



E-Newsletter

Winter 2013/ Number 1

PO Box 959103
Hoffman Estates, IL.
60195
www.goaeyc.org
(an affiliate of NAEYC)

President's Message

February 2013

President's Message

New Year and a New You!

What are your goals for this year? Make 2013 the year to get involved and give back!

This year GoAEYC is looking for help from you! With all of the great professional events that GoAEYC has planned for 2013, we are looking for members who are interested in getting more involved in our association. Whether you can only help at a one-day event or whether you are interested in joining a committee or the board, we would love to have you.

The success of all of our events is because of wonderful volunteers. I encourage you to give where you can!

Our next meeting is February 13 at 6:30pm. We meet at the Children's Home + Aid office in Arlington Heights. Not able to attend a board meeting, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to help you with any questions you may have about getting involved.

** Don't forget to register for our Spring Symposium on February 23 at Harper College. Our topic this year is "Learning Through Nature: Indoors & Out". Registration information can be found on our website www.goaeyc.org.

I look forward to working with all of you this year!

Sincerely,
Alisa Kapusinski
GoAEYC President
847-781-3631
akapusinski@heparks.org

Congratulations to:

Hoffman Estates Park District - Triphahn Center

Glenview Community Church Nursery School

Lincolnshire Community Nursery School

For achieving NAEYC Accreditation

Thank you for your dedication to quality care and education for children.



We are still Green....

The GoAEYC Board has been actively attempting to “go green” for a number of years now. While we have reached some of our initial goals, we continue to work towards continuous improvement and explore new ways to make the “greening” a reality. One of our goals has been to raise the awareness of early childhood professionals to the importance of teaching and cultivating an appreciation of the earth itself. We hope child care professionals will empower the children and families they work with to embrace small changes in their lives. Hopefully, our organization, both through example and with shared information have provided early childhood educators with some helpful hints for their centers/classrooms/day care homes. Our board continues to be committed to that goal.

As an organization we also looked at ways to make better use of our own resources, including our funds. We now use electronic newsletters and e-mails blasts for our membership and no longer have reams of paper involved in getting information to you. We work at the three “R’s” (Recycle, Reuse, and Reducing”). Our conferences are now planned and organized around ways to be green. Recycling is visible at all of our events, even our monthly meetings have changed in subtle ways that reflect the underlying pull to be green. It’s the many little steps that are beginning to define us and what we do.

While I have not polled our board members, I feel confident that they have found the greening easier than they originally thought it would be and that it’s been beneficial on a number of levels, the most important of which is the sense of pride, ownership, and commitment they feel about our role in supporting children growing up green. I know personally have become far more conscience of my own life style and the carbon footprint I make.

Our changes have been relatively small but exponentially significant for us. As GoAEYC continues to develop our green identity, we hope to broaden our environmental perspective to include topics on nature, energy, health, and sustainability. We welcome your input, especially any ideas that encourage or empower young children to live green and love their planet.

In closing, GoAEYC believes even the smallest green step positively impacts future generations of young children.

Have a green day!

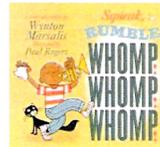
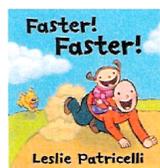
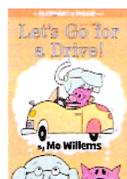
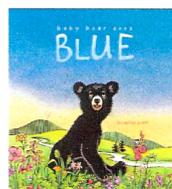
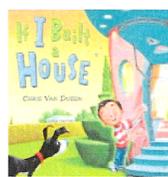
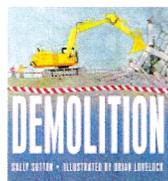
Reprinted from 2010 newsletter.

Book Corner: Courtesy of Brian Wilson, Evanston Public Library

Mr. Brian's Top Ten Picture Books of 2012



1. Demolition by Sally Sutton, illustrated by Brian Lovelock
2. If I Built a House by Chris Van Dusen
3. Oh, No! by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann
4. Baby Bear Sees Blue by Ashley Wolff
5. Boy + Bot by Ame Dyckmann, illustrated by Dan Yaccarino
6. It's a Tiger by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Jeremy Tankard
7. Let's Go for a Drive by Mo Willems
8. Faster! Faster! by Leslie Patricelli
9. Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp! By Wynton Marsalis, illustrated by Paul Rogers
10. Let's Sing a Song with the Brave Cowboy by Jan Thomas



Our Experience with Project Approach to Education

By Eva Popov, M.A.

Tiny Tot Preschool and Kindergarten, Skokie

“Spiders Everywhere”

A Summary of Junior Kindergarten Classroom 2012 Project Work Involvement

The topic of our in-depth investigation of spiders came spontaneously while playing outside. We saw a spider nest inside one of our car toys and one of the children poked it with a finger. The most amazing thing happened—hundreds of miniature spiders went in all possible directions and came back to the nest in just a couple of seconds! Our project topic was born. We came inside the classroom and created our first knowledge web about spiders. It turned out we did not know a lot, so we started to investigate. Questions like “Where do spiders live?”, “What do they eat?”, and “Are they dangerous” arose and we decided we would start our research at the library.

