



GREAT IDEAS SEMINAR ON MARCH 30

“Love ‘Em or Lose ‘Em” - Getting Good People To Stay

Talented, committed employees are the greatest asset an early childhood program has, and you need them to stay. You also need them to be engaged, motivated and producing at their peak. They are critical to your success and the quality of your program.

Research shows that managers have more power and influence than anyone else in engaging and retaining talent. This seminar is designed to teach you how to engage and hang on to talented people at any age and at any stage in their careers.

This seminar is based on the Wall Street Journal Bestselling book, *Love ‘em or Lose ‘em* by Beverly Kaye and Sharon Jordan-Evans, and will address the following key messages:

Engaging and Keeping Good People is a Perennial Issue – You want your employees to not just check-in every day, but you want them tuned in and turned on as well. You want them engaged in providing quality care for the children and families in your program. Engagement and retention are two sides of the same coin. This seminar will teach you how to do both.

The Manager Has Influence – Many managers believe retention is largely about money, perks, and benefits – areas where they have little con-

trol. Research shows that this is not true. In addition to fair pay, **people want challenging, meaningful work; a chance to learn and grow; great co-workers; recognition and respect; and a good boss.**

This seminar will address the manager’s crucial role in engaging and retaining good people. You will walk away with 26 tested strategies you can use to engage and retain your best employees. Each of these strategies includes small, easy-to-implement ideas!

**March 30:
Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel
(Tempe)**

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

\$50 NAEYC members,

\$75 non-members

(Includes breakfast, lunch and late afternoon reception)

Guest Speaker: Karen Hughes

Registration forms now available

For more information:

Email Barb Gordon

BMXBarb@comcast.net

SAzAEYC 2007 Governing Board

SUSAN ECK PRESIDENT	349-6318 DrMommy@aol.com
JESSICA BRISSON PRESIDENT-ELECT	879-3916 brissonj@vail.k12.az.us
SHANNA KUKLA TREASURER	296-2043 smkukla@aol.com
ANN CLIFFORD SECRETARY	321-3832 aclifford@cfraz.org
BARBARA GORDON VP ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	792-2636, ext 5209 bmxbarb@comcast.net
ERIN LYONS VP PUBLIC POLICY	750-9667, ext 204 erin@lapalomakids.org
CONNIE ESPINOZA VP SERVICES	320-4036 cespinoza@cfraz.org
JILL MORGAN VP SUPPORT	903-9000, ext 432 jmorgan@ unitedwaytucson.org
DIANA HILL VP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	326-9212 Diana@ tucsoncommunityschool.org
MICHELLE SAINT HILAIRE, STUDENT REP.	323-4284 msainthilaire@cfraz.org
NAOMI KARP NAEYC LIAISON	577-1770 nk.az@comcast.net
LAVONNE DOUVILLE MEMBER AT LARGE	903-9000, ext 430 ldouville@ unitedwaytucson.org
ENRIQUE FELDMAN MEMBER AT LARGE	861-3001 info@ famefoundation.org
KAREN McDONALD MEMBER AT LARGE	323-4282 kmcdonald@cfraz.org
LELA MESSICK MEMBER AT LARGE	325-6495, ext 116 lmessick@ blakefoundation.org
MIKE RUSSO MEMBER AT LARGE	228-0829 michael.russo@dm.af.mil
VICKIE YOUNG- CHIVERTON MEMBER AT LARGE	520-494-5478 vychiverton@juno.com
SIBIEANNE SMITH MEMBER AT LARGE	256-7998 sibieanne@aol.com
GLORIA WILLIAMS MEMBER AT LARGE	520-625-3502, ext 1337 glowilliams@mac.com
TRACY PATCH ASSOCIATION MGR.	903-9000, ext 410 sazzymanager@gmail.com

SAzAEYC’s 21st Annual Awards Brunch



The 21st Annual SAzAEYC Awards Brunch is scheduled for April 14, 2007 at Westward Look Resort from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The cost is \$22.00 per person.

Honorees will include Nadine Basha, the recipient of the Board Award. The event will also honor the Early Childhood

Award Recipients, Mini-Grant Recipients, and the Tori Allen Scholarship Award winner.

A formal invitation will be sent in March.

For more information about this event, please contact Tracy Patch at (520) 903-9000, ex 410 or sazzymanager@gmail.com.



Letter from the President

The new year is off to a busy start, and our new SAzAEYC board is already hard at work. We have several returning members, some continuing in their position and others taking on a new role and responsibility.

