



Advocacy In Action

“Be a Voice” became the mantra of the SAzAEYC Public Policy and Advocacy Committee during the 2006 Legislative Session. It was the goal of the committee to take an active role in advocating for children as decisions regarding child care, full-day kindergarten and health care for children were being made in our state's capitol. The Committee collaborated with Children's Action Alliance (CAA) and Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition (PAFCO) and as a result of these partnerships, was able to make strides in meeting our goals.



SAzAEYC Children's Advocacy Committee

Committee Chair

Diane Umstead, SAzAEYC
Vice-President of Public Policy

Committee Members

Monica Brinkerhoff
Jessica Brisson
Connie Espinoza
Enrique Feldman
Jill Rosenzweig
Sally Syphrit
Vanessa Verduzco

The committee, recognizing the impact a single voice can make, worked diligently to promote increased voter registration in the early childhood education community. As part of this commitment to increase voter registration and voter education, we sponsored a PAFCO Advocacy Training for child care professionals. As a representative of SAzAEYC, Diane Umstead, our committee chairperson, was also asked to facilitate a second Advocacy workshop at the Child and Family Resources' 23rd Annual Child Care Conference and also to serve as moderator for a question and answer session with several key legislators.

Members of the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee were active advocates throughout the legislative session. They attended many Public Policy meetings and events. They were proud to be present as Mayor Walkup declared April as the “Month of the Young Child.” The committee, as supporters of the First Things First initiative, also circulated petitions and collected signatures. Committee

members in their continued efforts to “Be A Voice,” contacted their legislators often during the session; some being able to visit the capitol and personally meet with their representatives. As we reflect on the accomplishments of this past year, the committee looks forward to continue their efforts in greater force during the 2007 legislative session.

Submitted by Connie Espinoza, SAzAEYC Children's Advocacy Committee Member



Letter from the President

Hello Everyone. Over the summer the SAzAEYC Board continues work to further our goal of increasing educational opportunities for early childhood professionals in Southern Arizona. I want to tell you about some of the activities that are being planned now and will be offered to our early childhood community in the next year.

The 2007 conference, “How Young Children Learn” will be held at the University of Arizona, College of Education, on Saturday, October 7. Marilou Hyson, NAEYC Associate Director for Professional Development, will be our keynote speaker. Look for conference information in this issue of the newsletter and you will receive your registration form in the mail.

The Pima County Superintendent's office, Tucson Unified School District, the University of Arizona, the Jewish Community Center and SAzAEYC collaborate to present 3 evening seminars for early childhood educators each year. The first seminar will be a lively and fun presentation by Enrique Feldman of the FAME Foundation who will present, “Using the Arts to Guide Children into Champions” on Monday, October 23, at the Jewish Community Center.

In addition, SAzAEYC has two special interest committees that are planning educational opportunities. The Tucson Children's Project is a special interest committee that meets to learn and share information related to the Reggio Emilia Approach to early childhood education. The group is currently meeting to plan for a March 2007 conference, “The Spirit of the Studio,” with special guests Lella Gandini and Cathy Topol. If you want more information about the Tucson Children's Project, the seminar or would like to volunteer to help, contact Pauline Baker at PaulineBaker@yahoo.com. Identify your e-mail as relating to the “Tucson Children's Project Conference” in the subject line.

Another special interest committee, Building Optimal Nurturing Development (BOND), has just joined the SAzAEYC family. BOND members hold a brown bag meeting on the last Friday of each month from 12 to 2 pm in the Bookman's meeting room on Speedway and Wilmot to discuss research, ideas and effective programs related to supporting good mental health/healthy social-emotional development for young children. The BOND committee is currently working with United Way, First Focus on Kids, the Blake Foundation, Tucson Safe and Bright Futures and SAzAEYC to plan a one-day conference on, “The Effects of Domestic Violence on Young Children.”

The SAzAEYC board is composed of 19 members who meet monthly to plan and report on activities related to quality early childhood education, continuing professional development, and advocacy for issues that support the healthy and safe development of children. In addition, many, many volunteers give their expertise and time to SAzAEYC events. We are a strong and active organization because of our membership of early childhood professionals who work in a wide variety of roles to support quality programs and continuing educational experiences. Please, all of you, give yourselves a pat on the back for the great work that you do. (Enrique Feldman would advise you give yourself a kiss on the head.)

