

SDAEYC Newsletter

February 2014 General Membership Letter

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Register Today!



Register now for the
[2014 Early Childhood Education Conference](#)
in **Sioux Falls, SD, April 24-26.**

Be sure to join us at the largest Early Childhood Education conference in the state.

Do you have a great idea for a workshop?
We are still in need of workshop proposals.
Please consider submitting yours today!!

[Click here to begin!](#)

Letter from the President-Sherrie Bosse



Dear Members,

It is a brand new year, and for many of us, a time to make resolutions. My resolutions often center around self improvement: more exercise, a healthier diet, getting organized, or developing new skills. Sticking with those goals is always easier when you have a family member, friend or colleague with a similar mission to remind you when you start to lose motivation. Here are a few goals for this year, and I would like to invite other SDAEYC members to join me - we can keep each other motivated in our mission to make a positive difference in the lives of

young children and their families.

1. Be a better advocate. We have a wonderful NAEYC resource to help us be aware of issues at the national level. NAEYC's policy page gives you easy access to pending legislation, contact information for our congressional representatives, and election results <http://www.naeyc.org/policy/action> . To make it even easier, there is a link on this page to sign up for email alerts. At the local level, South Dakota Voices for Children is a ready resource <http://sdvoicesforchildren.org> to help us stay abreast of issues in our state. Their website also has the option for signing up for a weekly update while the legislature is in session. Each February, they host Children's Day at the Capitol which features advocacy training and an opportunity to hear from our representatives about upcoming bills that are connected to the education and welfare of children in South Dakota.
2. Learn new information. NAEYC publishes a number of wonderful books for professionals each year. Comprehensive members receive five of these as part of their membership each year, and all NAEYC members receive a 20% discount when ordering from the NAEYC on-line store. Even better than reading a resource book on your own is reading with colleagues. Consider starting a book club or reading group in your local area to read and discuss a topic of interest.
3. Take time to appreciate each day. The message shared by MK Mueller at the 2013 SD ECE Conference was something that all ages can appreciate. She shared her practice of listing 3 things each day for which she was grateful. Being mindful that there is so much we can be thankful for, simple every day things that we miss when we get consumed by our hectic schedules. By noticing the simple things in life, a sunrise, a hot cup of cocoa on a cold afternoon, or an act of kindness we can change our outlook to one of positivity. By modeling gratefulness, we can help the children that we work with develop that positive outlook as well. For Pinterest users, there are some helpful ideas for teaching children about "gratitude."

If you care to join me in one or more of these resolutions, I would love to hear about your progress. Send an email to sdaeyc@gmail.com .

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and productive 2014!

Sherrie

Spotlight on Membership-Alyssa Erickson

Valentine's Day is approaching and there are many opportunities for children to enhance social skills and to teach about sharing. I found two different articles that would be great for sharing with parents because some may just see Valentine's Day as another holiday where their child receives an excessive amount of candy. Many parents can use these articles to help children at home with sharing and social skills.

Here is the link to the article about social skills: <http://www.examiner.com/article/valentine-s-day-offers-early-learning-opportunities>

Here is the link to the article about sharing: <http://www.examiner.com/article/the-benefits-of-valentines-day>

Also, I would just like to encourage you to network with other professionals during local meetings, state conferences, and other events that SDAEYC takes a part in. Networking is why we are here so spread ideas, thoughts, concerns, etc. with other early childhood professionals, and YOU will benefit!

Spotlight on Accreditation-Laura Gloege



I just want to pass on a few resources and updates for anyone who is interested:

Standards and Criteria

NAEYC is revising the process to make it less burdensome. They are identifying where NAEYC Accreditation intersects with other systems so that more programs can achieve accreditation while meeting other quality improvement requirements. They are trying to eliminate redundancy and increase transparency.

National Standards Crosswalks Tool

The Office of Child Care's National Center on Child Care Quality Improvement (NCCCQI) is creating an online program standards crosswalk analysis tool that is pre-populated with national early childhood program standards (e.g., Head Start, accreditation, Caring for our Children). This tool is designed to help States that are developing and aligning program standards for licensing, quality rating and improvement systems, and/or prekindergarten programs, to search and compare the content of several sets of national standards.

