



A.A.A.E.Y.C.

WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Express your voice, Engage in a professional community, Influence the future of early childhood

President's Message

Dear Fellow AAAEYC

Members,

As we move into the new year, I am looking back on 2010. Your AAAEYC board has been very busy as always. Again this year, AAAEYC offered a variety of trainings, including health and safety trainings. We offered trainings at the Resource Lab at the Akron-Summit County Public Library and at the Metro Parks. We also had our annual Week of the Young Child celebration and training and our annual Holiday celebration and training. We awarded the Good Idea Grant and an OAEYC conference scholarship. We are proud to have over two hundred members on our rolls. Our goal this year is to get even more active members. If you are a member, think of ways that you can become actively involved in the work of AAAEYC. Our organization is only as strong as our membership. We need your help!

This year, our focus will again be finding ways to offer effective, informative and supportive trainings, meetings and platforms for early childhood professionals to share their knowledge with each other and gain new knowledge to take back to their respective programs. We will be offering more outstanding sessions in the 2011. I am looking forward to attending them and I hope that you will also. AAAEYC is here to support early childhood professionals in the work that they do with children and families. As we continue to do that, please let us know how we can serve you!

Sincerely,

Pam Oviatt

AAAEYC President

Interested in becoming more involved in your professional association? Consider serving on the Board or running for secretary! How about serving on a committee, like the Week of the Young Child, nominations or grant/scholarship review committees. For more information contact [Board President Pam Oviatt](#)

UAEYC Update

Did you know there is a AEYC student group on the University of Akron campus? An active group of about 25 university students stay busy with various service projects. Last year these included:

- T-shirts and Teddy Bears—61 teddy bears with zippy t-shirts were given to kids in shelters
- Baby Shower—clients at local pregnancy centers were treated to a baby shower hosted by UAEYC students
- Blanket project—25 blankets were made and given to kids in shelters
- Foster Care Project—25 baskets full of kitchen, bath and personal items were filled and given to kids graduating out of foster care

Congratulations to Susan Witt and all the students for all your good work!!!

Congratulations to:

Barbara J. Simmons, recipient of the Send me to the Ohio Early Care and Education Conference Scholarship

Lynne Ehrman, recipient of the Good Idea grant

For more information on the winning grant and information about applying for next year check out our web page at www.aaeYC.org.

Board meetings, are open to all members and start at 5:30.

Contact Board President [Pam Oviatt](#) for more information.

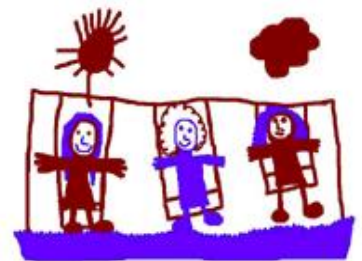
Next Board Meetings

Feb. 10 - Waterloo Head Start

March 10 - Shaw Jewish Community Center

April 7 - Waterloo Head Start

May 13 - Planning retreat - Fairlawn Lutheran



Voice on Demand

250 Early Childhood Professionals responded to the invitation to join the VoD Network. Did you? Ohio AEEYC has the unique potential to gather the opinions of early childhood practitioners across the state and share them with decision-makers at the point where it can have the greatest impact. As an association, we are ready to turn that *potential* into *power* through the Voice on Demand Network (VoD Network). The Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children serves as your connection to state decision-makers by sharing your opinions, recommendations and concerns. **The Result** is that decision-makers are given timely, relevant, representative information from the field that will help guide their choices. The collective voice of professionals becomes an integral part of the development of Ohio's early childhood system.

This is a simple but powerful way that you can be involved in shaping the future of the early care and education profession in Ohio. Visit www.oaeyc.org we hope you'll add your voice to the *Voice on Demand Network* today!

Membership Corner

Thank you to all of our members - we appreciate you keeping your membership current! Now I wish to ask for each member's assistance! You already know how important and wonderful it is to be a member of AAAEYC, and all of the benefits that come with this professional membership. (Reduced fees for programs, YC journal, networking and so much more) Now I am asking that you communicate that message with one co-worker, parent or friend. Anyone that is involved with children! Encourage them to join, invite them to accompany you to a meeting or event. Share a copy of *Young Children* with them and tell them how easy it is for them to get their own copy.

If you want more information or if a friend is ready to become a member just contact me.

[Alice Marie Ohlin](#), Membership Chair.