If you would like to become more involved in SAzAEYC activities, please contact Diana Hill, Volunteer Coordinator, at Diana@tucsoncommunityschool.org. Be sure to put “volunteer” in the subject of your e-mail. If you would like to run or nominate someone for a board position, please fill out the enclosed nomination form! To get more information about how to nominate someone to be a candidate for the board, e-mail Tracy Patch, SAzAEYC Association Manager, at sazzymanager@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Sue Eck, President



SAzAEYC

Executive Board Members

President- Dr. Sue Eck
349-6318, DrMommy@aol.com

NAEYC Liaison- Naomi Karp
Nk.az@comcast.net

VP Organizational Development- Barbara Gordon
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VP Public Policy & Awareness- Diane Umstead
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VP Services- Charlene Menodoza
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VP Support- Jessica Brisson
762-3916, brissonj@vail.k12.az.us

VP Volunteer Opportunities-Diana Hill
326-9212, dhill87816@aol.com

Secretary- Shanna Kukla
296-2043, smkukla@aol.com

SAzAEYC Executive Board Meetings are open to all, held the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at the United Way Building, located at 330 N. Commerce Park Loop, beginning at 5 pm

Treasurer- Jules O'Herron
795-4977 ext. 234, joherron@blakefoundation.org

Student Representative- Vacant

Members at Large
LaVonne Douville-ldouville@unitedwaytucson.org

Enrique Feldman- info@famefoundation.org

Karen McDonald- kmcdonald@cfraz.org

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Association Manager- Tracy Patch
sazzymanager@gmail.com, 903-9000 ext 410

Do you
know a star?



Is there someone you know that deserves recognition in the SAzAEYC newsletter? Please let us know and we will include your accolades in the next newsletter! We are happy to celebrate early childhood education accomplishments of our colleagues! Email Jessica Brisson at brissonj@vail.k12.az.us

Save the date!

September 30-Deadline For Pre-Registration For SAzAEYC Annual Conference

October 7- 2006 SAzAEYC Annual Conference, University of Arizona, Tucson

October 22- Smile, Sing & Swing with Enrique and Deb Seminar, Jewish Community Center, Tucson

October 23- Using the Arts To Guide Children Into Champions Seminar, Jewish Community Center, Tucson

November 8-11- 2006 NAEYC Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia

March 2007- In the Spirit of the Studio Conference, Sponsored by the Tucson Children's Project, Tucson

Contact Diana Hill, VP Volunteer Opportunities at 326-9212 if you would like to volunteer your time at any of these events!



Accreditation
accomplishments

If your center would like to be acknowledged as a newly accredited or re-accredited school, please e-mail Jessica Brisson, SAzAEYC VP Support at brissonj@vail.k12.az.us or by phone at 762-3916.



WSLN 2006 Wrap Up

Beginning June 21st and ending on June 25th, Westward Look Resort was the site for 75 representatives from the 13 western states to come together for networking, learning, and rejuvenation. The Western States Leadership Network provides an opportunity for state and local AEYC affiliate leaders from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming to learn about what is happening in each other's states, discuss strategies for improving the early care and education field, and stay connected with the work being accomplished by NAEYC. This year's event was attended by Mark Ginsberg, CEO of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, who discussed the idea of including corporate sponsorships as a way to increase funding for affiliate work and Josué Cruz, past President of the Governing Board for NAEYC, who talked about cultural diversity as it relates to leadership. Pauline Baker and team facilitated a fantastic "Hopes and Dreams" presentation and the attendees were also given opportunities to visit some of the local sites, including the Desert Museum, Mt. Lemmon, and Tubac.

Each year, one of the 13 states hosts the gathering and we look forward to visiting Montana in June 2007 for the 26th WSLN. If you are interested in getting information about next year's event, please e-mail Barb Gordon at bmxbarb@comcast.net for inclusion on the mailing list.

Submitted by Barbara Gordon, VP Organizational Development

SAzAEYC Membership

Still receiving your copy of Young Children? This valuable journal not only includes articles about the ever-changing face of early childhood education; it also provides resources, training information, and ideas to include in your own program. Young Children is one of the valuable benefits of membership in NAEYC. Want to attend one of the best early childhood conferences in Arizona at a discounted rate? The SAzAEYC annual conference in October offers a discounted member registration rate, another great benefit of membership in NAEYC. Interested in leadership opportunities? As a member of NAEYC, you have an opportunity to serve on the board of either our local or state AEYC. Committees focused on public policy, nominations, finance, and other important services of our organization need your help. Want more information? E-mail Barb Gordon at bmxbarb@comcast.net or call (520) 730-2628.

