Care Excellence, NACCP, Raising Austin, Rural CCMS, TDPRS -Child Care Licensing and *WorkSource*–Child

Care Solutions.



Board members Cleo Rodriguez and Amanda Hernandez working the limbo