

The SCAEYC Update

SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Affiliated with the National Association for the Education of Young Children

Volume 5, Issue 1

Summer 2008

SCAEYC CONFERENCE COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION CENTER OCTOBER 16-18, 2008



Mark Your Calendars!

It's conference time and we are going
"To Make Kids Count in South Carolina"

There's plenty to do at this year's conference. Keynote and featured speakers with concurrent workshops will be offered. Listed are just a few of the activities to be offered during the conference.

Thursday: The SC Department of Education will sponsor keynote speaker Dr. Pat Snyder from the University of New Orleans. She is currently the editor of the Journal of Early Intervention, the largest journal in the world for early intervention research. Also featured on the program is Larry Griffin. Mr. Griffin has been researching and teaching about the brain-based, hardwired differences between boys and girls and the implications for the early childhood classroom and beyond.

Friday's Keynote - Judy Schickedanz, Ph.D.: Dr. Schickedanz is a Professor of Education at Boston University where she serves as Director of the Laboratory Preschool and as Coordinator of the Early Childhood Program. She has worked with a wide range of preschool programs in the area of preschool literacy development. She has served within the International Reading Association as past president of the Literacy Development in Young Children Special Interest Group, as a member of the Early Literacy Committee, as a member of the Early Childhood Commission, and as a member of the Teaching Resources Team of NAEYC's accreditation revision in 2004. Dr. Schickedanz has authored numerous articles, book chapters, and books including *Much More than the ABCs*, *Understanding Children and Adolescents*, and *Writing in the Preschool: Orchestrating Meaning and Marks*. Co-sponsored by SC Head Start Collaboration Office and SC Department of Education.

Saturday's Keynote: Dr. Jean Feldman affectionately called "Dr. Jean", has been actively involved in education for over 35 years as a classroom teacher, instructor of adults, author, and consultant. Dr. Jean has a B.A. from the University of Georgia, a D.A.S.T. from Emory University, and a M.A. and Ph.D. from Georgia State University. She is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the National Kindergarten Alliance, and the International Reading Association. Some of her publication include *A Survival Guide for Preschool Teachers*, *The Complete Book of Indoor and Outdoor Games and Activities*, *Transition Time*, *Science Surprises*, *Self Esteem Activities*, *Wonderful Rooms*. Her recordings include: "Dr. Jean Sings Silly Songs," "Dr. Jean and Friends," "Sing to Learn," "Is Everybody Happy?" "Nursery Rhymes and Good Ole' Times," "Kiss Your Brain"

Start planning now!! All keynote and featured sessions are followed by concurrent breakout workshops and lectures. There will be tracks for preschool (including the early learning standards), administration/directors, infant/toddlers and kindergarten, first and second grade.

Additional information will be posted on our website, www.scaeyc.org as it becomes available or you may call Dr. Evelyn Fields at 803.536.7098. Registration deadline is October 10, 2008.

2007-2008 SCAEYC Board Structure

Executive Board

President: Dee Stegelin
Clemson University
dstegel@clmson.edu

Vice-President: Ann Pfeiffer
Center for Child Care Career Dev.
ann.pfeiffer@dss.sc.gov

Past President: Lynne Noble
Columbia College
lnoble@colacoll.edu

Secretary: Norma Donaldson Jenkins
SC Department of Education
njenkins@ed.sc.gov

Treasurer: Melany Rish
USC-Aiken
melanyr@usca.edu

Committee Chairs

Public Policy: Leigh D'Amico
University of South Carolina
kale_leigh@yahoo.com

Newsletter: Meredith Burton
Furman University CDC Director
mburton@holpen.com

Professional Recognition:
Mary Lynne Diggs
Director/SC Head Start
Collaboration Office
mary.diggs@dss.sc.gov

Affiliate Rep: Robin McCants
SC Department of Education
rmccants@ed.sc.gov

Membership Co-Chair: Julie Hartman
Bob Jones University
Juliehartman@charter.net

Membership Co-Chair: Lenna Young
Tri-County Technical College
Lennay@clmson.edu

Accreditation: Penny Danielson
SC Department of Education
pdanielson@ed.sc.gov

Student Groups: Candace Jaruszewicz
College of Charleston
jaruszewicz@cofc.edu

Publications: Debra Lee
Presbyterian College
dslee@mail.presby.edu

Greetings from the President

Dear Colleagues,

With the onset of summer, SCAEYC members are looking forward to several exciting initiatives. We invite you to join us as we move forward the issues for young children and their families in South Carolina. The presidential election of 2008 is an historic one and an excellent opportunity for all of us to have a voice in the political process. Below are goals for SCAEYC during 2008:

