



# SAzAEYC NEWS

Spring 2009

SOUTHERN ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

## ECE Community Provides Feedback to NAEYC on Accreditation Process

Hands on Quality is an NAEYC accreditation facilitation project serving Tucson and Southern Arizona. This program and its coaches provide support for 52 centers affecting the care and education of over 3,500 young children. Recently, Hands on Quality staff gave the early childhood community an opportunity to communicate with NAEYC its thoughts and concerns about the new system NAEYC has adopted in the accreditation process.

On January 22, 2009 the staff at Hands on Quality met with 25 Directors and other members of the early childhood community to draft a letter responding to the new accreditation model. The letter speaks to specific portions of the process including the application and self-study process, classroom and program portfolios, candidacy materials, and the assessment visit. Those involved in the writing of

this letter took a solution oriented approach to their concerns describing under each heading what has worked and where the system was challenging. Additionally, the group made suggestions about ways they feel the system could be adjusted to be more successful, "user friendly", and efficient.

Those who participated in this effort are truly dedicated and caring professionals. Their insistence on quality care and education is apparent in the deep reflection that was necessary to draft this honest and productive letter to NAEYC. The expected date of delivery was to be at the beginning of April. If you would like to request a copy of the letter please contact Gaye Lynn Fisher at [glfisher@cfraz.org](mailto:glfisher@cfraz.org).

—Submitted by Wendy Flynn, SAzAEYC Board Member  
and Director of Adventure School

## BOND Arizona Conference: Register TODAY!



**BOND**  
Arizona  
Building Optimal Nurturing  
and Development

May 7, 2009  
8:30am - 4:00pm  
Skyline Country Club  
Tucson, Arizona  
Registration 7:30am - 8:30am

Keynote Speaker:  
Dr. Vincent Felitti, Principal Investigator,  
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study

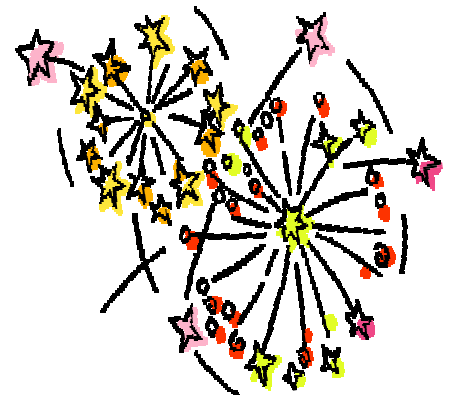
Register online: <http://www.bondazmay2009.myevent.com/>

## More NAEYC Accredited Centers!

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

**Satori**  
**Cottonwood Early Childhood Enrichment Program, Vail School District**

If your center has recently been accredited or re-accredited and you would like to be acknowledged for your accomplishment please contact Wendy Flynn, SAzAEYC Member -At-Large and Accreditation Committee Chair Person at [wflynn@academyadventures.com](mailto:wflynn@academyadventures.com) or by phone at (520) 665-1986.





## President's Letter

Dear SAzAEYC Members,

Thank you for being a professional member of the Early Education community. As professionals, we are committed to extensive education in our field and we strive for a high standard of excellence. Our work expresses our deep commitment to improving the lives of young children. It is not a hobby or a pastime, it is our life's vocation. Our work with or on behalf of young children requires time, research and relationships with like-minded people. Because of this level of commitment we call ourselves professionals.

Your membership in SAzAEYC demonstrates your commitment to serve and act on behalf of the needs and rights of all young children. Together we are "dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with

particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8." Our parent organization, NAEYC, "is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children with nearly 100,000 members, a national network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates, and a growing global alliance of like-minded organizations."

This network begins in your workplace with your co-workers; members or not, they are your first resource. And you are connected beyond your workplace. In Tucson, your SAzAEYC office is located at 450 E Wetmore in Tucson in the Community Extension Programs of Amphitheater School District office building. With the support of United Way of Tucson, our move to this office is complete.

Our new Association Manager, Melissa Miller, has quickly and competently learned the details of our organization. She manages the listserv, the paperwork and logistics of our relationship with members, the community, AzAEYC, and NAEYC. The network of our state organization keeps the professionals in our vast state connected and working in tandem. Our national organization, NAEYC, is a responsive, inclusive group of professionals who provide resources, technical assistance, and inspiration for our work. Young Children and Teaching Young Children are our periodic journals. The standards set by the NAEYC Academy through accreditation define high quality early education. The NAEYC website is a treasure trove of information, and the conferences provide a direct infusion of inspiration, information, and relation-

ships with professionals.

SAzAEYC membership has value. Thank you for being a member, and help us increase the network of Southern Arizona professionals. Together our work improves the lives of children.

