

milestones

FALL 2013

A Publication of the North Carolina Association
for the Education of Young Children



NCAeYC

**Promoting and inspiring excellence in
early care and education for over 60 years!**

From the Executive Director

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We welcome comments and suggestions. Contact us at generalinfo@ncaeyc.org or call 800.982-4406.

Through *Milestones*, NCAeYC provides a forum for discussion of issues and ideas in our field. We hope to provoke thought and promote professional growth. *Milestones* articles represent the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of NCAeYC.

Cover Photo by Amanda Worrall of Goodness Grace Photography



Lorie Barnes

NCAeYC is committed to supporting our members through professional development, advocacy efforts and inspiring quality practices. We hope you are connected to us through Facebook and Twitter and through our new blog on our recently updated website. We want to grow our capacity to hear from you about your needs, challenges, concerns and celebrations. This electronic format of *Milestones* provides a fresh approach and new opportunities for you to share your perspectives via comment sections in several of the articles in this Fall 2013 issue. Let us hear from you!

Please connect with us via social media to help us stay aware of ways we can best support you in your work with or on behalf of young children birth through age eight. You can reach us at our office at 919-510-5034. We want to hear from you! We want to stay informed of the issues that matter most to you so when we have opportunities to meet with policymakers, we can speak on your behalf to share your stories, successes and suggestions.

NCAeYC is proud to be a part of a strong advocacy network with impact across local, state and national systems. Early childhood professionals become members of NAEYC to both access resources and to demonstrate their commitment to excellence in early care and education.

This year, NAEYC's Annual Conference was in Washington, DC which provided a unique opportunity for attendees to meet with our Senators and their staff to share resources and perspectives that help promote policies that grow and sustain a strong early childhood system.

A very important current focus is on federal initiatives to promote and support early care and education. Earlier this month, Senator Harkin (Iowa) along with Representatives George Miller (California) and Richard Hanna (New York) introduced legislation—Start Strong for America's Children. This bipartisan-sponsored legislation will accelerate the existing commitment of federal, state and local programs for young children's early development and learning from birth to kindergarten (for more details go to our [Summary](#)).



I look to the diffusion of light and education as the resource most to be relied on for ameliorating the condition, promoting the virtue and advancing the happiness of man."

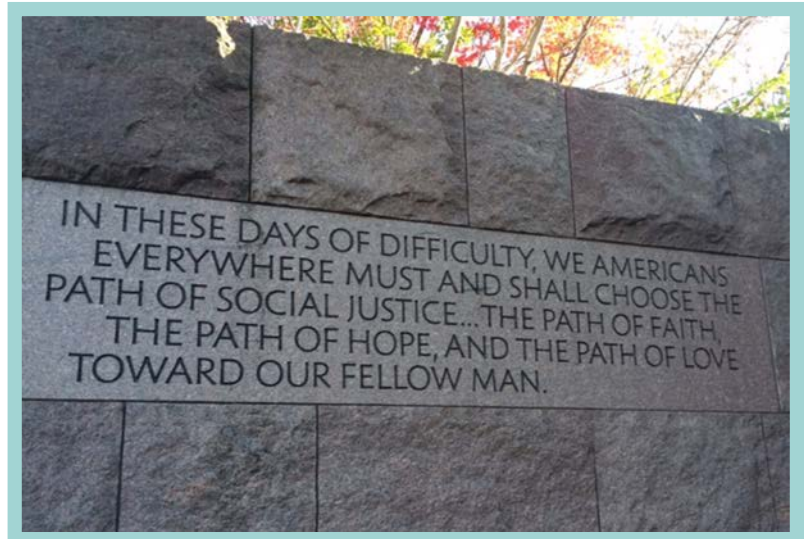
—Thomas Jefferson, 1822

The three main components of the legislation are:

- Grants to states to expand high-quality preschool, building on their current state-funded preschool delivery system (there are also grants for states that do not yet invest in or need to raise the quality of their standards for preschool);
- Grants to create Early Head Start/child care partnerships to improve the quality of and expand access to high-quality child care for infants and toddlers; and
- A call for the expansion of the voluntary home visiting program for infants and toddlers.

NAEYC is particularly pleased to see the emphasis on:

- Using high-quality, research-based and developmentally appropriate standards and assessments in all settings (and avoiding inappropriate use of testing); building on the use of existing state systems to deliver preschool programs in high-quality child care, Head Start, and school settings;
- Ensuring that programs engage families and support children's comprehensive needs;
- Attracting and retaining teachers by helping them to gain the specialized knowledge required and earn degrees in early childhood education, including improved compensation;
- Improving and expanding access to infant and toddler care in Early Head Start/child care partnerships; and
- Strengthening families by providing access to voluntary home visiting in the critical infant and toddler years.



