

**Rock River
Association for
the Education of
Young Children**



RRAEYC NEWS

Issue

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Advocate: One that pleads the cause of another; One that supports or promotes the interests of another (Webster's Dictionary)

Be an advocate for children's rights!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Kristi Franseen

We owe a huge thank you to RRAEYC board member Melissa Johnson for initiating our new website, www.rraeyc.org! She worked with Sam Tucibat and his Highland Community College Graphic Design class. Melissa provided information and the class designed the website. We appreciate Melissa leading us onto the World Wide Web. We are grateful to Mr. Tucibat for his expertise and to his class for sharing their talents with us.

While you are online checking out our website, visit illinoisaeyc.org to find out what is going

on at the state level. (Click on the public policy tab and then look for Children's Champion Email List.) Use AEYC information on the internet to educate yourself and advocate on behalf of young children. Now, more than ever young children and their families need us to be informed and vocal. (Gini Kutter talks about making our voices heard on page 4.)

If you think your voice won't be heard, think again! I once heard a speaker say, "If you think you're too small to make a difference, think about a mosquito." Even though there are many mosquitoes swarming around, they cannot be

ignored.

Finally, I want to say thank you to our past president, Jane Erikson. On top of being our leader, Jane has provided meeting space at 3R's for RRAEYC board meetings as well as storage space for materials. Her generosity and leadership have been invaluable to our association.

Kristi Franseen

POST UNSAFE PRODUCT WEBSITES—DCFS mandate

Did you know?

DCFS now mandates all licensed child care facilities to post a notice of unsafe product websites. This notice should be posted on your parent bulletin board. Listed below are some websites that may be included on

your notice:

www.cpsc.gov

www.recalls.gov

www.toysafety.mobi

www.idph.state.il.us

Submitted by Board member Sue Benters

Help keep children safe and healthy by providing education to parents.



2011 Newsletter editions will be disseminated in May, July and October. Special flyers will be mailed throughout the year.



RRAEYC

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**JOIN RRAEYC NOW &
AVOID THE RUSH!**



Value of Infant/Toddler Attachment

What is attachment? Attachment is an enduring affectionate bond between a child and a person who cares for the child, providing the child with a feeling of safety or security. Children learn to trust and build secure attachments through consistent, responsive, and predictable relationships with caregivers.

Why is attachment important? Attachment is essential to infant/toddler development and must be facilitated in child care programs. Attachment is the prime factor in the development of social skills and sets the stage for early relationships. Attachment also allows an infant to feel safe in their environment so that they will feel comfortable enough to explore their environments. Brain research which is now available to parents and caregivers validates that warm, positive, interactions stabilize connections in the brain. High-quality, responsive care must be provided for attachment to thrive.

What does attachment look like in early childhood care and education environments? Center-based programs can provide for attachment needs through a primary caregiver system in which infants are assigned to a primary caregiver. Caregivers must be responsive to the infants and toddlers which includes learning to read their individual signals and responding appropriately. Caregivers must be nurturing, address their cries and be consistently emotionally available. Research has shown that infants need ongoing, reciprocal, responsive interactions when they are in care outside of the home for significant amount of time during the day. Research also

demonstrates that infants in child care retain their attachments to their parents.

For more information on this subject, review the following resources:

www.zertothree.org

www.pitc.org

Gonzales-Mena, J & Widemeyer Eyer, D. *Infants, Toddlers, and Caregivers*, 8th Ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2009.

Submitted by Melissa Johnson, Board member and Certified Infant/Toddler Caregiver Trainer



In the Spotlight

This section of the newsletter provides readers with a list of resources relevant to young children, families, and educators. The RRAEYC Board is interested in your suggestions of innovative sites that you have found on the internet. Email suggestions to auntiem94@hotmail.com.

Early Head Start (EHS) services began in April 2010 in Winnebago County. City of Rockford Human Services Department was awarded the Federal grant to provide child and family development services for low-income pregnant women and families with children ages birth to three. The goals of EHS are to:

- Enhance the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of young children;
- Support the efforts of parents to fulfill their parental roles;
- Assist families toward self-sufficiency.