Crib Assessment Ends on April 1

Beginning on April 1, 2014, administrators of programs serving infants will be required to sign the Infant Sleep Equipment Acknowledgment Form before or during their program's visit for NAEYC Accreditation. By signing this form, program administrators will affirm that the cribs, play yards, floor beds, and other sleeping surfaces that their program provides for infants all meet current Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Standards. NAEYC Assessors will no longer conduct assessments of cribs from April 1 forward.

Join in the Academy's TORCH Discussion Groups

The discussion groups in TORCH have been reorganized for ease of use. You can access information on sharing portfolios, groups, and Guidance for Assessment. (See website below in the resources section.)

Upcoming Academy Training at NAEYC Headquarters in February

Join the Academy on February 13 for Improving Program Quality Through Self-Study, a training session at NAEYC Headquarters in Washington, DC.

- Build an understanding of Self-Study and its role in NAEYC Accreditation
- Engage NAEYC Standards and Criteria through dynamic activities
- Learn strategies for transitioning from self-paced Self-Study to a formal Self-Assessment

This is a great opportunity for professionals new to or interested in NAEYC Accreditation to kick off their program's Self-Study! Visit the Accreditation Training Center to register soon.

Contacting the Academy

Sending an electronic message is the easiest way to get in touch with an expert at the NAEYC Academy who can answer your questions. Use any of the following options:

- Submit a Consultation Request.
- Email accreditation.information@naeyc.org.
- Visit <http://www.naeyc.org/academy> and click on Contact Us.
- Visit the TORCH Help Desk.

You may also reach them by telephone at 800-424-2460. Dial option 3 for Accreditation, then option 1 for Accreditation of Programs for Young Children. Be sure to listen to the full menu of options to

be connected with the best individual to meet your needs. If you reach voicemail, please leave a message and describe your question in detail. The Academy will be in touch as soon as possible.

NAEYC Website Accreditation Resources

www.naeyc.org/academy

} Overview of the steps, email updates, scholarships, newsletters, videos on benefits of being accredited and on the self-study process, how to enroll, etc.

www.naeyc.org/torch

} Offers support and information related to the process overall, criteria searches, resource library, discussions, helpful links, help desk, and online seminars. Be sure to use Chrome or Firefox - Internet Explorer 10 may not work for all resources.

www.naeyc.org/accreditation

} Links to accredited programs for children, links to accredited associate degree programs, and links to accredited baccalaureate and graduate degree programs

As always, if anyone has questions and would like to talk to me about the accreditation process, please contact me at Laura.Gloege@sdstate.edu. Thanks!

Creativity and Play-Mary Bowne



All children need the freedom to be creative....it allows them to express themselves openly , without judgment, and provides educators with opportunities to learn more about children's emotional, mental, and possible physical development. When creating opportunities for children, educators should first start by providing activities, based on the children's interests and ideas. In order for this to occur, educators must first listen intently and observe the children carefully, and then offer children a wide range of creative materials and experiences. One of the most important types of creative activity is creative play as it showcases children's unique perspectives, provides for control and independence, and fosters social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. According to a [wikihow.com/Develop-Child-Creativity](http://www.wikihow.com/Develop-Child-Creativity), based from multiple educators' perspectives and experiences, as well as pbs.org, there are various steps that can be taken to help children develop creativity.

- Allow for children to make simple choices
- Encourage independence from caregivers and media
- Provide items and equipment in the environment to stimulate children's imaginations
- Brainstorm different uses for items with children
- Ask children open-ended questions for further understanding
- Play with children
- Be prepared for children's "messy" play
- Engage children in story telling

Please encourage creativity within your classrooms and programs. The experiences children have during their first few years of life can make a significant difference on the development of their creativity.

