



SAzAEYC Elects Governing Board Members for 2009 Positions

Congratulations to our new 2009 SAzAEYC Board members! Our newly elected Members At Large are: **Michelle Garmon**, Director of St. Thomas the Apostle Preschool; **Iliana Reyes**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Language, Reading, and Culture, College of Education at the University of Arizona; **Wendy Flynn**, Director of Adventure School; **Ana Christina Iddings**, professor of Early Childhood Language and Literacy Education at the University of Arizona; and **Amber Cheyne**, Infant/Toddler Care trainer at Child & Family Resources. Our new Student Representative is **Shayna Smith**, a teacher at St. Mark's Preschool and a Pima Community College student.

Several Board members were re-elected to service. **Diana Hill**, Director of Tucson Community School, assumes her role as President after spending last year as President Elect. **Gloria Williams**, Director of the Amado Even Start Program in the Sahuarita Unified School District, is returning as President Elect after having served as Member At Large. **Erin Daga**, a stay-at-home mom and Early Childhood consultant, will continue in her role as Board Secretary. **Mary Jo Schwartz**, the Director of Community Partnerships for Child-Parent Centers, Inc., has moved from being a Member At Large to

serving as Treasurer. **Shanna Kukla**, Manager of the Center for Early Childhood Studies at Pima Community College, is now the Vice President for Services; she was previously serving as Treasurer. **Ann Clifford**, Director of Little Sprouts, returns as the Vice President for Organizational Development. **Mike Russo**, who is the Director at the Davis-Monthan AFB Family Member Programs Child Development Center, returns as a Member At Large.

Returning Board members are **Sue Eck**, Past President; **Jill Morgan**, Vice President for Support; **Jaymie Jacobs**, Vice President of Volunteer Opportunities; **Naomi Karp**, NAEYC Liaison and Liaison to the State Affiliate; **Cari Christoff**, Member At Large; and **Sibianne Martinez**, Member At Large.

The composition of our current board is diverse with representation from university and community college systems, teachers/directors, Early Childhood consultants, parents, grandparents, and members representing community agencies. The Board welcomes your comments and hopes you will participate in service opportunities for SAzAEYC throughout the year. (See article below for an opportunity to help with the annual conference!)

SAzAEYC Annual Conference: Join the Planning Committee

Greetings and Happy New Year! Here are some reasons to help plan the 2009 SAzAEYC Conference...

...You want to make a difference in our community, and you and your talents will add to the quality of the 2009 SAzAEYC Conference.

...You are pragmatic and want to make sure the conference meets your needs as an early care and education professional. No problem! Come on along and make sure we get it right!

...You want to hang out with some fun and interesting people and do some cool stuff while you're socializing. You would be hard-pressed to find a more dynamic and creative group of folks to be with.

Whatever your motivation, please come!

The SAzAEYC Conference Committee will meet every two weeks at 4:30pm at Child & Family Resources, 2800 E. Broadway.

Upcoming Meetings will be held on January 26, February 9, and February 23

from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Child & Family Resource's Primrose Room, 2800 E. Broadway..

We will be considering the conference date, location, theme and more. To RSVP or ask questions contact Shanna Kukla 206-5245 or smkukla@aol.com

We welcome participation by our membership so that this year's conference can engage even more of our early childhood community than ever before. Thank you for your support and service!



More NAEYC Accredited Centers!

Congratulations to the following centers who recently achieved NAEYC Accreditation under the new standards:

The Center for Adolescent Parents (TCAP)

We are very proud to have such high-quality programs in our community!



President's Letter

January is a good time for new leadership. Be it at the local level, state level with our governor, or with a new national president; in January, the month of new beginnings, we welcome and embrace change.

I am honored to be your new SAzAEYC president, and thrilled to witness the inauguration of a United States president who is committed to the education of all children beginning with young children. The potential of this moment in history is extraordinary. I don't carry the responsibility for change Mr. Obama shoulders, nor must I grapple with the issues which confront him and our nation, but I am supported by your energy and the wisdom of our SAzAEYC Board. We will move ahead to improve the quality of education and life for young children in Southern Arizona.