Barbara Gordon will continue as Vice President for Organizational Development and Diana Hill as Vice President for Volunteer Opportunities. Naomi Karp, an NAEYC Board member, continues as our representative to the national organization.

Julia Butler and Enrique Feldman are our liaisons to the state AEYC. Shanna Kukla relinquishes her role as Secretary to serve as Treasurer. Jessica Brisson transitioned from Vice President for Support to the President Elect position. Members at Large, LaVonne Douville, Enrique Feldman, Karen McDonald, Lela

Messick, Sibieanne Smith and Gloria Williams will continue to be involved in the board meetings and committee work.

The new members to SAzAEYC Board are Ann Clifford, Secretary; Erin Lyons, Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy; Connie Espinoza, Vice President of Services; Jill Morgan, Vice President of Support; Vickie Young-Chiverton and Mike Russo, Members At Large; and Michelle St. Hilaire, Student Representative. You can learn about these people and see their pictures by visiting the SAzAEYC website (www.sazaeyc.org).

Over the course of the year, the new Board members will also be featured in the newsletter. We are so lucky to have such competent and dedicated people who give their time on behalf of

the children and families of Southern Arizona!

A strong organization relies on the involvement of its members. SAzAEYC has many work committees that depend on participation of the membership to accomplish our goals. The Awards Brunch committee is meeting to plan the event, which will be at Westward Look on April 14.

The Membership Committee has committed to hold membership meetings in at least two Southern Arizona communities this year, and they will need volunteers from Tucson and the local communities.

Public Policy and Advocacy subcommittees are planning for Week of the Young Child and Stand for Children Day events. The Annual Conference will be in the fall, but work has already begun with many, many people organizing registration, food, speakers, vendors, advertising,

hospitality, raffle donations and more.

Please consider volunteering to serve on a SAzAEYC committee. Visit the SAzAEYC website for the list of current volunteer opportunities, a list of all currently active committees, and contact information for committee chairs. Contact the committee chair directly to volunteer.

If you feel you don't have the time to serve on a committee, consider contributing a newsletter article about something special or interesting that is happening at your school. Send contributions to Jill Morgan. (jmorgan@unitedwaytucson.org)

There are so many ways to be involved. We welcome you to join your colleagues in these important and fun activities.

*Sincerely,
Sue Eck, SAzAEYC President*

Comunicacion del Presidente

El año nuevo empieza muy ocupado, y nuestra nueva mesa directiva de SAzAEYC esta trabajando muy duro. Algunos miembros continúan en su posición y otros toman una nueva función y responsabilidad.

Barbara Gordon continuara como Vice Presidente de Desarrollo de la Organización y Diana Hill continuara como Vice Presidente de Oportunidades para Voluntarios. Naomi Karp, miembro de la mesa directiva de NAEYC, continúa como nuestra representante a la organización nacional.

Julia Butler y Enrique Feldman sigen como nuestros enlaces con el AEYC estatal. Shanna Kukala deja su función como Secretaria para servir como Tesorera. Jessica Brisson hara su transición de Vice Presidente de Apoyo a su posición Presidente Elegida. Miembros diputados, LaVonne Douville, Enrique Feldman, Ka-

ren McDonald, Lela Messick, Sibieanne Smith, y Gloria Williams, continuaran en cuenta en las juntas de la mesa directiva y trabajo en comités.

Miembros nuevos a la mesa directiva de SAzAEYC son Ann Clifford, Secretaria, Erin Lyon, Vice Presidente de Pólizas Públicas y Abogacía; Connie Espinoza, Vice Presidente de Servicios; Jill Morgan, Vice Presidente de Apoyo; Vickie Young-Chiverton y Mike Russo, Miembros Diputados, y Michelle St. Hilaire, Representante de Alumnos. Usted puede aprender mas sobre estas personas y mirar su foto cuando visita la pagina cybernetica de SAzAEYC (www.sazaeyc.org). Durante el curso del año, los miembros nuevos también serán presentados en el boletín. Tenemos mucha suerte en tener todas estas personas tan dedicadas y competentes quienes dan su tiempo en nombre de los niños y familias del Sur de Arizona!

Una organización fuerte depende en la participación de sus miembros. SAzAEYC tiene muchos comités de trabajo que dependen en la participación de su membresía para llegar a nuestras metas. El Comité del Almuerzo de Premios Anuales se esta reuniendo para planear el evento, cual será en el Westward Look el día 14 de Abril.