Sincerely,

Diana Hill

P.S. I hope to greet you at the Awards Brunch on May 2 at the Doubletree Hotel. It is a true celebration our high-quality work. Also, save the date on your calendar for our annual conference--Sept. 26, 2009.

## Comunicacion del Presidente

Estimados Miembros de SAzAEYC,

Gracias por su membresía profesional de la comunidad de Educación Temprana. Como profesionales, estamos comprometidos con la educación extensiva en nuestra área y esforzamos los valores de excelencia. Nuestro trabajo expresa nuestro compromiso de mejorar las vidas de los niños. No es un hobby o pasatiempo, es nuestra vocación de vida. Nuestro trabajo con, o, en nombre de los niños requiere tiempo, investigación y relaciones con personas del mismo pensamiento. Por este nivel de compromiso nos llamamos profesionales.

Su membresía en SAzAEYC demuestra su compromiso de servir y actuar en el nombre de las necesidades y derechos de todos los niños. Juntos estamos dedicados a mejorar el bienestar de todos los niños, enfocándonos

particularmente en la calidad de servicios educacionales y de desarrollo para todos los niños desde el nacimiento hasta los ocho años. Nuestra organización nacional, NAEYC, es la organización más grande en el mundo trabajando en el nombre de los niños con casi 100,000 miembros, una cadena nacional de 300 y mas miembros locales, estatales, y regionales y un alianza global de organizaciones como la de nuestra.

Esta cadena empieza en su lugar de trabajo con sus compañeros: miembros o no, ellos son los primeros recursos. Están conectados más allá de su lugar de empleo. En Tucson, la dirección de su oficina está en 450 E. Wetmore Rd. En el edificio de Community Extension Programs Inc. cuál esta en el Distrito de Amphitheater. Con el apoyo del United Way de Tucson, nuestro cambio está completo. Nuestra Manejadora de la Asociación,

Melissa Miller, rápidamente y competentemente aprendió los detalles de nuestra organización. Ella maneja todo el correo electrónico, papeleo, y logística de nuestra relación con la membresía, la comunidad, AzAEYC, y NAEYC. La cadena de la organización del estado continúa teniendo todos los profesionales en nuestro estado conectados y trabajando en conjunto. Nuestra organización nacional, NAEYC, es un grupo de profesionales incluidos y responsables que proveen recursos, asistencia técnica, e inspiración para nuestro trabajo. Young Children y Teaching Young Children son nuestras revistas. Los estándares puestos por La Academia de NAEYC por Acreditación defina la alta calidad de la educación temprana. El website de NAEYC es un tesoro de información, y las conferencias proveen una infusión de inspiración, información, y relación con profesionales.

La membresía en SAzAEYC tiene valor. Gracias por ser miembro, y ayudarnos aumentar la cadena de profesionales por el Sur de Arizona. Juntos podemos mejorar las vidas de los niños. Sinceramente,

Diana Hill

P.S. Ojala que pueda saludarles en el Awards Brunch en Mayo 2 en el Doubletree Hotel. Es una celebración sincera de trabajo de alta calidad. También, guarde la fecha en su calendario para nuestra conferencia anual. Sept. 26, 2009



## First Things First Funds Emergency Child Care Scholarships

First Things First is pleased to announce our Emergency Child Care Scholarships response targeting families with young children (birth through age 5) with income up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. This statewide temporary strategy is in response to the economic crisis that is impacting children, families and providers. The scholarships will be paid directly to participating providers each month beginning in April 2009. The scholarships are expected to last a minimum of four months.

Center- and home-based child care providers who are **accredited** by national organizations recognized by the Arizona Department of Education and the Department of Economic Security **and/or** who have applied to and **are eligible** for Quality First may participate in the emergency scholarship response. **Being eligible means providers are regulated and in good standing with the regulating body or bodies.** Selected providers will be determined based on their geographic location or region and preference will go to providers

that offer full-day, full-week, year-round services and services to infants and/or toddlers. True to the FTF mission, this strategy ties scholarships to quality care. Accredited centers and those who applied for Quality First can apply to participate now. Providers will be selected on a first-come-first-served basis. Eligible providers exceeding the current need will be placed on a waiting list.

To submit your application on-line, please go to [www.emergencyscholarships.org](http://www.emergencyscholarships.org). United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona is serving the counties of Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Yuma and can be reached at:

(520) 903-3999  
FAX (520) 903-9002  
ccscholarships@unitedwaytucson.org

—Submitted by Diane Umstead,  
Regional Manager, First Things First, SE Arizona

## What's on the Web? Check these out.....

### Topic: INFANT DEVELOPMENT

**The Visible Embryo** at <http://www.visembryo.com/baby/>

Starting at fertilization, this web site will navigate you through each of the 40 weeks of pregnancy with very detailed information about development at each step.