FDR Memorial in Washington, DC

What are your thoughts and questions about this critical new legislation being considered? Share your thoughts and questions about "Start Strong" federal legislation.

Thank you for being a member of YOUR professional membership association and for your commitment to excellence. Together, we are better as we work towards high quality early care and education for all children.

From the President



Dan Tetreault

It's hard to believe that another year has passed and once again we find ourselves reflecting upon yet another successful annual conference. This year's conference was a very special event and particularly memorable as we celebrated our 60th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary. Its theme, "Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership" reflects the Association's ongoing commitment to promoting and inspiring excellence and strong leadership in the field of early care and education. Through NCAeyc's annual conference, we grow together as leaders so that we can collectively advocate for developmentally appropriate practices, effective professional development, adequate resources for early childhood programs and services as well as respectable compensation for early childhood professionals. For over 60 years, through your leadership and that of your Association, we have helped to ensure that across our state, more of North Carolina's children and families

are provided the necessary opportunities and supports to promote their success in learning and in life.

The NCAeyc Board of Directors and Staff are honored and privileged to provide a high-quality conference experience each year to our members and the broader North Carolina early childhood community. Planning for this annual endeavor occurs throughout the year, with quite a bit

of effort given by many to make each

conference a successful experience for all who attend. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the people that made this year's conference a successful and memorable event. We would not have been able to provide this amazing experience without you. I would like to thank the NCAeyc Staff, Lorie Barnes and Chris Butler, for their tireless efforts as well as the Conference Committee who worked diligently throughout the year to plan and coordinate this year's conference. Many thanks to all of our dedicated sponsors and vendors for their continuing support. We deeply appreciate your ongoing commitment to NCAeyc. A very big thank you to the many volunteers who eagerly helped wherever we asked them to and to all of our Local Affiliate leaders. Also, a warm thank you to our presenters for taking the time to share their knowledgeable and expertise. Thank you as well to the NCAeyc Board of Directors for springing into action and volunteering to help pull things together like LA Lane, DAP Showcase and Vendor Spotlights, and for staffing registration and merchandise tables. Behind the scenes, you helped make conference a seamless and enjoyable experience for attendees. Finally, and most important, on behalf of the NCAeyc Board of Directors, I thank you, our members, for supporting your Association and making the conference the best that it could be.

For over 60 years, through your leadership and that of your Association, we have helped to ensure that across our state, more of North Carolina's children and families are provided the necessary opportunities and supports to promote their success in learning and in life.



Dan Tetreault with Lorie Barnes at the 60th Anniversary Conference



Dan with Dr. Bailey



Dan thanks Kaplan Early Learning Company for providing our 60th Anniversary cake.

Dan thanks Kaplan Early Learning Company for providing our 60th Anniversary cake.



NCAeyc Board members at the 60th Anniversary Conference



Dan and Lorie are joined by Art Guye and Brian Kennedy from Kaplan in the cutting of the cake.

Mark your calendars for September 11-13, 2014—We look forward to seeing you at next year's conference!

NAEYC (the National Association for the Education of Young Children) is the largest and oldest professional association for early childhood educators and is the nation's leading voice for high-quality early care and education for young children birth through age 8. With over 2000 members in North Carolina, NCAeayc works to promote excellence in early care and education in three ways: **We educate. We advocate. We motivate.**

- **We educate** through an annual statewide conference and regional professional development opportunities to help early educators stay up-to-date in their skills, knowledge and practice.
- **We advocate** for policies that reflect the importance of investing in the future of our state by supporting high quality early care and education for young children.
- **We motivate** our members to strive for excellence in their practices, skills and knowledge so that their work will have a positive impact in the lives of children and families.

Promoting NAEYC Accreditation is one of the ways that NCAeayc demonstrates its commitment to excellence. NAEYC Accreditation of programs for young children began in 1985, setting rigorous national standards of excellence in early childhood education. Today, there are over 6,500 NAEYC Accredited programs in the nation and over 120 NAEYC Accredited programs in North Carolina.

NAEYC Accreditation:

- Is voluntary and reflects a commitment to excellence in early care and education for children,
- Exceeds North Carolina's current requirements for a state-awarded 5 Star Rated Child Care License,
- Gives families a way of seeking and selecting early care and education that will have long-lasting, positive impact on children's future learning and life success, and
- Helps promote practices of professionalism in early childhood education that create positive outcomes for children and early educators.

NAEYC has a variety of helpful resources. Many programs find the NAEYC "Self Study" to be beneficial in supporting quality improvement, even if the program does not currently aspire to completing the NAEYC Accreditation process. Learn more about Accreditation by visiting our website: naeayc.org/accreditation, or for an overview of the ten criteria areas, visit: www.naeayc.org/files/academy/file/OverviewStandards.pdf. NAEYC's website for families: www.families.naeayc.org provides an array of resources that guide families on searching for and selecting quality programs.