Early Head Start has two program options: home-based services and center-base services. Families enrolled in home-base services have an EHS teacher come to their home every week with information and activities to support child development and to nurture the parent-child relationship. Twice per month, the EHS program provides the opportunity for parents and children to come together as a

group for information sharing and social activities. Center-based services provide quality care and developmentally appropriate activities for infants and toddlers in a licensed child care facility. EHS has partnered with Circles of Learning on North Main Street to provide the center-base option to eight families who are currently working or enrolled in school.

For more information regarding the Early Head Start program please call (815) 987-5480.

-Submitted by Board member Julie Millard



“.com” Internet Resources

- The Center to Mobilize Early Childhood Knowledge is developing web-based, instructional resources for faculty and other professional developmental providers that focus and respond to challenges faced each day by those working with young children and their families in a variety of learning environments and inclusive settings.

<http://community.fpg.unc.edu/connect-modules/learners>



- Voices for Illinois Children champions the full development of every child in Illinois. The agency works with families, communities, and policy-makers on all issues to help

children. You may sign up to receive email updates regarding the legislative policies.

<http://www.voices4kids.org>

- Illinois Early Learning Standards include benchmarks for learning for the preschool age and were developed to parallel in content in Illinois Learning Standards for K-12 education.

<http://www.illinoisearlylearning.org/standards>

Call for Action

PUBLIC POLICY: Rock River AEYC is required to report to NAEYC on the ways in which we support Public Policy issues that affect children, families, and providers. As our Public Policy Chairperson, Sandy Carter keeps a log of our advocacy actions. These might include: emails, faxes, letters, personal meetings or phone calls made to local, state or national leaders

stating our view points on critical issues. If you have made contacts on behalf of children, families, or our profession, please send contact list to skc636@comcast.net. **Be sure and put RRAEYC in the subject line so that Sandy will recognize it as a valid email.**

Thank you for your support for children!



Developmental Screenings: Why?

Parents are encouraged to take their children to their well-child check-ups so they can monitor their child's health and keep their immunizations up-to-date. What do parents know about learning check-ups? A learning check-up, also known as a developmental screening, focuses on a child's overall developmental milestones. The purpose of Learning Checkups or screening is to find out how a child birth to 5 is developing and how a parent can help him/her learn even more. In Freeport, the All Our Kids Network and the Local Inter-agency Council (LIC) combine

forces to spread the word to families about the value of a learning check-up (screening). The AOK Network publicizes the screening dates and contact information for the school districts. School district screenings are then reported to the LIC by the Pre-K Coordinator of ISBE programs. The LIC Coordinator reports the data monthly to Child Find at Illinois Department of Human Services in Springfield. The AOK Network will provide trainings to early childhood educators and family child care providers so they can provide developmental screenings to young children in

their care. AOK is also available to provide training to other interested agencies and daycare providers.



Let Our Voices Be Heard—Join RRAEYC

As advocates for young children and their families, it is time to make our voices heard. Membership in Rock River AEYC also means being part of the Illinois affiliate and NAEYC. NAEYC's 100,000 members have the opportunity to shape the future for early learning. As developmentally appropriate practices, assessment, quality assurances and accountability

seem to be ever changing, help us shape the future.

If you are a current member, use your member ID (found on your address label) to join the NAEYC Online communities and share our ideas in the forums. Talk to those with whom you work and ask them to join us. The more voices we have the more we can do. With our economy making travel too

costly, your membership allows Rock River AEYC to create local trainings, conferences, workshops and events! Thank you for your continued support on behalf of children and families.

Submitted by Board Member
Gini Kutter

Help RRAEYC go GREEN

Help RRAEYC go green and do our part to preserve our earth for our future generations. We would like to provide the RRAEYC newsletter electronically. Please send your email address so that we may send you the newsletter electronically. RRAEYC would like to decrease, if not eliminate hard copies in the future. Please send your email addresses to the following to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter: auntiem94@hotmail.com
Thank you in advance for your support in our efforts.

RRAEYC is on the web!

Check out www.rraeyc.org

Thank you to Sam Tucibat and his Graphics Design class at Highland Community College for creating a website for RRAEYC! The RRAEYC Board of Directors is excited that we are taking this leap in the world of technology and will be able to keep our members and participants updated on what is happening with RRAEYC and in your affiliate area!