**Zero to Three** at <http://www.zerotothree.org>

"ZERO TO THREE is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated solely to advancing the healthy development of babies and young children." There are separate areas for professionals, parents, and public policy. You can also find information on child development topics. Topics include "military families", "disaster relief & trauma" and "temperament & behaviors". Click on "Professionals" and then on "Professional Topics A - Z"

**The March of Dimes** at <http://www.marchofdimes.com/>

This site has information on pregnancy and infant development. There is an area for professionals and parents. This site has medical fact sheets, as well as information on the topics of pregnancy loss and premature births. This information is available in ENGLISH and SPANISH- click on nacersano.org at the bottom of the home page.

**The Baby Center** at <http://www.babycenter.com/baby>

This link will bring you directly to the birth and infant area of this site, although the site covers development up to 9 years of age. The birth and infant area has articles for every possible topic for every stage of development. Parents and caregivers can sign up to receive emails to help them track a child's developmental milestones or watch videos on topics concerning birth and infant development (yes, you'll need to put up with the 30 second advertisement). The videos are well done and of good viewing quality.

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

### SAZAEYC 2009 GOVERNING BOARD

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## Domestic Violence and the Effects on Very Young Children

**Many people think** that infants and preschool age children who are living with domestic violence are not harmed if they do not see the violence occurring. This brings up the question then, just what is domestic violence (DV)? In her book Children Who See Too Much (Beacon, 2003), Betsy McAlister Groves defines it as “abuse and/or assault of adults or adolescents by their intimate partners.” The term DV is used interchangeably with intimate partner abuse, inter-parental violence, and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). Children who grow up in homes with domestic violence are vulnerable to a wide range of short and long-term risks to their social/emotional development and their abilities to learn and succeed in school. In 40-60% of households where there is DV, there is also child abuse.

**Pima County statistics from 2004** state the Tucson Police Department and Pima County Sheriff Dept. responded to a combined 13,654 calls of DV; up to 75% of calls had children present. Of that seventy-five percent, 40% of the children were involved or injured in the DV. Many of these children are showing up in preschool classrooms and being identified with aggressive behavior problems, or other social/emotional disturbances. Last year there were over 600 preschoolers expelled from centers for aggressive or violent behaviors attributed to early childhood trauma, including exposure to DV. One of the criteria of a diagnosis of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in children birth -3 includes “the child has been exposed to a traumatic event involving actual or threatened death or serious injury or threat to the physical or psychological integrity of the child or another person.” We know from brain science a child who witnesses his mother’s abuse feels their own survival is also threatened and has emotional, social, and cognitive repercussions.

So **how might a classroom teacher identify a child** who may be experiencing violence in the home? Possible indicators include: Incessant crying, difficult to console; Odd self-soothing behaviors (head banging on floor/crib, rocking self); Feeding problems; Pediatric Under-nutrition; Developmental delays; Flat or anxious affect; Physical ailments (gastrointestinal, skin rashes, nervousness, hyper-vigilance); Tiredness; Insecure attachment behaviors; Constant worry about possible danger and/or safety of loved ones; Sadness and/or withdrawn from others and activities; Low self esteem and lack of confidence, especially trying new things; Difficulty paying attention, concentrating, and learning new info; Outbursts of anger directed towards peers, self, or caregivers; Bullying and/or aggression directed toward peers ; Self abusive behaviors; Beliefs about males as aggressors and females as victims.

**The social/emotional impact** of witnessing domestic violence on a preschooler may include learning unhealthy ways of expressing anger and aggression and possible confusion from conflicting messages (“What I see vs. What I am told”) . They may attribute violence to something they have done and feel guilty that they may

have caused the episode. From their role models they live with they learn gender roles associated with violence and victimization. Instability in the home may inhibit independence, and teachers may see regressive behaviors. Long term effects in school age and older children include: Witnessing violence affects children’s abilities to learn because of difficulties focusing and concentrating in school, and being easily distracted. They are known to be more aggressive and fight more often, therefore reducing their ability to establish healthy peer relationships. Exposure to DV can inhibit a child’s basic drive to explore the world as their natural curiosity is thwarted and they may be less willing to try new things. They are at greater risk to become violent themselves. If exposed to high levels of parental violence are at risk for adjustment problems in young adulthood. There is increased death by homicide and suicide in homes where DV has occurred, and much higher rates of depression and anxiety among other mental health diagnoses.