- Expand our membership to reflect an inclusive and high-performing organization; we encourage each of you to contact at least one other person in your community to join our organization and to contribute to our efforts to improve the quality of programs and opportunities for young children: child care providers, agency personnel, public school teachers, and two-year and four-year college professionals.
- Organize and implement an effective state-wide conference October 16-18, 2008, in Columbia with a focus on the needs of young children in South Carolina. We invite you to attend and participate in this important event and received state-approved training credits. We especially seek the involvement of students in our presentations and conference activities.
- Strengthen the cluster groups in the state so that professional development opportunities are available and the needs of grassroots early childhood professionals are met effectively.
- Continue to address accreditation needs of early childhood programs across the state and to acknowledge and reward their commitment to improved practices.
- Diversify the SCAEYC Board through the inclusion of new individuals who bring fresh and innovative ideas to our work.
- Strengthen the working relationship between SCAEYC and NAEYC and participate in the NAEYC Summer Institute in New Orleans in June, 2008, and the Annual Conference in Chicago in November, 2008.

We would like to especially acknowledge the work of Dr. Lynne Noble, the past president of SCAEYC, for all of her contributions over the past two years to our state organization.

Thank you for your dedication to SCAEYC and we welcome you to join us in these and other initiatives.

Sincerely,

Dee Stegelin
SCAEYC President

SCAEYC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Kids Count in South Carolina

OCTOBER 16-18, 2008

Name: _____ NAEYC # _____
Please Print
Organization: _____
Address: _____

City State Zip Code
Daytime Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Rates/Options:

	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>
_____ Thursday - Only (Pre-conference)	\$50.00	\$60.00
_____ Friday/Saturday (full)	\$75.00	\$125.00*
_____ Saturday Only	\$50.00	\$65.00
_____ Student (w/ID)	\$30.00	\$40.00

Make Checks Payable to *SCAEYC Conference* and mail to:
SCAEYC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: Dr. M. Evelyn Fields • PO Box 7111 • Columbia, SC 29202

Registration must be postmarked by **OCTOBER 10, 2008**
A **\$5.00 late fee** will be added after this date, payable at the conference.

*Non-member registration includes a one (1) year membership to NAEYC & SCAEYC. Non-member registration will be \$125.00 regardless of whether you accept the one year membership. All registrations are individual. No group registrations are offered. No Refunds will be offered. A \$25.00 return check fee will be assessed for all returned checks. The Lead Presenter and any student presenter will be offered complimentary registration.

Hotels Near the Convention Center:

- **The Hampton Inn Columbia Historic District~ 822 Gervais Street ~ Columbia, SC 29201 ~ 803.231.2000
- **The Hilton Columbia Center ~ 924 Senate Street ~ Columbia, SC 29201 803.744.7800
- ***Holiday Inn City Centre @ USC ~ 630 Assembly Street ~ Columbia, SC 29201 ~ 803.799.7800

within walking distance of venue * within 1 mile driving distance of venue

For more information, please contact Evelyn Fields at 803.536.7098 or e-mail efields@scsu.edu

The Musical Minds of Preschoolers

By Leslie Falconer

Sometimes it probably seems like the children in your care have their own internal soundtrack. What preschool teacher or childcare provider hasn't seen one of their preschoolers singing a song quietly to themselves while building a block city or painting with watercolors, or even just humming and tapping their feet at quiet time? That's because children seem to know intuitively that music is good for their brain.

Two recent academic studies, one at the University of Wisconsin and one at the University of California, both conducted by a team of psychologists, showed that music is essential to brain growth and development in young children. These two studies demonstrated that children who received early exposure to the complex multi-sensory stimulation inherent in learning the lyrics and melodies to new songs, and singing them in a group setting, scored high on intelligence tests. What particularly surprised the researchers was that early exposure to music didn't just help children artistically and emotionally, but even improved their math and science skills. Essentially, music helps hardwire a child's growing brain for the future complex thinking and problem-solving skills they'll need every day for the rest of their lives.

"Children who grow up hearing music, singing songs, and moving to the beat are enjoying what experts call a rich sensory environment," according to a 2008 report from the Nemours Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by philanthropist Alfred DuPont to improve the health of children. "That's just a fancy way of saying a child is exposed to a wide variety of tastes, smells, textures, colors, and sounds. And kids who enjoy such a rich environment do more than have fun. Researchers believe they forge more pathways between the cells in their brains."

Still, we all know that children don't care about research, they just know that singing and dancing and playing musical instruments is just plain fun! Especially when the music is lush with new sound, includes catchy lyrics, and is about topics from children's own lives that they can relate to.

In my own work, I've seen children blossom when given the opportunity to express themselves through music. Putting a CD on at quiet time, leading children in finger plays, and letting them experiment with musical instruments are all ways to add music to your children's day. But there are so many more creative ways that you can integrate music into what you already do.