The new year promises opportunities and challenges for SAzAEYC. Arizona children will begin receiving the benefits of funding from First Things First. There is opportunity for SAzAEYC to request funds for improving education for young children through training or resource development. The third revision of Developmentally Appropriate Practices has been published, and we will host meetings to present this document and ideas for our members, potential members, and friends of young children. Our new Vice President of Services, Shanna Kukla, welcomes you to participate in planning this year's conference. We know you have opinions; come put them in action. My goal for SAzAEYC is to increase our professional identity. We all have the potential to increase our knowledge and skill, to connect and support each

other in our work with young children, and to view ourselves as leaders.

Our challenges will be two-fold: fiscal and operational. The state of Arizona is working to solve a budget deficit and it is possible there will be cuts in education. The infant through preschool years are not our only concern. Early Education extends to third grade. Our high quality beginnings with young children must be supported by quality education in the elementary school years and beyond. Helping children be physically, emotionally, socially, creatively and intellectually excited to learn is our task. We must continue to be voices for children.

As an organization we are in transition. Physically we have moved to a new office location. We will be hiring a permanent,

part-time Association Manager. Many of our association leaders in the past five years are now working tirelessly to make First Things First a reality or moving into Early Education positions in government or state agencies. We have cause to celebrate that these knowledgeable people are moving into decision-making positions. This creates a membership opportunity. Challenge yourself to volunteer in your professional organization. Come to meetings; they will be informative and fun. Join a committee; you will make new friends and learn something new. Volunteer 15 minutes to write a letter or make a phone call. Being involved is free and will be rewarding.

Sincerely,

Diana Hill

Comunicacion del Presidente

Enero es tiempo para nuevos líderes. Sea en el nivel local, o nivel estatal con un gobernador nuevo, o con el nuevo Presidente: en Enero, el mes de empiezos nuevos, le damos el bien venido y abrazamos el cambio.

Yo tengo el honor de ser su nuevo presidente de SAzAEYC, y estoy encantada de ser testigo de la inauguración del Presidente de Los Estados Unidos que está comprometido con la educación de todos los niños empezando con los niños más pequeños. El potencial de este momento en historia es extraordinario. Yo no llevo la responsabilidad para el cambio en los hombros como el Sr. Obama, y tampoco tengo que esforzarme para resolver los problemas que se le enfrentan a él y a nuestra nación, pero ustedes me apoyan con su energía y sabiduría de nuestra mesa directiva de SAzAEYC. Seguiremos adelante para mejorar la calidad de educación y vida de los niños

en el Sur de Arizona.

El nuevo año nos promete oportunidades y retos para SAzAEYC. Los niños de Arizona empezaran a recibir beneficios de los fondos de First Things First. Abra oportunidad para SAzAEYC que haga peticiones de fondos para mejorar la educación de los niños por medio de talleres o por medio del desarrollo de recursos. La tercer revisión de Developmentally Appropriate Practices se hizo pública y nosotros presentaremos este documento y ideas a nuestros miembros y miembros potenciales y amigos de niños. Nuestra nueva Vicepresidente de Servicios, Shanna Kukla los invita que participen en el planeamiento de la conferencia de este año. Sabemos que tienen opiniones; vengan y pónganlas en práctica. Mi meta para SAzAEYC es aumentar nuestra identidad profesional. Todos tenemos el potencial para aumentar nuestro conocimiento y habilidad, para conec-

tar y apoyarnos en nuestro trabajo con los niños, y para vernos como líderes.

Nuestros retos serán doble: Fiscal y operacional. El estado de Arizona está trabajando para resolver el presupuesto y es posible que corten en educación. Los años de niñez a preescolar no son las únicas preocupaciones. La educación temprana se extiende hacia el tercer grado. Nuestros comienzos tempranos de alta calidad con los niños debe ser apoyada por la calidad de educación en la primaria y mas allá. Nuestro trabajo es ayudándoles a los niños que estén listos físicamente, emocionalmente, socialmente, cognitivamente y con creatividad para aprender. Debemos continuar siendo las voces de los niños.