**So what can we do to help very young children exposed to DV?** Many everyday activities done at care centers or the home can help such as: therapeutic toys; games such as hide-and-seek, peek-a-boo, puppets; movement like jumping, dance, yoga, swimming, swinging, climbing; putting feelings into words; practicing pro-social behaviors; and meditation or “quiet time” daily for each child. A few other suggestions:

- Foster children's self-esteem. Children who live with violence need reminders that they are lovable, competent and important.
- Don't try it alone. Identify and collaborate with other caregivers in the child's life.
- Teach alternatives to violence. Help children learn conflict resolution skills and about non-violent ways of playing.
- Model nurturing in your interactions with children. Serve as role models for children in resolving issues in respectful and non-violent ways.
- Use reassurance and a calm voice when talking to a child, especially in the aftermath of violence.
- Give children permission to tell their stories. Sometimes it is difficult to listen to the child's distress, but talking helps children heal.
- Remind children that the violence is not their fault, and it is not their job to solve adult problems.
- Work to create a stable, safe environment for the child.

For more information specific to classroom teachers, go to [www.violencefree4children.com](http://www.violencefree4children.com).

—Submitted by Kathryn Seidler, LMSW  
Easter Seals Blake Foundation

**“Always remember that a child doesn’t have to be average to be normal.  
Children with very different temperaments can be equally successful.”**

— Lawrence Kutner



### Suggestions for Responding to Spirited Children in the Classroom

In her **Exchange** article, "[Responding Professionally and Compassionately to Challenging Behavior](#)," Karen Stephens offers these suggestions for "Responding to Spirited Children:"

- Maintain a predictable daily schedule. Privately warn children of changes in routine.
- Give children simple, step-by-step directions when guiding them through activities or routines.
- Because these children get overwhelmed when given too many choices, limit the number of activities offered at one time in one area.
- Work in small groups as much as possible.
- Make a concerted effort to make your classroom less overwhelming and stimulating. Rotate toys and materials. Leave more white space on walls. Keep noise and voice levels steady.

- Make sure all activities are developmentally appropriate. Successful experiences with hands-on materials is especially important for these children.
- Create cozy, secluded corners (inside and outside) so children can remove themselves when necessary from the overstimulation of group living.
- Rehearse any changes that can be anticipated. For instance, before a field trip, role play procedures that will be followed.

ExchangeEveryDay is a free service of Exchange Magazine. View articles like this one online at [ChildCareExchange.com](http://ChildCareExchange.com).

—Submitted by Diana Hill,  
SAzAEYC President and Director of Tucson Community School

## SAVE THE DATE! ¡GUARDE LA FECHA!

### SAzAEYC Annual Conference Conferencia Anual de SAzAEYC

*The Joy of Learning: Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Action*  
*La Alegría del Aprendizaje: La Acción Práctica, Apropriadada para el desarrollo en el Aprendizaje*

Saturday, September 26, 2009  
Sábado, 26 de septiembre, 2009

University of Arizona Student Union  
1303 E. University Blvd., Tucson, AZ

For more information contact [sazzymanager@gmail.com](mailto:sazzymanager@gmail.com)  
Para más información ponga se en contacto: [sazzymanager@gmail.com](mailto:sazzymanager@gmail.com)

We are proud to welcome as our Keynote Speaker- **Sue Bredekamp!** Sue is co-author of *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs* (Bredekamp & Copple 1997). She is co-editor of the newly revised 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children From Birth through Age 8* (2008). DAP reborn, reinterpreted, renewed, defined, and emphasizing: Excellence and Equity; Intentionality and Effectiveness; Continuity and Change; Joy and Learning. Joy, sounds good right about now, doesn't it!

At the SAzAEYC Conference you will also enjoy:

- Morning and afternoon sessions featuring experts in the early childhood field.
- Cutting-edge sessions designed to meet your needs.
- Vendors sharing the latest they have to offer in the early childhood field.
- Breakfast and Lunch provided.

If you would like to be a part of the presenter selection committee for the 2009 SAzAEYC Conference, contact Ginny Harmelink at [vharmelink@pima.edu](mailto:vharmelink@pima.edu), or Sibieanne Martinez at [ssmith@amphi.com](mailto:ssmith@amphi.com). If you have any questions about the 2009 SAzAEYC Conference, or you would like to be a conference volunteer to make light work with your many hands, please contact Shanna Kukla at [skukla@pima.edu](mailto:skukla@pima.edu). We look forward to seeing you at the conference!



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SOUTHERN ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

SAzAEYC  
450 E. Wetmore  
Tucson, AZ 85705



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:sazaeyc@lists.nationwide.net) and [azaeyc@lists.nationwide.net](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.NAEYC.org) or contact Ann Clifford at (520) 882-3816 or [lacifford56@gmail.com](mailto:lacifford56@gmail.com).