One idea is to create new lyrics to melodies the children already know. Singing these songs together as a group can be a quick way to re-establish order after a free play time, get the children moving again after a quiet time, or just use music to reinforce early learning. For example, if you are working on learning colors, try having children identify what colors they're wearing through song. To the tune of, "If You're Happy and You Know It," sing alternate lyrics such as, "If you're wearing gray and know it, clap your hands," then add new colors as the song progresses.

Another idea is to find a piece of music with simple drum beats. This could be popular music from the radio, a favorite piece of classical music, or traditional African music. Have the children sit in a circle and listen carefully to the beat, then ask them to try to repeat the rhythms by clapping their hands. When the children have learned to recognize the rhythms, they can even make their own drums out of empty containers they can tap out beats to, or the ever-popular pots and spoons. Many children are surprised to learn that their own hands can be musical instruments all in themselves, and that drums and drumsticks are just an extension of the music in their bodies. (For other ideas, see sidebar.)

What are you doing to "hardwire" your students' brains for lifelong learning? The sound of a young child singing should be your cue to add music to your day, and theirs.

Author bio: Leslie Falconer is the President of Mother Goose Time, a Michigan-based company that provides a professionally planned preschool curriculum to the educators of 40,000 children every month. The company recently integrated original music in a wide variety of genres into their curriculum.

Keys to Successful Early Childhood Inclusion

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/ece>

Professionals across South Carolina met in forums to discuss ways to increase inclusive opportunities for our youngest children and create communities where all belong. They identified these Keys to Successful Inclusive Practices:

1. Communication

Find time and ways to communicate across agencies and collaborate to support children. Create different ways to insure that communication with families matches individual families' own styles and preferences (email, phone calls, notes). Value and use joint planning time across agencies. Use communication tools (email, notebooks, websites, logs) not just with families but with all involved in children's lives.

2. Training

Provide joint training across roles (early intervention staff, early care and education providers, parents). It's cost efficient and will promote collaboration around inclusion. Plan for onsite follow-up/carryover after training to demonstrate how to include children successfully. Allow time for transition planning for children, families, and professionals. Include trainings or town meetings for the general community.

3. Commitment/Attitudes

Gain support from leadership. This is critical. Focus on the positive strengths of programs and children. Have realistic expectations and be flexible. Start small – one child or one program at a time. Model an "I Can" optimistic point of view. Examine your own attitude. Inclusion is about acceptance. Focus on skills in relationship-building.

4. Resources

Do an inventory. Do you have appropriate resources? If you do, don't forget to share. Be aware of available funds (including grants). Utilize grant money to pay for substitutes, planning time, and transportation. Know and use all available expertise (local and state).

5. Higher Education

Contact your local colleges and offer student-teaching placements. Encourage your local colleges to always place student teachers in inclusive settings. Partner with colleges for in-service trainings. Link training to college credits.

6. Policies

Create a common understanding of the different program regulations. Knowledge of systems and laws help (Robin, "... everyone appreciates the strengths and constraints of each program."??) programs appreciate each other's strengths and constraints. Plan carefully for transitions across systems. Don't forget to involve school districts. Avoid unnecessary transitions. If a child is already in a neighborhood child care program, support him or her there. Put practices in writing through interagency agreements

7. Parent Involvement

Work with parents to create sharable and transportable child portfolios – especially for transition. Build and use parent-professional teams. Everyone has a role in supporting children in inclusive settings. Promote confidence-building in families so that they can meet the needs of their children and help them develop. Model inclusion by including parents in your planning, implementation, and evaluation of inclusion.

8. Program Measurement/Evaluation

Continually evaluate if the children are learning and making friends. Inclusion alone is not enough. Use interagency child evaluation methods to avoid over-evaluation when children are in multiple programs. Use the expertise from both childcare and early intervention to build the best program for all children.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

SCAEYC members are invited to apply for the following awards and scholarships. Please follow the individual guidelines carefully. Questions should be addressed to the Office Manager (Evelyn Fields) or the Professional Recognitions Chair (Mary Lynne Diggs). All nominations, and accompanying letter of recommendation(s) are due by July 15, 2008.

The Marian Wright Edelman Advocacy Award

The Marian Wright Edelman Advocacy Award is designed to honor a person who has made a significant contribution that changes the lives of children in positive ways.

Marian Wright Edelman is a native South Carolinian and the director of the Children's Defense Fund. Her Advocacy efforts for children are known worldwide. The South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children chose to honor Dr. Edelman by naming an award in her honor.

The award is given at the SCAEYC Annual Conference only when the name of a deserving candidate has been submitted to the SCAEYC Governing Board. The persons recommending the candidate must submit two letters of support to the SCAEYC Board before the last board meeting prior to the annual conference. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any candidate by the vote of a quorum of its members.