Como una organización estamos en transición. Físicamente nos hemos cambiado a un local nuevo. Vamos a emplear un Maneja-

dor permanente para la Organización de medio tiempo. Muchos de nuestros líderes de la asociación de los últimos cinco años ahora están trabajando incansablemente asegurando que First Things First sea una realidad o están en agencias de gobierno o estatal en posiciones de Educación Temprana. Tenemos causa para celebrar que estas personas están en posiciones en las que pueden tomar decisiones. Esto crea oportunidades de membresía. Hágase su reto personal y sea un voluntario en su organización profesional. Venga a las juntas, serán informativas y divertidas. Participe en un comité, encontrara nuevos amigos y aprenderá algo nuevo. Dese 15 minutos para escribir una carta o hacer una llamada. Es libre y da gratificación.

Sinceramente,

Diana Hill



Sensory Integration Dysfunction: A Silent Disorder in a Noisy World

Sensory integration dysfunction (SI) is a complex neurological disorder. Research, new technology, effective interventions, and changes to our social environment have combined to promote public understanding of this often quiet challenge to childhood growth and development. SI is seen in many varied populations, including children born prematurely; children with autism spectrum disorders; children deprived of sensory input through neglect; and the gifted.

The term sensory processing disorder (SPD) is now used interchangeably with SI. Both refer to the complex overlap of sensory and perceptual pathways in the brain which, when not integrated effectively, causes many problems for the developing child. The purpose of this overlap in our brains is primarily to enable the body to plan motor responses to the surrounding world. Therefore, the problems posed by SPD can often be glimpsed through poor coordination; difficulty with walking or running; or avoidance of risky physical tasks such as jumping or climbing.

When there is difficulty in the brain with interpreting sensory stimulation, it can also be perceived as a threat and cause the body to react to it as such

(fight, flight, or freeze). Therefore children with SPD can display many other problematic behaviors, including attention and regulatory problems; sensory defensiveness; problems with activity levels; and negative behaviors. These coping mechanisms can cause children to fall behind academically in school and isolate them socially.

Therapeutic interventions have been derived, however, to help the SPD child enhance performance and enjoy daily life. A combination of strengthening, balance conditioning, desensitization, and adaptation techniques seems to be the most effective and is usually administered by an occupational therapist. And, in learning about SPD and its consequences for vulnerable children, parents, teachers, and other service providers can become partners to the child in easing discomfort; and aid them in eventually reaching their full potential despite this silent disorder.

—Submitted by *Jordana Saletan, M.S.W.*
Early Childhood Family Therapist,
Easter Seals Blake Foundation

NEW Early Childhood Certification Update

Birth - Kindergarten public school teachers must hold an Early Childhood certificate or endorsement by July 1, 2012.

New options for the Early Childhood Endorsement:

•Option A:

- Valid Arizona Elementary or Arizona Special Education teaching certificate
- 21 semester hours required in early childhood coursework
- 4 semester hours practicum or one year teaching in birth-preschool
- 4 semester hours student teaching or one year teaching in K-3
- Passing score on the AEPA **Early Childhood Subject Knowledge (# 36)** exam

•Option B:

- Valid Arizona Elementary or Arizona Special Education teaching certificate
- 4 semester hours practicum or one year teaching in birth-preschool
- 4 semester hours practicum or one year teaching in K-3.
- Passing score on the AEPA **Early Childhood Subject Knowledge (# 36)** exam
- Passing score on the AEPA **Early Childhood Professional Knowledge (# 93)** exam

•Option C:

- A valid Arizona Elementary or Arizona Special Education certificate issued prior to July 1, 2012
- 3 years of Birth-grade 3 teaching experience within 10 years prior to July 1, 2012
- Passing score on the AEPA **Early Childhood Subject Knowledge (# 36)** exam

For more information visit www.ade.az.gov/certification/

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Mini-Grant Update: Summer Read Program for Prince Head Start

It has been said that everything begins with an idea. The Summer Read program was just that, an idea. I participated in the Emergent Leaders Program in 2008 and was required to develop an idea that would benefit the children and families within the community as well as our Head Start families. Little did I realize that the project would take on a life of its own!

In my center, I noticed a need for a reading program that was adult-oriented with a focus on reading techniques that parents could incorporate during home reading time and that would assist with the retention of concepts and language through the summer recess. I was encouraged to apply for a SAzAEYC mini-grant to assist with the cost of the materials for the Summer Read program.

I had never applied for a grant nor did I have great hopes that I would be the recipient of one of the three grants awarded. After all, there were many applicants with equally wonderful ideas and projects.