Some states recognize NAEYC Accreditation in their Tiered Quality Rating Improvement Systems (TQRIS).

Share your thoughts with NCAeayc about the benefits and potential challenges of including NAEYC Accreditation in NC's Rated License System. [Share your thoughts and questions about including NAEYC Accreditation in NC's Rated License System.](#)



NCAeayc thanks Francesca Busse, Site Director of Rainbow Station, an NAEYC Accredited program in Charlotte. Francesca has been a committed ambassador for NCAeayc in helping promote Accreditation.

Providing a Healthy Foundation for North Carolina's Youngest Children



Be Active Kids® is a signature program of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation.

As obesity rates seem to be leveling off in some demographics, they are still at an all-time high. Roughly 3 out of every 10 young low-income children ages 2–4 in North Carolina are either overweight or obese.¹ The weight of our children is a serious issue that effects not only their health, due to future risk of heart disease, diabetes and other chronic diseases but also effects their ability to learn and develop in positive and beneficial way.



In September 2011, through a collaborative effort between the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation (BCBSNCF), the North Carolina Institute of Medicine (NCIOM), and the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPCC) the Task Force on Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP) was convened. This task force, comprised of more than 70 experts and stakeholders from across the state, was charged to develop a multi-faceted plan to prevent and reduce early childhood obesity. After two years of meetings, collaborative discussions, and examination of evidence-based and promising practices from North Carolina and across the United States, the NCIOM released its strategic plan.

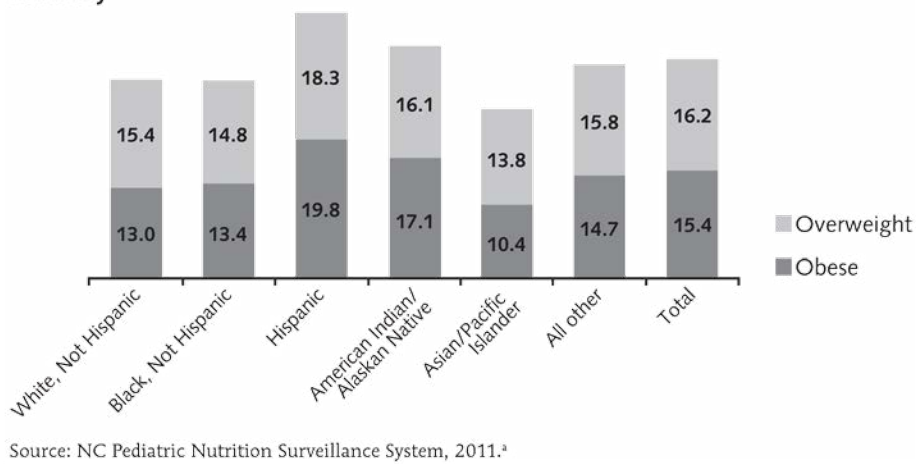
For more information on the Task for on Early Childhood Obesity Prevention visit: www.nciom.org/task-forces-and-projects/?ecop.

The September 2013 NCIOM ECOP report entitled *Promoting Healthy Weight for Young Children: A Blueprint for Preventing Early Childhood Obesity in North Carolina* provides recommendations that would bring together parents, child care providers, health professionals and the overall community to promote healthy eating and physical activity in young children. The 15 recommended strategies outlined in the report fall into three categories for change: clinical (4), community and environmental (5), and policy (6). Within these 3 categories, there are roughly 38 detailed recommendations for addressing the overall strategies to better ensure success of making positive changes across North Carolina.²



For more specific information on the recommended strategies, visit www.nciom.org/publications/?childhoodobesityprevention.

Figure 1.1
Percentage of Overweight and Obese Children Ages 2-4 by Race and Ethnicity



^a Analyses based on one record per child. Reporting period is January 1 through December 31. Excludes records with unknown data or errors. Based on 2000 CDC growth chart percentiles for children 2-20 years of age; overweight is defined as BMI-for-age \geq 85th to $<$ 95th percentile, and obesity is defined as \geq 95th percentile.

Early childhood obesity and unhealthy habits are linked to obesity rates and unhealthy practices in older childhood and adulthood. Starting early to build a foundation for a healthy lifestyle is essential to our children, our communities, and our state. Be Active Kids® will continue the dialogue around children's health through a featured section of *Milestones* and will focus on topics such as physical activity and active play, nutrition, outdoor play and learning environments, nature, and much more. We encourage you to engage in the dialogue by sending requests for topics to be discussed, sharing stories and pictures about positive health practices taking place in your area, or even volunteering to write a featured article for this section. Children's health is a complex issue and by working together we can make a difference in providing a strong and healthy foundation for North Carolina's young children to build upon.