The Ralph Witherspoon Award

The Ralph Witherspoon Award is designed to honor a person who has made a significant contribution to the field of early childhood education within the state of South Carolina.

The late Ralph Witherspoon was a professor of early childhood education at the University of South Carolina who made significant contributions to the field of early childhood education. The South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children chose to honor Dr. Witherspoon by naming an award in his honor.

The award is given at the SCAEYC Annual Conference only when the name of a deserving candidate has been submitted to the SCAEYC Governing Board. The persons recommending the candidate must submit two (2) letters of support to the SCAEYC Board before the last board meeting prior to the annual conference. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any candidate by the vote of a quorum of its members.

The Ellie Gailbraith Scholarship

The Ellie Gailbraith Scholarship is designed to honor an early childhood educator currently in a classroom as a teacher or teacher assistant and member of the South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children who would like to attend the SCAEYC Annual Conference.

The Late Ellie Gailbraith was an early childhood consultant who supported the SCAEYC conference every year from its inception until her death. Ellie worked tirelessly to improve the quality of early childhood education in South Carolina. The South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children chose to honor Ms. Gailbraith by naming a scholarship in her honor.

This scholarship covers the cost of the annual conference including registration fees, hotel at the conference site, and \$50.00 to cover meals and travel. The scholarship is given at the SCAEYC Annual Conference only when the name of a deserving candidate has been submitted to the SCAEYC Governing Board. The persons recommending the candidate must submit two (2) letters of support (one from the supervisor and one from a fellow educator) to the SCAEYC Board before the last board meeting prior to the annual conference. The board reserves the right to accept or reject any candidate by the vote of a quorum of its members.

Send Recommendations to: Mary Lynne Diggs, SC Head Start Collaboration Office, SC Dept of Social Services, 1535 Confederate Ave, 3rd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201 or MLDiggs@dss.state.sc.us.

Nominee Ballot

Please mark which award the person is nominated for include letter(s) of recommendation:

- () The Marian Wright Edelman Advocacy Award.
- () The Ralph Witherspoon Award.
- () The Ellie Gailbraith Scholarship.

Please Return by August 15, 2008

Nominee: _____

Nominee's Place of Employment: _____

Nominee's outstanding contributions : _____

Nominated by: _____

Your contact information: _____

Aiken Cluster

The Aiken Cluster of SCAEYC and the USCA Children's Center hosted a Week of the Young Child Conference on Saturday, April 19. Presenters included several faculty members and early childhood students from USCA. Several students will also present at the annual state conference in October. Eighty teachers from child care and public school programs attended the conference. Celebrating this as our tenth annual conference, we recognized the importance of young children and the people who work them.

Week of the Young Child Activities at Bob Jones University

Early Childhood Education and Child Care Ministry students at Bob Jones University celebrated the *Week of the Young Child*. After reading about the history behind and purpose of the WOYC, ECE and CCM students enrolled in the course Child Health & Safety proposed celebrating the event by writing thank-you notes to each and every teacher, care worker, and staff member serving at BJU's child development, Beginnings, and Primary Centers as well as BJ Elementary School. In addition, the Early Childhood Department of BJU presented its first *Friend of Young Children Award* to Ms. Aline Pennington. Ms. Pennington has served as the director of the BJU Child Development Center for 40 years, and recently retired from the position at the end of 2008 school year. The campus CDC has been renamed in her honor and is now known as the Pennington Child Development Center.

Chapter / Cluster Representatives

Tri-County: Sherry Osborne
Head Start Association
Sherry.osborne@
stginternational.com

Aiken: Sally McClellan
USC-Aiken
SallyM@usca.edu

Coastal: Cathy Jones
Coastal Carolina University
Cjones1@coastal.edu

Midlands Chapter President:
Marcia Bacon
Richland County First Steps
mbacon@rcfirststeps.org

Orangeburg: Evelyn Fields
SC State University
efields@scsu.edu

Webmaster: Lekiah Caple
Lmoss2@csc.com

Business Manager: Evelyn Fields
SC State University
efields@scsu.edu

Week of the Young Child Hosted at South Carolina State University

SCSU hosted their 8th annual WOYC Community Event on Monday, April 14, 2008. The event co-sponsored by SCAEYC entertained 1000 children from Head Starts and child care programs in the Orangeburg, Calhoun, Allendale, and Bamberg counties. The activities included storytelling, face painting and music and movement.



Foothills WOYC Conference

On Saturday, April 12th, a mini-conference was held at Clemson University in honor of Week of the Young Child. Over 60 early childhood teachers, directors, and paraprofessionals attended 12 workshops on topics including parent education, early literacy, health and nutrition, art and creativity, math and science, and inclusion; state-approved child credits were awarded.