Barbara is also available to present information about NAEYC membership and services at your organization. Simply contact her via e-mail or phone to arrange a visit.

Submitted by Barbara Gordon, VP Organizational Development

Continuing Education

Twenty early childhood educators completed a 3 credit early childhood class at the University of Arizona, taught by Professor Mari Wilhelm. The students received scholarships for this unique class from the governor's office under a grant written by the Office of the Pima County School Superintendent and the University of Arizona. The Pima County School Superintendent's office and the University of Arizona have formed a partnership with The Tucson Jewish Community Center, the Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children and Pima Community College to bring professional development opportunities to Southern Arizona. Congratulations to all the students and Professor Wilhelm for a job well done!

Submitted by Jill Rosenzweig, Member At Large



Don't forget to nominate a future leader! SAzAEYC is accepting nominations for several Board positions! See insert for more details!



Singing as a Teaching Tool



It doesn't take an experienced musician to sing with young children. Anyone can sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," and make the motions of rowing a boat. Parents and teachers can lead many singing and musical games, even if they consider themselves nonmusical.

Music is a great way to engage young children because it is a natural and enjoyable part of their everyday lives. Children hear music or sing while watching television, riding in the car, at school, and as part of bedtime rituals. We often hear children creating their own songs and incorporating music in their play. Music is a socially engaging way to learn, and especially appropriate for the developmental levels of young children.

The concept of using music to teach is not new. Many young children learn to recite the alphabet by singing the ABCs, and educational television programs for young children, such as Sesame Street, use a lot of music in their programming. Researchers have found that music can help children learn multiplication tables and improve early literacy skills. Many adults still remember lessons connected to music from their childhood.

Music helps many children break information down into easily remembered pieces or associate it with previously known information, such as a familiar song. One study found that using familiar melodies helped five-year-olds learn phone numbers at a faster rate than using no music or unfamiliar melodies. Singing with children can be an especially fun and valuable experience. When you sing with young children, you can adjust the speed and volume to fit their abilities. You don't need to sound like a professional singer. As long as you are enthusiastic, young children will enjoy it, and want to sing along. You can also pair singing with movement or visual aids that stimulate the senses. This allows children to not only hear the music, but also feel and move to the rhythms, and see, touch, and play the instruments.

Singing also gives you lots of opportunities to teach new words to young children. By taking familiar songs (such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," "Frere Jacques/ Are You Sleeping?" "Three Blind Mice" or other songs from your childhood) and changing or adding words, you can introduce new vocabulary in a way that makes it easy for children to follow along.

You can create individualized songs that will engage children and boost their memories. Fill your songs with people (for example, family members, teachers or friends), objects (clothing, furniture, cars or bikes), daily rituals (brushing teeth, bedtime), and special events (holidays, going on a field trip) that are an important part of children's lives.

While music is a great way to introduce new words, it can also contribute to children's progress and learning in many different areas. Music supports self-expression, cooperative play, creativity, emotional well being, and development of social, cognitive, communication, and motor skills. Music and singing are a fun and effective way to help young children learn.

Excerpted from "Music as a Teaching Tool: Creating Story Songs" by Shelly Ringgenberg - an article in the NAEYC journal, Young Children.

SAzAEYC 2006 Annual Conference



SUPPORTING YOUNG CHILDREN'S LEARNING

Saturday, October 7, 2006

University of Arizona, College of Education

Keynote Speaker- Marilou Hyson

Registration brochures will be mailed to all SAzAEYC members. Non-members may contact Tracy Patch, Association Manager at 903-9000 extension 410 to have a brochure and registration form e-mailed. Deadline for pre-registration is September 30, 2006. This is a S★CCEEDS registered conference. For more information, contact Tracy at 903-9000 extension 410.



Upcoming Special Seminars



Family concert at the Jewish Community Center on Oct 22nd! "Smile, Sing & Swing with Enrique and Deb!" Bring your singing voices, dancing shoes, and be prepared for a swinging good time! October 22 at 4 pm with Enrique Feldman and Debbie Clement. Special family rates: \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

Early childhood seminar at the JCC on Oct 23rd! "Using the Arts To Guide Children Into Champions" will be held from 6:00-9:00 pm with Enrique Feldmen and Debbie Clement presenting the powerful message that music evokes, an artistic integration of music, movement and color. This is the first in a series of three seminars promoting social/emotional development in young children.