I submitted the mini-grant application in February and received a grant of \$250 to purchase books from Lakeshore for the program. I began refining Summer Read and making an idea become reality. A small group of parents met over the summer at Woods Library each Monday for one hour. The topics ranged from why parents



Above: Parents and children participate in the Summer Read Program!

should read to their child to extending concepts and language using children's books. The response was very positive, and each participant felt as though they gained valuable knowledge about literacy and the importance of their role in the education of their child.

I have received much interest in the upcoming Summer Read and a small idea lives on!

—Submitted by Tamara Paganini,
Director, Prince Head Start

What's On the Web? Check it Out...

Math and number activities, ideas and information!

Kids Chalk Board at <http://www.kidschalkboard.com>
This website by Patricia Caskey is loaded with ideas on how to enhance math and number skills in early childhood programs. Click on "Alphabet and Number Activities" or "Math and Science Activities" in the left hand menu.

PBS Teacher Source Site at <http://www.pbs.org/teacherosource>
Click on Early Childhood Educators on the left, and then pick your age range and subject matter. Under Math, there are topics such as problem solving, data analysis, numbers and operations, and geometry and spatial sense. Set aside some time to explore this PBS site! You will find a wealth of information and activities.

What is Mathematics? at <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/EarlyMath>
This article explains the importance of math for young children. The best part is a 4 part section called "Activities for Your Day" that describes how to enhance math skills during the routine of a young child's day, such as getting up in the morning, taking a ride in the car, going to the store or waiting in the doctors office.

For the NAEYC Position Statement on early childhood mathematics, go to www.naeyc.org and click on **Publications**. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and under **Related Information**, click on **Read NAEYC Position Statements**. Click on **Early Childhood Mathematics: Promoting Good Beginnings** and then click on the position statement or the position statement summary.

—Submitted by Vickie Young-Chiverton,
Former SAzAEYC Board Member and ECE Professor, Central AZ College

BOND Conference—Save the Date!

Building Optimal Nurturing and Development (BOND) presents Adverse Childhood Experiences: Long Term Impact on Our Children and Community. The conference will be held on May 7, 2009 at Skyline Country Club in Tucson. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Vincent Felitti, Principal Investigator, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. Mark your calendars! For more information on the web, go to www.arizonabond.org.

SAzAEYC Professional Development Funds

SAzAEYC has funds available each year to support professional development activities for its members. Any SAzAEYC member who is in good standing (dues are up-to-date) may request financial support for professional development activities. Funds may be used to support travel costs like hotel, air fare/mileage, and/or conference or workshop registration costs.

Only one application per individual will be accepted each year. Recipients will be asked to make a presentation to the Board, write a short article for this newsletter, or present at the annual SAzAEYC conference about the class/workshop attended and how what was learned will inform classroom practice.

For an application, please send an email request to sazzymanager@gmail.com.



Quality First! Applications Now Being Accepted

Elliott Hibbs, Executive Director of *First Things First*, announced that Arizona's quality improvement and rating system for early care and education programs, *Quality First!* will begin accepting applications for participation from centers and homes on January 12, 2009.

"Over the next few months, 200 centers and 100 homes statewide will be selected and provided with financial incentives, professional development opportunities, coaching, child care health consultation and other supports to help build on the existing system of early care and education for Arizona's youngest children," said Director Hibbs.

"Not only will *Quality First!* result in children who are more ready to succeed in school

and in life, the program is also an economic development tool that will infuse both financial and human capital across all of Arizona to strengthen the infrastructure of child care and support working parents."

Arizona has joined the ranks of seventeen other states that have already implemented a quality rating systems. Thirty other states are investigating or piloting programs to dramatically improve the quality of care for young children. Arizona's *Quality First!* is unique in that it's both a quality **improvement** and rating system.

"Quality First! is good news for parents who will become better able to make informed decisions about child care and early education based on evidence-based quality

improvement measures," said Nadine Mathis Basha, Chair of the *First Things First*/ Early Childhood Development and Health Board, who oversees the program.

"Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. But the fact is that many children are in early care and education settings for up to 10 hours per day, and those children deserve quality programs that address each child's developmental needs."