SAMPLE ECOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Integrate healthy activities into child care settings:

- Create incentives for implementation of evidence-based strategies into programs and policies in child care centers located in counties with high obesity rates among children.
- Provide education for child care providers on strategies for physical activity and nutrition, as well as cross-training on activity and nutrition for child care consultants.
- Create a voluntary recognition program for child care programs and early education programs that meet enhanced physical activity and nutrition standards.

Utilize community resources to reduce childhood obesity:

- Expand the focus of Eat Smart, Move More North Carolina to promote healthy weight among young children and their families.
- Develop a communications campaign to support policy and behavior change to reduce early childhood obesity.
- Enhance family education through existing maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting and family strengthening programs.
- Encourage state agencies to focus on healthy community design, including access to healthy, affordable food and opportunities for physical activity.

CITATIONS

- ¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nutrition Services Branch, Women's and Children's Health, NC Division of Public Health, NC Department of Health and Human Services. 2011 Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance: North Carolina Summary of Demographic Indicators Children Aged < 5 Years. www.nutritionnc.com/pdfPregPed/PNSS/PedNSS2011StateTables.pdf. Published March 13, 2012. Accessed April 5, 2013.
- ² North Carolina Institute of Medicine. *Promoting Healthy Weight for Young Children: A Blueprint for Preventing Early Childhood Obesity in North Carolina*. Morrisville, NC: North Carolina Institute of Medicine; 2013.

WakeAEYC Hosts Annual Meeting

Written by Marney Donald,
NCAeYC Board of Directors Member

Food, friends and fun! On October 24, WakeAEYC held its Annual Membership Meeting at the beautiful conference room at Wake County Smart Start. The Board was excited to welcome current and potential members for an evening of getting to know each other, learning about the organization and networking.

The evening began with a wonderful dinner so everyone could relax after long days of working. This was an amazing opportunity to network with other early childhood professionals in Wake County. There was a broad range of members present, from classroom teachers and consultants to the Board President of North Carolina's Partnership for Children, reinforcing the notion that NAEYC and its affiliates represent an amazing array of professionals who all work with, or on behalf of, children birth through age eight. We learned even more about each other when WakeAEYC Board Member Erin Wilson facilitated a fun activity allowing participants to share what they had in common with the other attendees and what was unique just to them.

The meeting progressed into an informational presentation relating to the achievements and goals of the WakeAEYC local affiliate group, as well as the benefits of membership and ways to get involved. WakeAEYC has enjoyed 3 successful years of engaging member and non-member volunteers in planning and hosting the exciting Week of the Young Child events. Although we intend to continue this tradition, we are also hoping that members will volunteer in other WakeAEYC endeavors, such as policy/advocacy work, membership drives and FUNdraising committees.

The meeting ended with every Early Childhood Professional's favorite subject—PLAY! Fun manipulatives were placed at each table, play literature was shared, and paper-bag puppet supplies were on hand to help everyone loosen up and enjoy. Most importantly, attendees were invited to play with words and ideas by providing their input regarding key questions posted on chart paper around the room.

An important part of the Annual Meeting is connecting with our members and learning how the Board can encourage member participation in the organization. Our chart paper questions allowed us to get this information directly from our members so the Board is able to take member input into consideration when laying out goals and events for the year. Those who attended the Annual Meeting this year gave input into what type of professional development they want; how to increase membership; ways to better engage members; and ideas for expanding our celebration of Week of the Young Child. This year's Annual Meeting attendees did not disappoint, and many wonderful and unique ideas were shared, including ideas to make membership costs manageable, to engage policy makers and government representatives in Week of the Young Child, and to better connect members through social events and electronic media.

The WakeAEYC Board will be looking at ways to make these ideas come to fruition throughout the course of the year, and we want all our members to be a part of the excitement! Please check our webpage (wakeaeyc.org), visit us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/wakeaeyc) or, if you live in Wake County, get in touch through email (wakeaeyc@gmail.com) to find out how you can get involved! We encourage and welcome all member feedback and participation. We hope to see you soon!



Members of the WakeAEYC Board with Lorie Barnes, Executive Director of NCAeYC, and Nancy Brown, Board Chair of the NC Partnership for Children



Annual Meeting attendees discuss what WakeAEYC can do for them



Taking time to play

NCaeyc Launches New Website!

We live in a rapidly changing world. Sometimes, it feels hard to keep up. Laptops, tablets, DVRs, smart phones, cloud storage, video chat—WOW! When will it ever slow down? Although these tools can be very overwhelming, more and more of us are using them in our work. NCaeyc recognizes how incredibly important it can be to have resources at your fingertips, and we knew we wanted to put a tool in your hands.