Updates from the Local Affiliates

Missouri Valley AEYC

Dawna Andersen, President Dawna.Andersen@usd.edu

The Missouri Valley AEYC affiliate has been meeting every other month and doing make and take activities at each meeting. We have had a few new members join our group as regular members as well as student membership. New members who have joined our group have received Walmart gift cards as an extra incentive to join our fun group. We also have had current members renew their current membership, so our membership is staying strong.

We are preparing for some projects and activities coming up in the next few months. Some of our members and student members will be attending Children's Day at the Capital in February. We will be joining the Vermillion PTA on April 4 to host a carnival for the Vermillion Community children. At this carnival, with the help of a Girl Scout troop book drive, children who are not yet in school will receive a free book. We will be serving the Vermillion Welcome Table to celebrate the Week of the Young Child in April. We also are planning a year end party where we will be playing some minute to win it games.

Members from our group will be attending and presenting at the SDECEC in April. Members will also be attending the Sioux Falls WOW conference.

Thank you to all of our members for your support and continued involvement in our affiliate. Your dedication to young children and early childhood makes the world a better place!

Spotlight on Student Members-Dawna Andersen



Members of the student groups committee and student members have been planning for a networking event at the SDECE Conference in April. More information will be sent out to student members once this planning is finalized. Student membership has been strong and continues to grow as students hear about SDAEYC. Many thanks go out to the students and the advisors who put a lot of work into recruiting, supporting, and spreading the word of our student groups.

On the SDAEYC Board, we have been pleased to have Alyssa Erickson as the Membership Chair and Marissa Miller as a student representative. It takes quite a commitment to serve SDAEYC in this capacity. Thank you for your work as members on the state board.

In November 2013, Lisa Hunt attended and presented at the NAEYC Conference. Lisa was the recipient of the first NAEYC Conference Student Scholarship Award. Lisa is a student at Northern State University and we were proud to have her represent our South Dakota students at the national conference. Thank you to Lisa and her advisor Gayle Bortnem.

To all students and members, please become a member of the SDAEYC Student Groups page on Facebook. What a wonderful place for all to post what is happening in your student groups, to keep ideas flowing between groups, to support each other in your student group efforts, and to connect with other students in the early childhood profession!

Please feel free to contact me at mvaeyc@gmail.com if you have any questions or have any ideas that would make our student group organizations even more fun and connected.

Spotlight on Midwest Alliance-Gayle Bortnem



At this time, the Midwest board has voted to disperse the funds evenly to all the states that are part of the Midwest AEYC." Once the books have been audited, the monies will be coming to the SDAEYC treasurer.

Spotlight on Public Policy-Vicki Linn

"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world.
Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

Early childhood professionals invest an incredible amount of time, caring, and energy every day as they endeavor to create a brighter future for young children and their families. We are not alone. There are numerous people across this country striving to change the world for young children and their families. Now, more than ever, it is important that we stay informed and involved at the national, state, and local level.

NAEYC has joined the Strong Start for Children national campaign in support of President Obama's plan to enhance access to quality early education for children ages birth to five. Learn more about this important initiative by visiting the NAEYC Children's Champions page: NAEYC Public Policy: Strong Start for Children. Get involved. Encourage our state congressional leaders to support this important bi-partisan sponsored legislation.

At the state level, the South Dakota legislature is in full swing. Send an email to the South Dakota Voices for Children (office@sdvoicesforchildren.org) to register for advocacy alerts that will help you stay informed about state level legislative issues that have the potential to influence children.

The SDAEYC Governing Board allocated a total of \$700 to be utilized for local public policy efforts during the 2014 Fiscal Year. Affiliates and chapters are encouraged to apply for funding that may be utilized to encourage members to share their voices in support of young children. Contact your affiliate or chapter representative to assist with planning and submitting a request for funding by March 1st.

Autism Awareness Conference 2014

Sponsored by Michael's Journey
Saturday, March 29, 2014
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Days Inn
2500 East 6th Street, Brookings, SD 57006

A free conference for SDSU Students, Elementary/Secondary Teachers,
Child Care Providers and Child Care Programs

[Conference Flyer Available Here](#)