Arizona voters provided the funding for this statewide quality improvement program through a 2006 voter passed initiative, Proposition 203, that adds a tax on tobacco products. For more information, call 602-771-5038 or go to www.azftf.gov.

NAEYC and AzAEYC Governing Board Elections—Please Vote!

You should have received your **NAEYC Governing Board Election** materials. Every member of NAEYC will again have 3 options for voting: on the internet, by touch-tone phone, or by the traditional mail-in ballot. Select the one that will work best for you. It will take no more than 10 minutes out of your life – PLEASE VOTE!

When you open the envelope from NAEYC you will find:

- **A brochure, Election News. It has information about the 10 candidates who are running for President, Treasurer, and for 3 At-Large seats on the Governing Board. Read this carefully before you begin to vote.**
- **A piece of paper with instructions about how you can vote in 1 of 3 ways.**
- **An envelope.**

Below is a quick description of what you will need to do in order to vote:

- **Vote on the internet** at www.vres.usnaeyc.html – The directions will appear on the computer screen. You will need to keep the paper with the instructions near you because it has the access numbers.
- **Vote by touch-tone phone** - Call 1-800-223-9572 and follow the directions that you will hear. You will need to keep the paper with the instructions near you because it has the access numbers.

- **Vote by mail-in ballot** – The ballot is at the bottom of the 1-page sheet; Mark a total of 5 choices on the ballot, cut it off the page, put it in the envelope, and mail it. You do not even need to put a postage stamp on the envelope.

The NAEYC Governing Board is delighted to be able to give members options for casting their ballots. We heard members' requests for on-line voting and even took the process one more step by offering a telephone voting option.

All of our members now have a voting option that best meets each person's needs. Thus, I am asking all of you to **PLEASE VOTE BEFORE MARCH 1, 2008. PHONE AND INTERNET VOTES MUST BE COMPLETED BY 4:00 PM, ARIZONA TIME, MARCH 1, 2008. MAIL-IN BALLOTS MUST BE POST-MARKED BY MARCH 1, 2008.** Please vote as soon as you open your envelope. We all know that if we wait to vote, the chances are good that it won't happen.

No one should have an excuse for not voting. We have excellent candidates. Please, please, please take 10 minutes and show that you are a professional by voting in your professional organization's annual election.

AzAEYC Governing Board elections will also be happening in January. Watch your mailbox for the ballot, and again, please cast your vote.

"I recently learned that in an average lifetime a person walks about sixty-five thousand miles. That's two and a half times around the world. I wonder where your steps will take you. I wonder how you'll use the rest of the miles you're given."

— Fred Rogers



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Be Informed! Sign Up for SAzAEYC, AzAEYC & NAEYC Listservs

Join the SAzAEYC and AzAEYC Listservs
Join your colleagues on listservs especially for Arizona AEYC members and community leaders! There is no cost, no cookies and no commercials! Announcements, job postings, special events, and legislative updates are exchanged through the listservs. When you send information or questions to the listserv, everyone currently subscribed will receive your message at the same time! Please email sazymanager@gmail.com if you would like to join either or both of the listservs. When enrolled, email from the listserv will show up as [SAzAEYC] or [AzAEYC] in the subject line. If you would like to send out a message to the listservs, the addresses are sazaeyc@lists.nationwide.net and azaeyc@lists.nationwide.net.

Sign up for the NAEYC Champion's Listserv
The NAEYC Listserv will notify you of important federal legislative issues that affect early childhood. To join, log onto www.NAEYC.org/childrens_champions and click on "Join Our Email List." After filling out your contact information, you will receive an email. Make sure to reply to the email—this ensures your information is correct.

SAzAEYC Membership

The mission of SAzAEYC is to "Serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights and well being of all young children with primary focus on provisions of educational and developmental services and resources." SAzAEYC, as an affiliate chapter, supports the national mission and encourages this through local goals.

Membership benefits in SAzAEYC include the following: NAEYC & Arizona AEYC membership, subscription to *Young Children* professional journal, discounted registrations to some conferences, and opportunities to apply for mini-grants, which are given away at the Annual Awards Brunch each spring, and much more!

Membership dues are:
Student—\$40
Regular—\$55
Comprehensive—\$90

Sign up at www.NAEYC.org or contact Ann Clifford at (520) 352-3999 or aclifford@cfraz.org.