AAAEYC WHO SHOULD JOIN?

If this is you then you should join AAAEYC!!!

Are you...

A child advocate

An ECE professional

A promoter for quality programming

A developmentally appropriate practitioner

A friend to all children

A networker

A compassionate soul

An inspiration to colleagues

An active learner

A skilled caregiver

A child focused person

SOME ONE WHO STRIVES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD!

As a member you are a member of NAEYC, the world's largest early childhood education organization! Membership is individual and is for one year based on enrollment date.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Comprehensive	\$100.00
Regular	\$ 75.00
Student	\$ 65.00

Editor's Note—Do you have something to share? A great classroom idea? A wonderful book you just discovered? A particularly fascinating, thought-provoking article? Please submit them for publication in your next newsletter. Send your ideas to cburrier@akronlibrary.org



Check out the lesson plan for this great activity on our [web page!](#)

Center Recognitions

submitted by Cindy Usner, Summa Early Learning & Education Center

A Day in the Life of a Toddler Teacher.

Deanna Wells and Mona Slack, the Toddler 1 teachers at The Summa Early Education and Learning Center, understand the meaning of Emergent Curriculum. Sometimes the best laid plans in a toddler room go out the window for something much more important to the children. One day last month, Ms. Deanna heard several children using running feet and making a loud noise. Just as she was about to remind them of inside voices and walking feet, she realized what they were doing. They were wearing hats, making a fire siren noise, and apparently, they were in a big hurry! When Ms. Mona asked where they were going, they replied, "Find the fire!"

This is where all the day's lesson plans went right out the window! Miss Deanna quickly cut out flames for the children to find. Next came hoses made out of paper towel tubes. The children were soon ready to go and

quickly found the first "fire!" They worked together to put it out.

Some children celebrated by turning their hoses into trumpets and having a parade. Others went off to find more fires. They found one at the bathroom door. Not only did they put out the fires, they saved the teacher next door as well!

After arriving back at the "fire station" the children listened to a book about fighting fires and riding a fire truck!

As the teachers continued to observe the children for the next few days, they noticed that the children were still interested in fighting fires. The teachers referred to Ohio's Infant and Toddler Guidelines as they planned a week's lessons about firefighters and fire trucks. After receiving a daily e-mail about the day's activities, a parent shared that her son got to sit in a fire truck over the weekend. This led to yet another discussion as the child talked about his experience. The children continue to reflect upon the activity as they look at posted artwork and photographs.



Fighting Bullying with Babies

In a New York Times article (November 8, 2010), "[Fighting Bullying with Babies](http://mail.ccie.com/go/eed/5284)," David Bornstein talks about solutions to the trend toward bullying in schools. He observes...

"We know that humans are hardwired to be aggressive and selfish. But a growing body of research is demonstrating that there is also a biological basis for human compassion. ... More importantly, we are beginning to understand how to nurture this biological potential. It seems like it is not only possible to make people kinder, it's possible to do it systematically at scale — at least with school children. That's what one organization, based in Toronto, called Roots of Empathy has done.

"Roots of Empathy was founded in 1996 by Mary Gordon. ... She envisioned Roots as a seriously proactive parent education program — one that could begin when the mothers- and fathers-to-be were in kindergarten.

"Here's how it works: Roots arranges monthly class visits by a mother and her baby. ... Each month for nine months, a trained instructor guides a classroom using a standard curriculum that involves three 40-minute visits — a pre-visit, a baby visit, and a post-visit. The program runs from kindergarten to seventh grade. During the visits, the children sit around the baby and mother (sometimes it is the father) ... and they try to understand the baby's feelings.

"[I have observed Root of Empathy's work.] What I find most fascinating is how the baby actually changes children's behavior. Teachers have confirmed my impressions: tough kids smile, disruptive kids focus, shy kids open up."

Board Members

President

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First Vice President

Kimberly Harris
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Second Vice President

Karla McDivitt
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Secretary

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Treasurer

Beth Cardina
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Membership

Alice Marie Ohlin
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Our Vision

A.A.A.E.Y.C. Strives to lead and consolidate the efforts of individuals and groups working to achieve healthy development and constructive education for all young children.

Our Mission

A.A.A.E.Y.C.'s mission is to serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights and well-being of all young children and their families in Summit Portage and Medina counties of Ohio with special emphasis on the developmental and educational services and resources; and to foster the growth and development of the membership in their work with an don behalf of young children.

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