El Comité de Membresía a hecho un compromiso de tener por lo menos dos juntas en comunidades en el Sur de Arizona este año, se necesitan voluntarios de Tucón y comunidades locales.

Los sub-comités de Pólizas Públicas y Abogacía están planeando los eventos para La Semana del Niño y "Stand for Children." La Conferencia Anual será en el otoño, pero ya empieza el trabajo con mucha, mucha gente organizando registraciones, comida, presentadores, vendedores, propaganda, hospitalidad, rifas, donaciones y mucho más.

Por favor consideren ser voluntarios para servir en un comité de SAzAEYC. Visite la pagina cybernetica de SAzAEYC para mirar una lista de oportunidades para voluntarios, una lista al día de todos los comités activos, e información de cabezas de los comités. Haga contacto con la cabeza de comité directamente para servir en el comité.

Si usted piensa que no tiene tiempo para servir en un comité, considere haciendo una contribución al boletín de algo especial o interesante que esta pasando en su escuela. Mandé su contribución a Jill Morgan (jmorgan@unitedwaytucson.org)

Hay muchas maneras que puede participar. Los invitamos que colaboren con sus colegas en estas actividades tan divertidas e importantes.

*Cordialmente,
Sue Eck, Presidente de SAzAEYC*



Congratulations to new NAEYC Assessors!

SAzAEYC would like to congratulate Karen McDonald (SAzAEYC Member At Large), Ann Clifford (SAzAEYC Secretary) and Karen Mclroy (SAzAEYC member) for being selected by NAEYC to be accreditation assessors. They went through an application and phone interview process before being selected.

Karen McDonald will be a regional assessor. She will be leading the assessment and compiling all of the data which will be used to determine whether or not a center will be accredited or reaccredited. Karen will travel around the country and do approximately 6-8 assessments per month.

Ann Clifford and Karen Mclroy will be local assessors. They will do up to 6 assessments per year and travel more in the local area. They will be used as support to the regional assessor.

All three women will be going to NAEYC training headquarters in Washington, D.C. in February or March for training for these new positions. Our community is very lucky to have local early childhood educators that will have on-going accreditation training and be able to be a resource for all of the standards and new accreditation information.

These assessments will begin soon after their training and NAEYC will be very deliberate about placing these assessors in centers that they do not already have a relationship with to avoid any conflict of interest.

Congratulations once again to our SAzAEYC Colleagues!

Submitted by Tracy Patch, SAzAEYC Association Manager

Mini-Grant Recipient Update on Literacy Center

Last year my classroom was a recipient of one of the mini grants awarded by SAzAEYC. I envisioned a whimsical reading area in the classroom with large pillows, a table and chairs for writing, baskets filled with books and lamps for low lighting.

The mini grant that was awarded to my classroom was from Community Playthings. These pieces of furniture were already chosen for the classroom. Once it arrived we immediately filled the shelves with books.

Throughout the course of the year we have moved our literacy center around to meet the needs of the children. This year we used fabric to hang from the ceiling to define our writing/ literacy area to make it a much more welcoming environment. We have

included a couch and small bench with some throw pillows.

Children love to relax on the carpet with pillows and sit and enjoy books on the couch. The small table and chairs were encompassed by having it become a writing area. It is set up alongside the listening center to encourage children to write and dictate their own stories.

Thank you, SAzAEYC, for awarding the mini grant to our classroom and allowing me to continue inspiring and educating our future in a more stimulating and nurturing environment.

Submitted by Marie Denise Moreno, Carondelet/ Casita Maria

REMEMBER TO MAIL IN
YOUR NAEYC BALLOT
TO VOTE FOR YOUR
NAEYC GOVERNING
BOARD CANDIDATE BY
MARCH 1, 2007!

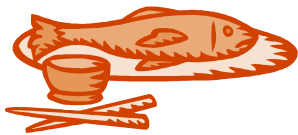
BALLOTS WERE SENT
TO NAYEC MEMBERS
IN DECEMBER
AND JANUARY.

VISIT THE SAzAEYC
WEBSITE:

www.SAzAEYC.org

"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



Mercury in Fish

For more info on mercury in fish, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fishadvice/advice.html>

Recent media attention to mercury levels in fish have caused many parents (and childcare directors) to question if it is wise to serve fish to their children. Yet certain types of fish are good sources of omega -3 fatty acids, in addition to providing a low fat source of protein. Omega-3 fatty acids provide essential fatty acids important to a child's developing brain. Essential fatty acids are not synthesized by the body, and must be obtained

through the diet. Fatty fishes such as salmon, tuna are high in omega-3 fatty acids. So what's a parent or childcare director to do?