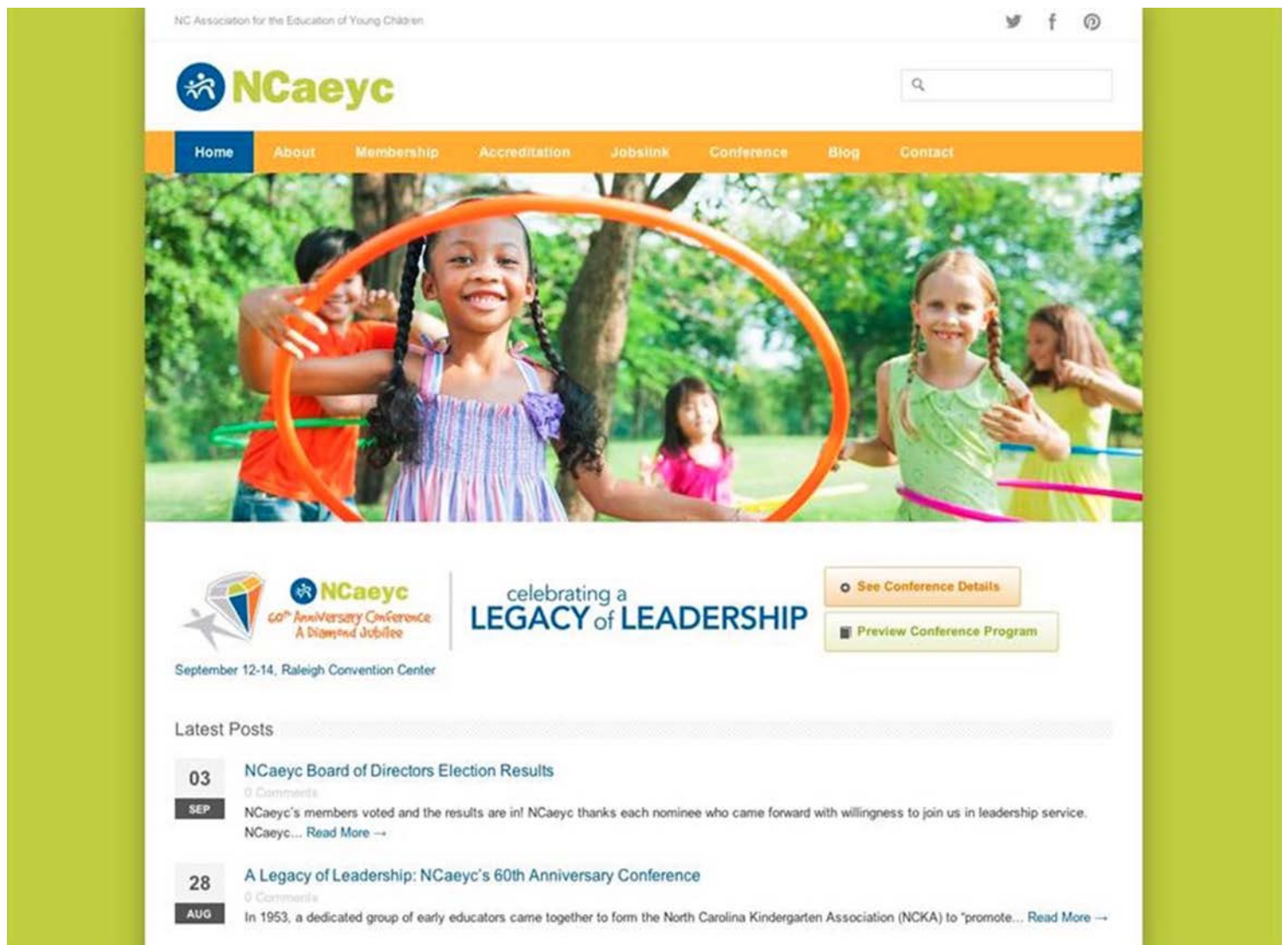
Therefore, in September, we launched a new website for North Carolina Early Care & School Age Educators! We hope that you will find our new website to be user-friendly, easy to navigate and full of great information. The website will continue to grow with us so be sure to check back often for new blog postings, additional information and resources and public policy updates. We continue to grow the website, and appreciate all of your suggestions for tools and resources that we might include that are useful to you.

On the website, you will find the most up-to-date information through our new blog, information on how to renew your membership, and employment opportunities from across the state. We have a tab dedicated to NAEYC Accreditation and another dedicated to the Local Affiliates. You will also be able to easily connect to us on any of your social media tools of choice: Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest, as all are easily accessed from the home page.

NCaeyc extends its deepest gratitude to Five Points Solutions (fivepointssolutions.com) for their amazing work in partnering with us to develop, launch and grow our new site.