We contacted the local librarian and used her as an expert who provided us with numerous books about spiders. The children dove into the topic right away, by investigating every single spider web they encountered at the park nearby, or at our playground; by taking pictures of all spiders and spider webs they spotted. We



went on a few field trips to the park where children looked under each piece of play equipment hoping they would find a “new spider”. After one of these field trips, a question arose “Could we build a spider, so we can better learn about it?” After considering all of the available options, the teacher contacted a mechanical engineer, who designed and constructed an actual three-dimensional spider out of PVC pipes. The children loved the idea of the spider’s moving parts and started to experiment with the model right away. They counted all of the PVC parts and recorded the number of the parts for different “body structures”. They took many pictures, tested the model’s strength by putting books on top of it; compared and guessed what type of a spider it was; even investigated the spider web’s strength by hosing it with water. The children represented their learning by creating many drawings and sculptures, setting up a “spider lab” in the science center, reading many books about spiders, and playing “spider scientists”. They were even able to study spider legs under the microscope that we bought last year with the grant money for our first project investigation. We made our learning process even more interesting and relevant to us, by borrowing the Insect and Spider Trunk- a large supply container provided by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. We also went on a field trip to the “Spider Island” in Chicago Botanic Garden where the children had the opportunity to learn observational drawing techniques.

During the third phase of the project work, the children pretended to be researchers who would work in a “Spider Museum and Factory”, and organized field trips to their laboratory, so other children could learn more about the



spiders they have there. The project managed to involve our parents too, to the point that some would come to school bringing spiders in zip lock bags in order for us to compare and research in our “Laboratory”. Based on my positive experience working with the Project Approach over the last couple of

years, I can’t stress enough how powerful this way of teaching is. It empowers the students to ask smart questions, to investigate, and find meaningful answers. That knowledge stays with them and helps them in their future school experiences.





Scholarships

Desire to move forward in your Early Childhood profession?

Need a little financial help?

GoAEYC provides scholarships of up to \$250 per calendar year for any of its members.

You can apply for a scholarship upon completion of any of the following:

- An Early Childhood college course
- Child Development Associate (CDA)
- Early Childhood conference or training
- Illinois Director Credential
- Center Accreditation or Re-accreditation.

Funds will be awarded in the order the applications are received until the allocated funds are depleted.

Instructions and applications are available at www.goaeyc.org.

Any questions, please contact Molly Babu via email m.babu.goaeyc@gmail.com

Each year Illinois Action for Children's Spring Into Action Conference brings together more than 200 early care and education advocates, parents, providers and other leaders in the field for 2 days of policy-oriented workshops, capitol visits and networking opportunities.

The conference keynote and panelists provide a motivating framework for the day.



Spring Into Action's policy-oriented workshops inform participants on a wide range of issues impacting children and families today.

Past conference topics include: Healthy Food & Nutrition, Child Care, Revenue Reform, Bilingual Immersion in Early Childhood, Eliminating Poverty, Health Care Reform, Quality Early Education and much more!



Join us for Spring into Action's Networking Reception! We know how important it is to network and understand how difficult it is to network during the conference day. This year we are dedicating an evening to convene conference participants in a casual networking reception. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet new people, reconnect with friends, and learn more about the advocacy work being done statewide!



On the 2nd day of the conference, attendees put their advocacy skills to work as they head over to the capitol for legislative visits – sharing local stories of the effects early care and education have in their district and communities.

Spring Into Action! 16 years of sharing, building and sharpening advocacy skills that help improve outcomes for all children and families.

Illinois Action for Children is a catalyst for organizing, developing and supporting strong families and powerful communities where children matter most.

Making the Grade: A Report Card on Child Care Licensing

Your Voice Matters!

A new project is underway to support child care providers in Illinois! The goal of the project is to create a Child Care Licensing Report Card for the state by asking thousands of child care providers like you to tell us how well the child care licensing system is working.

To join this campaign and share your experience, complete the enclosed survey! Based on confidential survey responses from providers, Providers in Action, in partnership with Illinois Action for Children, will create and present a "report card" evaluating the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) child care licensing program. The report card will look at how well DCFS supports child care providers in meeting licensing standards and making sure children are safe and healthy.

How is child care licensing working for you? Click on the survey below to share your experiences!

Please complete the survey by March 31, 2013

English: <http://s.zoomerang.com/s/ChildCareLicensingReportCard>



We Are Growing Again!



Bright Horizons is excited to announce that we will be opening 3 new centers in 2013!

If you are looking for a new opportunity for 2013 join us now to be one of the first considered for opportunities at these new locations! We are currently seeking the following:

- . Bright Horizons at Crystal Lake – Full Time Preschool Teacher
- . Bright Horizons at Deer Park – Full Time Two's Teacher
- . Bright Horizons at Elgin – Full Time Infant & Preschool Teachers
- . Bright Horizons at Kemper Lakes (Lake Zurich) – Full Time Infant & Two's Teachers
- . Bright Horizons at Libertyville – Full Time Infant Teacher
- . Bright Horizons at Meacham (Schaumburg) – Full Time Preschool Teacher
- . Bright Horizons at Parkway North (Deerfield) – Full Time Infant & Two's Teachers
- . CDW @ Play (Vernon Hills) – Full Time Infant & Toddler Teachers
- . Dearhaven Child Learning Center (Lake Forest) – Full Time Support Teacher
- . Early Discoveries (Abbott Park) – Full Time Infant Teacher
- . Little Hands CDC (Northbrook) – Full Time Infant, Toddler & Preschool Teachers
- . New Trier CDC (Northfield) – Full Time Infant & Two's Teacher
- . Sears CDC (Hoffman Estates) – Full Time Infant & Toddler Teachers
- . Takeda CDC (Deerfield) – Full Time Two's Teacher
- . The Early Childhood Education Center (Schaumburg) – Part Time Support Teacher
- . Walgreens CDC (Deerfield) – Full Time Toddler Teacher



*Bright Horizons is an equal opportunity employer
Committed to diversity in the workplace. EOE/IAA*