Some types of fish with higher mercury content, such as shark and swordfish, should be avoided altogether but tuna, salmon and catfish which contain lower amounts of mercury can be included in the diet of young children. Serve water packed chunk

light tuna to children, and avoid white or albacore.

Two servings per week of low-mercury content fish is considered safe for children. A serving size for children ages 2 to 3 years is 2 oz., a serving size for children ages 3 to 4 years is 3 to 4 oz. As a point of reference, an average can of tuna is 6 oz.

Submitted by Andrea Chiasson, Nutrition Education Coordinator, United Way of Tucson

What is PCAP?

PCAP stands for Pima County Access Program. It is a not-for-profit organization that provides access to professional health care at discounted prices the uninsured can afford.

Is PCAP health insurance?

No. It does not provide insurance coverage.

Does PCAP cost anything?

There is a \$40 yearly membership fee per person (due upon enrollment) and no monthly premium. Participants make co-payments payable at the time of services.

How can I apply?

Call 694-0418 for an appointment to apply in person at:

PCAP, 655 East River Road

Business Hours M-F, 8-5

Or visit the website:

www.PCAP.cc

What documentation do I need to participate in PCAP?

Proof of income (employment, pension, or unemployment—current & last month's), and proof of residency in Pima County.

When am I eligible?

Qualified members will be effective immediately upon enrollment.

Are there any other requirements needed to participate in PCAP?

Cannot be eligible/enrolled in AHCCCS, Medicare, third party liability or other health care program. Eligibility for AHCCCS or other government funded health care programs will be determined prior to enrolling in PCAP.



Leadership Is Essential to Building and Maintaining Quality Programs for Young Children

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has developed 10 standards that outline what all preschools, child care centers, kindergartens and other early childhood education programs should provide to nurture young children. One of the standards focuses on the importance of leadership and management in building a quality learning environment for children, and maintaining the quality over time.

High quality early childhood programs have staff and administrators that are knowledgeable about the care and education of young children, and also about effective management practices. Good leaders provide structure, policies, and procedures that help teachers and programs improve. To meet the physical environments program standard, programs exhibit effective leadership and management, including:

The program director has the educational qualifications to administer the program, including specific coursework in early childhood education, administration, and other areas. The director manages responsibilities of teachers and children, and implements the program's financial policies and procedures.

The program has a mission that guides its operations, as well as goals and objectives for children's learning and development. The director and teachers follow written plans and policies to help the program run smoothly and achieve its goals.

The program is licensed by the state (unless legally exempt) and considered in good standing by the applicable state and local regulatory system.

Teachers have defined responsibilities, and each classroom or group has teaching staff with primary responsibility for that group. Teachers are pro-

vided with planning time, training, and resources in order to continually improve their teaching.

The program works to attract and maintain a qualified, well-trained staff and reduce staff turnover so there is consistency in relationships with children and families.

“STRONG LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT ARE ESSENTIAL TO BUILDING AND MAINTAINING QUALITY PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND TEACHERS.”

The ratio of teachers to children is appropriate for the ages of the children so children receive individual attention. For example, there are no more than ten four-year-olds with one teacher, and no more than six toddlers with one teacher. If there are infants in the program, there is at least one teacher for every four infants.

Strong leadership and management are essential to building and maintaining quality programs that benefit children, families, and teachers. To learn more about the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standard on leadership and management, the NAEYC Accreditation system, and other signs of quality early childhood programs, visit www.rightchoiceforkids.org

From the National Association for the Education of Young Children

SAzAEYC Membership Meeting on Monday, March 12

The 2007 SAzAEYC Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, March 12 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at Cottonwood Enrichment Program, Cottonwood Elementary (9950 East Rees Loop, Tucson AZ 85747).

The theme is “Putting Practice Onto Paper: How to Document Arizona Early Learning Standards From What You Already Do.” The evening includes a tour of Reggio-inspired classrooms from 6:00-6:45 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:45.

There is no charge for SAzAEYC members. For non-members, the price is \$5. Register for SAzAEYC membership at the event and receive a gift.

Special thanks to Vail Community Services, within the Vail Unified School District, for sponsoring this venue!

