



# SDAEYC Winter 2010 News



South Dakota Association for the  
Education of Young Children

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## In This Issue

[2010 SDAEYC/SDHSA  
Conference](#)

[Be a Part of the 2010  
Conference](#)

[New DAP Standards in  
Preschool Care](#)

[Quality Care in Early  
Childhood Settings](#)

[Week of the Young Child](#)

[Student Groups: Important link  
today and tomorrow](#)

[Leadership Opportunities in  
SDAEYC](#)

[Accreditation: Self-Study  
Resources](#)

[Local Affiliates & Chapters](#)

## Register TODAY for the 2010 SDAEYC/SDHSA Annual Conference

Registration for the 2010 SDAEYC/SDHSA Annual Conference is now open. The Preliminary Program and Registration Information are available at [www.sdaeYC.org](http://www.sdaeYC.org)

This year's conference will feature a wide variety of learning opportunities as well as networking with colleagues and friends.

Plan to join us in Watertown!

## Be a Part to the 2010 Annual Conference: Share your children's creative endeavors!

The 2010 Hospitality committee needs your help to provide children's creative expressions for the conference. We would love to showcase a variety of artistic endeavors from many Child Care Centers, Preschools or Family Day Care providers. This year we will be sharing children's work in an electronic format and invite you to submit photos from your program. Check out the details for [submitting artwork](#) and be a part of the 2010 Annual Conference!

## New DAP Standards in Preschool Care

Make a New Year's resolution to read the new 3rd Edition, Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood Programs from NAEYC. Early childhood professionals are given an excellent resource to form a base for their teaching and learning. This is an awesome book that even has a CD with articles and video clips to support our work with young children and show what theories look like in action.

One area, technology in the early childhood curriculum, is addressed by giving suggestions on what is appropriate for preschoolers. Computers are to be viewed as another tool for children to be able to find information, solve

problems, and learn at their own pace. They can use all types of technology (cameras and recorders) to keep track of their experiences and document what they are working on. Children should be able to use computers with others and not as an individual activity. The computer area could be another center to choose during free choice time with a bench or chairs so more than one can work together.

This is only one area from the book that shares goals of what to plan for in the curriculum.

Go to [naeyc.org](http://naeyc.org) to find this great book and best wishes for a wonderful year of growing (for both us and our young people).

Happy New Year 2010!!

## Quality Care in Early Childhood Settings

Research has shown that quality care in the U.S. involves environments where children are talked to and played with and they have the opportunity to form comfortable, secure relationships with a caregiver who will promote their healthy emotional development (The Cost, Quality and Child Care Outcomes Study Team, 1995; National Center for Early Development and Learning, 1999).

The research on brain development for young children is very simple:

- Good early care experiences expand your child's capacity to learn
- Holding, cuddling and talking actually affect how your child's brain grows
- Loving and supportive child care "programs" the brain to handle stress and control emotions
- The first years of life lay the groundwork for future experiences
- Reading to and singing with your child every day is a simple and effective way to help brain development

Nurturing a child's brain development doesn't require money, fancy toys or special equipment. It does require attention, loving care and knowing when to get help. Babies are resilient - with support and attention from loving adults, they can adapt to any situation. In fact, a strong, secure attachment to a nurturing adult can have a protective biological function, helping a growing child withstand the ordinary stresses of daily life.

Many children have families who provide the stimulation and nurturing that they need to grow and develop to their potential. Unfortunately many children do not receive what they need during their first few years for healthy brain growth and development. As our society becomes even more technically and socially complex, we cannot afford to continue to allow large numbers of children to miss out on the positive experiences they need in infancy and early childhood. The costs, in terms of lost intellectual potential and increased rates of emotional and behavioral problems, are too high. The new developments in brain research show us what children need; our challenge is to ensure that every child receives it.

Resources: [zerotothree.org](http://zerotothree.org), [lamyourchild.org](http://lamyourchild.org), [NACCRRRA.org](http://NACCRRRA.org)

Gayle Bortnem, Vice President [bortnemg@northern.edu](mailto:bortnemg@northern.edu)



**week of the  
young child** **woyc**

**The Week of the Young Child 2010 is April 11th-17th.**  
The theme for 2010 will be Early Years Are Learning Years™

Tools and information for Week of the Young Child will help you plan exciting events to celebrate children and raise awareness of their needs. Check out these resources and start planning ways to bring your community together for children: <http://www.naeyc.org/woyc>

Rhonda Swanson, Public Policy Chair  
[Rhonda.Swanson@presentation.edu](mailto:Rhonda.Swanson@presentation.edu)

### **Student Groups: Important link today and tomorrow**

Early childhood teacher preparation programs at SD universities and CDA programs are important sources of new members and emerging leaders for our organization. NAEYC has developed guidelines and materials to help us establish - and strengthen - connections between our state and local affiliates and the next generation of early childhood educators.