Check it out now! www.ncaeyc.org



Our Children's Place

Our Children's Place (OCP) is a private nonprofit agency committed to the children of incarcerated parents. We strive to be the leading North Carolina advocate and educational resource focused on these children and the need for a statewide response to ensure their well-being. Our long-term goal is the creation of a residential facility that will allow young children to live with their mothers who are serving sentences for non-violent offenses.

our
children's
place



For many of us and our children, the colorful characters of Sesame Street and their human companions helped us learn our numbers and letters in English and Spanish, taught us to be good friends, and encouraged us to use our imaginations.

In more recent years the folks at Sesame Street have addressed the difficult subjects of deployment, death, and bullying. This summer they added a new initiative, one addressing a topic that affects at least 21,000 children in our state: parental incarceration. On the DVD that comes with the Sesame Workshop

tool kit (www.sesamestreet.org/incarceration), Alex, a new Muppet, shares a bit with his friends about his father being incarcerated. The kit has been a wonderful tool for us to share with participants at various events, including the North Carolina School Nurse Conference, presentations to Durham Public School counselors and Orange/Chatham Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) staff and volunteers, and at our resource table at the recent NCAeyc conference.

According to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, in early March, there were 5,124 inmates (4,629 male, 495 female) who identified themselves as parents. That is a total of 21,507 minor children. When Our Children's Place gives out that statistic at community events we always add a footnote because we know it's more than likely low. It doesn't include situations where an inmate doesn't disclose having children (for a variety of reasons) or where a parent is in jail, in another state system, or the federal system.



A 2010 Pew Research Center (www.pewresearch.org)

report shows that 2.7 million children in the United States have at least one parent in prison or jail. That works out to 1 in 28 children. And yet data collection is just one of many concerns when it comes to the issue of parental incarceration.

Who is caring for these children? Where do they live? Are the caregivers being provided the support and resources they need? What do the relationships between children and their incarcerated parents look like? Do the children know the truth? Is the incarceration a family secret, with shame and stigma attached? Are there people in children's lives who support the relationship?

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2.7 million children in the United States have at least one parent in prison or jail... one in 28 children. Who is caring for these children?



How do we even define what the relationship looks like? Does it include visits, phone calls, letters?

And what about those situations where it isn't safe for children to have a relationship, where a court has said the parent can't see his/her children? Is there someone in the children's lives willing to explain the situation and answer difficult questions? Who is in a child's life to help him/her process that the incarceration isn't his/her fault? Are the people in a child's life outside the family—teachers and school staff, faith community leaders, coaches, after school program staff, etc.—aware of the situation and able to offer support?

Someone pointed out just recently that we have developed a decent community response to the "3 Ds" in a child's life—divorce, death, and deployment. Of course we are continually fine tuning our responses as we learn more. But parental incarceration continues to be one of the issues ignored. As a result, children and families can feel overlooked, vulnerable, and without a voice.

If Alex and his Sesame Street friends can talk about this, then we as a community not only have permission to have the conversation at a local and state level here in North Carolina, we have a responsibility to do so.

How can we help you start and support the conversation in your community?



NCaeyc 60th Anniversary Conference: A Huge Success!

Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless. NCaeyc thanks all conference volunteers and presenters for making our 60th Anniversary Conference a great success!



NCaeyc thanks
Carolina Portrait Pros
for creating and capturing
amazing 60th anniversary
conference moments!
www.carolinaportraitpros.com





NCAeYC

60th Anniversary Conference
A Diamond Jubilee

celebrating a
LEGACY of LEADERSHIP



**We look forward to the 2014 NCAeYC Conference
September 11 - 13, 2014 Raleigh Convention Center
Keynote Speaker Announcement Coming Soon!**

Conscious Discipline

A HUGE thank you to Dr. Becky Bailey & her associates for making our 60th Anniversary conference a HUGE success.

Dr. Becky Bailey
consciousdiscipline.com



Kim Hughes
www.getmecc.com



Find Jessica Flowers at:
www.rippleeffect.us



On You Tube: www.youtube.com/user/lovingguidance
Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/source/consciousdiscipline.com
Twitter: twitter.com/ConsciousD
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ConsciousDiscipline



Elizabeth Montero-Cefalo



[View all of our 60th Anniversary Facebook Photobooth photos on Facebook!](#)

"This is about learning to change your own behavior, and your children's behavior, so that you can embrace and resolve conflict and enjoy life, ... Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline."

—Dr. Becky Bailey



Dr. Bailey and members of the Conscious Discipline team demonstrate engaging ways to help promote healthy brain development in children.



Dr. Becky Bailey practices an "I Love You" ritual during the Pre Conference Session at the NCAeYC 60th Annual Conference.

Please share how you are using Conscious Discipline in your practice on our Facebook Wall, here: www.facebook.com/ncaeyc

Table Talks Partner Agencies

NCAeYC wishes to thank its partner agencies for participating in Table Talks at Conference and for their year-round collaboration! We hope you find this list helpful in understanding and accessing valuable resources in our state.