For more details, contact Tracy Patch at sazzymanager@gmail.com or (520) 903-9000, ex. 410.



Visit the BOND website at: <http://www.arizonabond.org/>

Building Optimal Nurturing and Development (BOND)

Building Optimal Nurturing and Development (BOND) is a grassroots organization that has recently officially affiliated with Southern Arizona Association for the Education of Young Children (SAzAEYC). The mission of BOND is to increase awareness within the Arizona community about the importance of social/emotional growth and development of children pre-birth to six years of age by empowering their families and those who work with them through collaborative education, support, and resource sharing. You can see how much the two organizations have in common!

Presently, we are collaborating with various other agencies in southeastern Arizona to offer an engaging conference May 2 and 3, 2007, entitled "Young Children and Violence: Creating Bright and Safe Futures." The keynote speaker for both days is Betsy McAlister Groves, Child Witness to Violence Project, Boston Medical Center. Ms. McAlister

Groves has been in the field working with very young children for over 30 years. She has written articles in journals and books, and is an excellent teacher and public speaker.

Thursday evening May 2, from 6-9 p.m. will be a Pre-Conference targeted for early childhood educators on how to identify and work with children exposed to domestic and community violence. The Pre-Conference will take place at the Jewish Community Center.

The Wednesday, May 3 full day conference will take place at the Sheraton Tucson Hotel and Suites. It will include the keynote presentation, three breakout sessions and lunch. Breakout sessions will include local and statewide experts providing training on multiple topics including: Mental Health Assessment for Children Birth to Age Six Exposed to Domestic Violence, Young Children and Media Violence, The Pediatric Health Care

Response to Domestic and Community Violence, Early Brain Development and Exposure to Violence, The Early Childhood Classroom Response to Children Exposed to Community and DV, and the new DV Court Project in Pima County.

Corporate sponsorship is being sought to underwrite costs so that tuition can be kept low for those who want to attend the conference. Be on the lookout for registration information and flyers. We hope to see many SAzAEYC and other early childhood community members at this quality training event to increase awareness and help make the futures of our infants and toddlers safer and brighter.

For more information contact kseidler@blakefoundation.org or (520) 795-4977, ext. 208.

Submitted by Kathryn Seidler of the Blake Foundation and BOND.

BOND

Mission Statement:

BOND is a grassroots initiative to increase awareness within the Arizona community about the importance of social/emotional growth and development of children pre-birth to six years of age by empowering their families and those who work with them through collaborative education, support, and resource sharing.

New Board Members: Ann Clifford and Connie Espinoza

Ann Clifford was elected to the Secretary position of the SAzAEYC Board. She is a seasoned early childhood professional with many years experience as a teacher, director, executive, grant writer and mentor. She is especially effective working with childcare staff and assisting centers to improve the quality of their programs.

Currently Ann is coaching child care centers on program improvements with Child & Family Resources as part of the First Focus on Kids Initiative. Because of her years of experience in both profit and not-for-profit agencies she brings a unique set of knowledge and leadership skills to the child care community.

Married for over 30 years, Ann is a mother of three grown daughters. She spends her 'spare time' creating costumes for a local dance studio, pursuing a master's degree in Special Education and working out at the gym.

Connie Espinoza is the new Vice President of Services for the SAzAEYC Board. She is the full-time Infant/Toddler Educator for Child and Family Resource's Arizona Infant Toddler Institute. As Infant/Toddler Specialist, she is responsible for facilitating workshops and providing technical assistance for child care providers throughout Southern Arizona.

Prior to working with Child and

Family Resources, Connie was a family child care provider. As a provider, she worked as a consultant for Child and Family Resources and facilitated and assisted in facilitating a number of workshops for child care providers. She has also worked at the Tucson Children's Museum as Education Specialist. In that role, she led tours for elementary school and preschool students and facilitated art and science workshops for children.

Connie graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S. in Family and Consumer Resources and is currently pursuing a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership. Connie has over 10 years experience working with children.

"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



NAEYC REACHES MILESTONES, MAKES NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2006

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) reached several milestones during 2006, and 2007 promises to be just as action-packed. Following are some of NAEYC's noteworthy accomplishments.

The new Accreditation system officially started in September 2006. The previous system accredited 11,000 early childhood programs that served a combined total of nearly 1,000,000 young children. The new system is made up of 10 research-based program standards that focus on children, teachers, administrators, and partnerships with families and communities.