BOTH seminars will be held at the Tucson Jewish Community Center, located at 3800 East River Road. For additional information, contact SAzAEYC at 903-9000 extension 410 and information will continue to be posted on the SAzAEYC Listserv.



Supported by: Kaplan Early Learning Company

In Partnership with: Institute of Children, Youth & Families- University of Arizona, Office of the Pima County Superintendent, Pima Community College, Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children, & Tucson Jewish Community Center

Submitted by Jill Rosenzweig, Member At Large



State Affiliate AzAEYC News

Call for AzAEYC Nominations

Become a board member for the Arizona AEYC state affiliate! Two positions are currently open; Secretary and VP of Organizational Development. Interested in leadership? Is early childhood your passion? Consider joining the newly created board and help to bring early childhood issues to the forefront. The full board meets four times per year and the Executive Committee meets an additional five-six times per year.

Secretary: Responsible for taking minutes at all board meetings, prepares correspondence as directed by Board, chairs Governance Committee, other duties as assigned by the Board.

VP Organizational Development: Responsible for membership, provides support to affiliates in their membership and organizational development, chairs the Nomination Committee, other duties as assigned by the Board.

For more information or a full job description, please e-mail Barbara Gordon at bmxbarb@comcast.net. If interested, please submit a letter of interest to Joanne Floth at Joanne_Floth@centralaz.edu. Please include your contact information, past or present leadership experience, and a statement about why you wish to hold the position. Letters of interest due no later than September 1st by 5pm. Elections will be held in October with board service beginning in January 2007.



Nomination Committee

Looking for NAEYC members interested in serving on a committee that will oversee the elections for both the state AEYC board and our Northern AEYC board. Responsibilities include overseeing the election process and will involve about 5-10 hours of work over the next six months. Most work will be done via e-mail and conference calls. This is a great opportunity to serve your fellow members without committing to years of work! For more information or to volunteer, please e-mail Barb Gordon at bmxbarb@comcast.net or call her at (520) 730-2628.

Submitted by Barbara Gordon, VP Organizational Development

Quick Look At Early Childhood Facts From NAEYC.org

How many child care programs are licensed/regulated in 2002?

Total Number of Licensed Centers	113,298
Total Number of Regulated Small Family Child Care Homes	262,327
Total Number of Regulated Group Family Child Care Homes	44,473
Total Number of Licensed/Regulated Programs	420,098

Note: Includes data from the 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

For More Statistics and Facts Regarding Early Childhood Education, log onto www.naeyc.org

The Children's Foundation defines a "small family child care home" as a child care arrangement in which (generally) up to six children, including those of the caregiver under age six, are cared for in the home of the provider for compensation. A "large family child care home" is defined as a child care arrangement in which a provider generally cares for seven to twelve children, including those of the provider and any assistants, in the home of the provider or in another facility, with one or more assistants present for compensation.

Source: The Children's Foundation (2002). Child Care Center Licensing Study and Family Child Care Licensing Study

What are the current state policies on tiered reimbursement* and accreditation?

As of June 2002,

32 states paid a higher rate of reimbursement to programs that are accredited and/or meet other quality standards.

28 states used accreditation as a measure of quality for receiving higher reimbursement.

10 states require that certain programs be in process or achieve national accreditation.

7 states require state-funded prekindergarten programs to be accredited.

*Reimbursement refers to public funds paid to child care programs that care for children receiving assistance financial to attend child care. States with a tiered reimbursement system pay a differential (or higher) reimbursement rate to programs that are of higher quality.

Source: NAEYC, (June 2002) State Tiered Reimbursement and Accreditation Policies. www.naeyc.org.

Taken from the NAEYC website, www.naeyc.org



SAzAEYC

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Be Informed! Sign Up For SAzAEYC & NAEYC Listservs

Join the SAzAEYC Listserv

Join your colleagues throughout Arizona on a listserv for AEYC members. There is no cost, no cookies and no commercials! Announcements, job openings, special events and more can be accomplished online. When you send information or questions through the listserv, everyone currently subscribed will receive your message at the same time! Please email Tracy Patch at sazymanager@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the listserv or you if have experienced trouble in the past with joining. When enrolled, email will show up as sazaeyc@lists.theriver.com.

Sign-up for the NAEYC Champion's Listserv

The NAEYC Listserv through the official website will notify you of important federal legislative issues that affect early childhood. To join the national listserv, 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, and much more!

Membership dues are: Student- \$40, Regular- \$55, Comprehensive- \$90. Sign up at naeyc.org or contact Barbara Gordon at BMXbarb@comcast.net.