Our state affiliates can build relationships with existing student groups or help them establish one in their area.

- Assess the range of early childhood teacher preparation programs in your community. Are the students preparing to teach in child care, preschool, or K-3 settings? Are they full-time students, or working in the field while earning a degree part-time?
- When you are ready to start building a connection with the early childhood student group at a local university, your first contact should be a professor in the early childhood education department or program. Encourage the professor to become a Faculty Facilitator and encourage students to establish a relationship between their student group and the Local AEYC.
- While sponsorship is a great way to encourage more early childhood education students to become members of their Local,

State and National AEYC, it's also important to recognize that some students will see membership dues as a burden. However, all student members should be members at the local, state, regional and national level. Consider establishing scholarships for student memberships, encouraging leaders of your Affiliate to sponsor individual students, and other creative ways to help them afford membership.

- Some students may already be members. Sponsoring student groups is a good way to show students the many ways they benefit from increased involvement as members.
- Be sure to establish strong two-way communications related to upcoming events or activities.
- Don't forget, the new video "NAEYC: For Our Future" is a valuable tool for introducing students to their professional organization. Each Local or State Affiliate can get one free copy of the video by contacting the NAEYC Office of Affiliate Relations.

#### **Potential roles and activities for students:**

- Volunteering at the Local or State Conference
- Nominate someone for the new [Student Service Award](#) presented at the state conference in April
- Organizing workshops for other students, featuring local experts and leaders
- Conducting information fairs and events on campus during Week of the Young Child
- Sending student representatives to meetings of Affiliates
- Engaging in Worthy Wage Campaigns and other advocacy efforts in the community
- Raising funds for field trips to other schools, NAEYC Annual Conference, etc.
- Sponsoring volunteer service projects at child care centers, elementary schools, homeless shelters, children's hospital wards and other community organizations
- Writing articles about the student groups for the SDAEYC newsletter
- Connecting with the Student Interest Forum - at the NAEYC Annual Conference or on [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) - to share ideas with other student groups around the country

Our students are our future (That has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?) so let's get to know them and share the benefits of AEYC.

Gayle Bortnem, Student Group Chair [bortnemg@northern.edu](mailto:bortnemg@northern.edu)

#### **Leadership Opportunities Available: Consider Sharing YOUR Talents in SDAEYC Nominations and Elections**

According to SDAEYC By-Laws, Article IV, Officers: "The officers of SDAEYC are: President, Past President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The officers should be elected annually by the members. The president and secretary are elected in the odd numbered years, the vice-president and treasurer are elected in the even numbered years. The term of office is two years and officers can serve two consecutive terms.

Specific duties are defined in the SDAEYC Governing Board Job Descriptions."

This year we are electing a Vice-President and Treasurer. Besides these two officers, we will also be electing a Member-at-Large. Currently, we are seeking interested board members. Shortly thereafter, a slate/ballot will be sent to full membership for their vote. All elections operate under "one member, one vote" procedure, and the outcome is determined by the majority of members voting in the election. Newly elected officers will assume their position on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

If interested, you can visit the SDAEYC website to view the "SDAEYC Governing Board Job Descriptions" document and/or contact Tami Skorczewski, Past President, at [tami.skorczewski@southeasttech.edu](mailto:tami.skorczewski@southeasttech.edu).

***"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found out how to serve." Albert Schweitzer***

### Accreditation: Self-Study Resources

Have you thought about your physical environment lately? NAEYC Accreditation stresses this important component as it reflects the goals, values, and expectations of the program. Although every environment is uniquely different in its own way, there are three broad ideas NAEYC wants programs to consider.

1-Who is welcomed? Are children, families, and staff welcomed? Are all ages, cultures, developmental abilities and disabilities portrayed so that everyone who enters the center feels welcome? Does the environment appear to be safe, healthy and comfortable?

2-What is important? What messages are expressed within the center? Do the walls portray the skills, talents, and interests of the children? Are areas open and accessible to all? Why or why not? Are differences well represented in respectful materials and displays?

3-What are the beliefs about how children learn? Since the environment tells others how programs believe children learn best, are activities set up for active engagement and learning to take place?

Although the self-study book on the physical environment continues with a more descriptive analysis and evaluation of a program's environment, begin by asking the above questions. Think about the population served within the program and ask them the same questions. For example, if a parent states that he feels uninformed about what is occurring in the center, begin by simply placing the lesson plans and lunch menu by the front entrance. This will inform him about what is occurring in the center and will demonstrate a welcoming and accessible environment for all involved. Making small adjustments to improve the quality of the physical environment will benefit

all at the program.