Project	Agency	Website or Contact
Ag in the Classroom	<i>NC Agricultural Extension</i>	www.ncagintheclassroom.com
<p>Ag in the Classroom is an educational program designed to provide teachers with quality materials to teach students, through North Carolina competency-based lessons, about the sources of their food and fiber, and the importance of agriculture to the economy.</p>		
Be Active Kids and the Active Play Alliance		www.beactivekids.org
<p>Be Active Kids is an innovative, interactive physical activity, nutrition, and food safety curriculum for North Carolina preschoolers ages four and five. The goal of the program is to give young children the tools they need to develop positive physical activity and nutrition habits for a lifetime of good health.</p>		
Demonstration Program	<i>NC Department of Public Instruction— Office of Early Learning</i>	www.ncpublicschools.org/earlylearning
<p>The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Office of Early Learning believes a strongly aligned, high-quality early learning experience increases success for all children in school and life. Therefore, this office exists to collaboratively reform and support a more coherent and aligned approach to teaching and learning from early care and education to the primary grades and beyond. The Demonstration Program offers the opportunity to visit inclusive preschool and kindergarten classrooms to view effective practices. The programs lead by modeling, sharing, promoting, and articulating effective learning environments, curricula, and instructional practices to ensure optimal learning and development for all children.</p>		
Early Educator Certification (EEC)	<i>NC Institute for Early Childhood Professionals</i>	www.ncicdp.org
<p>Are you certified? NC Early Educator Certification (EEC) is a professional certification held by over 22,000 Early Educators in North Carolina. Come learn more about the simple application process, the reduced fee and the personal and professional benefits of becoming EEC certified.</p>		
Early Educator Support, Licensure and Professional Development (EESLPD) Unit	<i>DHHS—Division of Child Development and Early Education</i>	ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/general/mb_ncprek_detail.asp
<p>The Early Educator Support, Licensure and Professional Development (EESLPD) Unit in the Division of Child Development and Early Education manages all aspects of teacher licensure for Early Education Teachers who work in nonpublic early childhood programs. Services are provided according to NC State Board of Education policy and NC Department of Public Instruction licensure requirements.</p>		
Go NAP SACC		gonapsacc.org
<p>Go NAP SACC provides online tools and resources to help early care and education providers improve their nutrition and physical activity practices, policies, and physical environments. Go NAP SACC is the next generation of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care program (NAP SACC).</p>		
Healthy Social Behaviors in Child Care Centers		sbrawley@childcareresourcesinc.org
<p>In 2005, NC established the statewide Healthy Social Behaviors initiative to provide specialized consultation, technical assistance and training focused on identifying, preventing, and addressing challenging behaviors in young children in child care centers. Utilizing CSEFEL's Pyramid Model and related strategies suggested by Dr. Becky Bailey, HSB Specialists seek to promote social competencies in all children in child care centers, help teachers determine strategies to teach children socially appropriate behaviors, work with teachers to enhance classroom management techniques and promote child-centered learning activities that promote pro-social behaviors, and provide educational resources through articles and professional development events to others interested in promoting the social-emotional health of NC's young children.</p>		
Marbles Kids Museum		www.marbleskidsmuseum.org
<p>Marbles Kids Museum is a hands on, minds on children's museum that seeks to inspire imagination, discovery and learning through extraordinary adventures in play and larger-than-life Imax experiences.</p>		
Natural Learning Initiative		www.naturalearning.org
<p>NLI focuses on creating environments for healthy human development and a healthy biosphere for generations to come. Increasing numbers of children are losing contact with the natural world. The purpose of the Natural Learning Initiative is to promote the importance of the natural environment in the daily experience of all children, through environmental design, action research, education, and dissemination of information</p>		
NCCAN!	<i>NC Children and Nature Coalition</i>	www.ncchildrenandnature.org
<p>The mission of the North Carolina Children and Nature Coalition (NCCAN!) is to establish a relationship between children of North Carolina and the natural world by bringing together people and organizations to strengthen, broaden, and support efforts that build these connections.</p>		
NCECA	<i>NC Early Childhood Association</i>	www.ncearlychildhoodassoc.com
<p>The North Carolina Early Childhood Association has been a voice for children in North Carolina for over 40 years. Our focus is on advocacy efforts and training for state early childhood staff.</p>		

NC Division of Child Development and Early Educationwww.ncchildcare.nc.gov

Find out the latest news that impacts child care and Pre-K programs in NC! Sign up to receive *The Compass*, “What’s New” updates, and other important communications and resources sent directly from the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) to your inbox. In 2011, the NC Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) launched and funded the important project of revising the Infant-Toddler Foundations and Preschool Foundations to create the NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development—a document describing children’s development and learning from birth to age five. It’s shared vision for our state’s children answers the question “What should we be helping children learn before kindergarten?”