NAEYC's new accreditation is based on credibility, reliability, and accountability. The newly designed processes will greatly speed up communication with Accreditation staff and the scheduling of site visits. As 2007 rolls along, the new NAEYC accreditation system will be recognized as the national standard for excellence in early childhood education.

I urge you to visit the NAEYC web site – www.naeyc.org – to learn more about NAEYC Accreditation. There are a variety of resources available at this web site and information updates are posted almost daily. NAEYC is dedicated to making the accreditation process as smooth as possible for each center or program.

If you have questions, contact the NAEYC Accreditation Academy staff by phone at 800-424-

2460 ext 3. or by email (see contact information below this article).

A new program for Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation began in 2006. Five community or technical college programs were accredited last year, and several more now are in the review process. This new program is aimed at improving early childhood teacher preparation programs and, thereby, is a big step towards improving outcomes for young children. Hopefully, Arizona will have many community colleges that will consider working towards Associate Degree program accreditation.

Prior to March 2006, all NAEYC staff had offices spread across 3 buildings in downtown Washington. All of the buildings were multi-storied and very old. Only one was accessible to people with disabilities. Now the entire staff works in 1 modern, fully accessible building located at 1330 L Street, NW.

In addition to housing NAEYC offices, the building is becoming the hub of national children's organizations. The National Black Child Development Institute and the Society for Research in Child Development are the first two organizations to lease space in the building. Several other organizations are in the process of signing leases and preparing to make the move in 2007. If you are in the Washington, DC area, stop by the national office. I am sure that you will be impressed by the offices and will feel extraordinarily

proud that you are a member of NAEYC.

In 2006, the NAEYC Governing Board unanimously decided to launch a research initiative that will result in an Office of Applied Research, two research staff positions, and an increased amount of research-based information on the NAEYC web site. One of the main goals of this initiative is to develop new, effective strategies for translating early childhood development and education research findings into materials and resources that will help early childhood teachers improve their daily classroom practices.

Another goal is to have an office that will be able to work with the vast amounts of data that will be generated by the new accreditation system. NAEYC has just released an important document, *Making A Difference: Excellence in Early Childhood Education – Recommendations to the 100th U.S. Congress*. It is a PDF (color) on the NAEYC website (see link below this article).

The Call to Action is a set of proposals that are both challenging but achievable by the 110th Congress. It provides new ideas, as well as funding of base programs of Child Care Development Block Grants and Head Start. It builds on what is an appropriate federal role in partnership with states, communities, programs, and families to support excellence in the quality of programs in family and center based child care, Early Head Start and Head Start, state pre-k

programs, and in public schools serving children from birth through age 8.

NAEYC will be distributing this document to members of Congress, and participants at the NAEYC Public Policy Forum will be handing them out as part of their materials during their visits with their Congressional delegations. In addition, NAEYC also is sending copies to organizations that support early childhood education birth to age 8.

The Southern Arizona and Arizona AEYC's will be working with their members on ways to support the work of the national Public Policy office to support the recommendations in *Making a Difference*. This is the first time in several years that NAEYC has prepared a document such as this one, and it deserves the full support of every member.

In addition to all of these accomplishments, NAEYC is also conducting an election for new Governing Board members, working hard to strengthen state and local affiliates, redesigning the membership structure and benefits, and planning national and regional conferences and new publications. Your membership dues are hard at work for you.

It is one of my greatest professional honors to be able to represent all of you as a member of the NAEYC Governing Board. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you have about NAEYC at nk.az@comcast.net.

Submitted by Naomi Karp, NAEYC Board member

If you have questions about NAEYC Accreditation:
CALL: 800-424-2460, ext 3 EMAIL: accreditation.information@naeyc.org

To view *Making a Difference: Excellence in Early Childhood Education*, go to:
<http://www.naeyc.org/policy/federal/pdf/CALLtoACTION107Combo.pdf>



Public Policy & Advocacy Committee Gears Up For Spring

SAzAEYC's Public Policy and Advocacy Committee is looking forward to a spring full of exciting events.

This year has already begun with the successful **Child Care Town Hall on February 8**. Over 250 people participated in this exciting evening that included complimentary dinner and child care and a lively discussion moderated by State Representative Linda Lopez. The panel of speakers included Don Diamond, a local businessman; parents from the community; a local child care center owner; and Penelope Jacks from the Children's Action Alliance. The discussion focused on the accessibility, affordability, availability, and quality of child care in the community. Many attendees commented on issues related to increasing the state subsidy for child care as well as appropriate levels of funding for staff compensation and inspections from the state to ensure clean and safe environments.