Mary Bowne, Accreditation Chair [mabowne@itctel.com](mailto:mabowne@itctel.com)

## Updates from Our Local Affiliates & Chapters

### **DAKOTA MIDLAND AEYC**

Suzy Braun, President [suzanne.braun@presentation.edu](mailto:suzanne.braun@presentation.edu)

Happy Winter Everyone!!

DMAEYC members are shaking off the bountiful snow and starting to dig into SDAEYC Conference preparations and Week Of The Young Child coordination.

The DMAEYC Affiliate is responsible for Hospitality at the upcoming 2010 SDAEYC/SDHSA Conference being held in Watertown on April 15 - 17, 2010. We are excited to announce that the children's art projects will be shared via technology this year. So instead of asking providers to send in children's artwork, we are asking providers to send in digital pictures of their children, anything from art experiences to dramatic play to block structures, use your imagination and send us some great pictures to share. Since these will be shared at the conference, we will need to also have you submit photo release forms, so please contact Carla Addison at [addisonc@northern.edu](mailto:addisonc@northern.edu) for more information. We will also be needing help pulling together presenter bags and table decorations, so again, contact Carla if you would like to offer your help and support.

DMAEYC is also working on pulling together a celebration for Week of the Young Child. This year's slogan is "Early Years are Learning Years." If you would like to help with the planning and implementing of this celebration, please contact Pat Buechler at [pat.buechler@aberdeenroncalli.org](mailto:pat.buechler@aberdeenroncalli.org).

Our next meeting will be Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, the student session starts at 5:00 and the DMAEYC meeting will start at 6:00. All are welcome to attend both meetings. They will be held at Northern State University in the Student Center's Maroon Room. This month's topic will be diversity. We hope to see you there.

### **EAST CENTRAL AEYC**

Tammy Clark, President [tclark2k@hotmail.com](mailto:tclark2k@hotmail.com)

We contact our current members with an e-mail once a month. Plans are brewing for a conference call in February and then to concentrate on the conference in April.

Our affiliate has been working with ICAP Head Start on Local Arrangements for the upcoming SDAEYC conference to be held in Watertown, SD. Our tasks have included: facilities and logistics with the Watertown Event Center, food and beverage, technology and student volunteers. Thank you to those that have volunteered. Many hands make light work and we would be happy to have additional members. If you would like to assist in these activities, please contact Tammy Clark at [tclark2k@hotmail.com](mailto:tclark2k@hotmail.com) or [tammy.clark@sdstate.edu](mailto:tammy.clark@sdstate.edu).

Lynda Venhuizen will be visiting Washington DC for the NAEYC National

Public Policy Forum at the beginning of February. Our affiliate will send a representative every other year.

Mary Bowne is now our current Treasurer and we would like to thank her for her willingness to serve our affiliate in this leadership role. We have other leadership roles available for those who would like to serve. Contact me and we can discuss the opportunities!

### **MISSOURI VALLEY AEYC**

Sherrie Bossie, Co-President, [sherrie.bosse@usd.edu](mailto:sherrie.bosse@usd.edu)  
Angie Haas, Co-President, [angela.haas@us.army.mil](mailto:angela.haas@us.army.mil)

The Missouri Valley Chapter postponed their January meeting due to inclement weather. The meeting has been re-scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at South Dakota Public Broadcasting on the USD campus. The topic will be SDPB's "Ready to Learn" program which will be presented by Wess Pravecek. Members will also be sharing their literacy ideas. We look forward to you joining us in February!

### **SIOUXLAND AEYC**

Amie Bennett, President, [amie\\_rebecca@hotmail.com](mailto:amie_rebecca@hotmail.com)

Would you like to be more involved in the Early Childhood field?

Do you like to be a part of a team?

Then becoming a member of our affiliate's governing board is what you might enjoy! By becoming a board member, you get the insight on what is going around our community for children and child care providers. We work closely with other statewide affiliates on the planning and organizing of the State conference that is held every spring.

If you are interested in becoming a board member, please feel free to email [siouxlandaeyc@gmail.com](mailto:siouxlandaeyc@gmail.com)

*"I have enjoyed being a member of the Siouxland affiliate. It has helped me grow professionally as well as personally. I have been a part of making decisions and planning fun events for families and children and have had so much fun getting to know other professionals throughout the state. If anyone has a little extra time on their hands and they have a love of their job and the families they work with, then I think I would enjoy being a part of the local affiliates governing boards." Amie Bennett, Siouxland President, Citibank Family Center*

### **SDAEYC Mission**

is to serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights and well-being of all young children with the primary focus on the provision of quality care and education services; and SDAEYC leads the effort to foster the growth, development, and collaboration of the professionals who care for and educate young children.