Several action items came out of the conversation at the Town Hall. Penelope Jacks from Children's Action Alliance encouraged people to contact Governor Napolitano and their state legislators with the message that child care needs to be a budget priority. Specifically, Rep. Linda Lopez has introduced House Bill 2687 that calls for an increase in appropriations that would raise the child care subsidy to reflect the cost of child care in 2004. In addition to writing letters to the Governor, state legislators, and the newspaper, participants were encouraged to write a message on a paper doll

about the importance of child care. These "dolls" will be collected and sent to the legislature in anticipation of **Child Care Action Day on March 13**. This event will allow early childhood professionals, parents, and other community members to speak to the legislature about the importance of high quality early childhood programs and how our state can do better to provide for our children.

SAzAEYC's Public Policy Committee will also be coordinating events for the **Month of the Young Child**, which occurs in April. These events will occur during the **Week of the Young Child (WOYC)** April 22-28, which NAEYC established in order to bring increased attention to the needs of young children and the importance of early childhood education and programs. The celebration will include a Mayoral proclamation as well as a poster contest among children ages two through six. The winning poster will be honored during a City Council meeting in April.

Another local event that celebrates early childhood will be **Stand for Children on May 12**. This day takes place at the Reid Park Zoo, which offers free admission for the event, and includes a variety of interactive activities and information about local children's agencies and groups.

Submitted by Erin Lyons, SAzAEYC's Vice President of Public Policy.

Upcoming Advocacy Events

- Child Care Action Day, March 13
- Month of the Young Child, April
- Week of the Young Child, April 22-28
- Stand For Children, Reid Park Zoo, May 12

For more information about these events, contact Erin Lyons: erin@lapalomakids.org

Ensuring Safe & Bright Futures: Training for Early Childhood Professionals

Pima Prevention Partnership, The Blake Foundation, and Juvenile Services Coordinating Council presents a series of free trainings for professionals working with very young children (birth to age 6) who have been exposed to domestic violence.

All trainings take place at Catholic Social Services, 140 West Speedway, Suite 230 (Board Room) in Tucson.

The trainings days, times, and topics are as follows:

Thursday, March 29 from 9-4 (lunch provided): Very Young Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: An Overview.

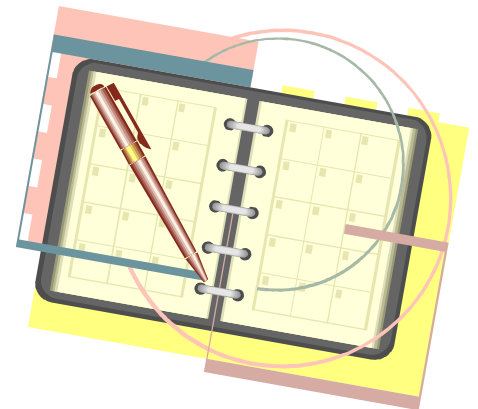
Thursday, April 19 from 1-4 p.m.: Identification, Assessment and Diagnoses of Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers Exposed to Family Violence.

Tuesday, May 15 from 9-noon: Treatment and Intervention Strategies for Professionals Working with Very Young Children Exposed to Violence in the Home and Community.

Thursday, June 7 from 9-noon: Family Team Conferencing for Domestic Violence Cases.

To register, call Steve Lumley at 795-4977.

If you have questions, email: kseidler@blakefoundation.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!



Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson, AZ
Permit No.
523

SOUTHERN ARIZONA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

SAzAEYC
P.O. Box 86750
Tucson, AZ 85754-6750



Be Informed! Sign Up for SAzAEYC & NAEYC Listservs

Join the SAzAEYC Listserv

Join your colleagues on a listserv especially for Southern 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 listserv. When you send information or questions to the listserv, everyone currently subscribed will receive your message at the same time!

Please email Tracy Patch, SAzAEYC Association Manager at sazzymanager@gmail.com if you would like to join the listserv. When enrolled, email from the listserv will show up as [SAzAEYC] in the subject line. Please note that the listserv address has changed! If you would like to send out a message to the listserv, the new email address is sazaeyc@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 Barbara Gordon at BMXBarb@comcast.net.

Articles contained within this publication may not reflect the position of SAzAEYC.