NC Infant Toddler Enhancement Project*NC Child Care Resource & Referral Council* lanierd@childcareservices.org

In 2004, North Carolina, through the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, established a Statewide Infant and Toddler Enhancement Project with the goal of improving the quality and availability of infant/toddler care in North Carolina. The Infant Toddler Specialists provide services statewide with infant and toddler resources, technical assistance for child care programs and other community consultants and training specific to infant and toddler care. The foundation for project training and technical assistance includes the Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC), the Pyramid Model for Promoting the Social and Emotional Competence of Infants and Young Children (CSEFEL), the ITERS-R and the NC Infant-Toddler Foundations. This project is managed by Child Care Services Association.

NC Rated License Assessment Project*NCRLAP*www.ncrlap.org

NCRLAP’s purpose is to conduct voluntary assessments for child care centers and family child care homes attempting to earn a higher star rating in the NC Star Rated License system. NCRLAP uses the Environment Rating Scales to assess program quality. Early Educator Support, Licensure and Professional Development (EESLPD) Unit, DHHS—Division of Child Development and Early Education. The EESLPD Unit in the Division of Child Development and Early Education manages all aspects of teacher licensure for Early Education Teachers who work in nonpublic schools. Services are provided according to NC State Board of Education policy and NC Department of Public Instruction licensure requirements.

NC Wildlife Resources Commissionwww.eenorthcarolina.org

NCWRC manages wildlife across NC, sets regulations and enforces the law. Our educational initiatives share the wonder of wildlife with the general public. Three of our staff reach out to educators, specifically, through adult training workshops, and these teachers in turn reach students across NC. At the conference, we will highlight the PreK curriculum Growing Up WILD.

North Carolina Child Care CoalitionNCChildCareCoalition@gmail.com

Founded in 1990, the North Carolina Child Care Coalition is the only statewide advocacy coalition dedicated to promoting high quality, accessible, and affordable child care in North Carolina. The NC Child Care Coalition includes statewide organizations, regional and local child care agencies, child care providers, businesses, and individuals committed to improving the quality of child care and early education in North Carolina.

North Carolina Licensed Child Care Associationwww.nclcca.org

NCLCCA is the only organization in the state representing licensed child care providers. We are a membership organization providing timely information and updates about issues impacting centers so that providers can work day in and day out to provide quality early education environments for children and families. We have legislative representation on the ground in Raleigh and NCLCCA staff working hard on issues related to rulemaking, subsidy, rated license, NC Pre-K and more.

Our Children’s Placeourchildrensplace.com

Our Children’s Place (OCP) is a private nonprofit agency committed to the children of incarcerated parents. We strive to be the leading North Carolina advocate and educational resource focused on these children and the need for a statewide response to ensure their well-being. Our long-term goal is the creation of a residential facility that will allow young children to live with their mothers who are serving sentences for non-violent offenses.

Project Enlightenment*Wake County Public Schools*www.projectenlightenment.wcpss.net

Project Enlightenment is an early childhood program of the Wake County Public School System serving young children, their families and those that work with young children birth through kindergarten. PE offers a variety of resources and programs such as developmental screenings, teacher workshops, parent education workshops, counseling and support, school readiness, demonstration classrooms and a Parent Teacher Resource Center (PTRC). PE promotes the optimal development of young children by providing a unique blend of quality services to the Wake County community.

School-Age Child Care Quality Improvement Project *NC Child Care Resource & Referral Council* lorijones.swcdc@yahoo.com

Statewide School-Age Specialists provide training and technical assistance to school-age child care programs ensuring that they can achieve licensure or improve/maintain level of star rated license resulting in high quality child care for school-age children. This project is managed by Southwestern Child Development Commission.

T.E.A.C.H. and Child Care WAGES®*Child Care Services Association*www.childcareservices.org

Child Care Services Association (CCSA) is a nonprofit agency located in Chapel Hill, NC dedicated to ensuring affordable, accessible, high quality child care for all young children and families. CCSA is the home of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship project and the Child Care WAGES® project.

The School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hillsoe.unc.edu

The School of Education at UNC CH offers both graduate and undergraduate opportunities in the areas of early childhood education and early childhood special education. These programs prepare aspiring and experienced early childhood professionals with leadership skills in family centered inclusive programs for infants/toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergartners with and without developmental delays. Information about these programs will be available for conference participants.

Making the World a Better Place



DJ Svoboda, artist

Walking through the halls of the Raleigh Convention Center, our Early Childhood Education class of Wake Forest High School heard a booming voice over the roar of all of the vendors at the 2013 NCAEYC Annual Conference. This voice belonged to DJ Svoboda. Our extraordinarily passionate teacher, Ms. Cynthia Sovich, had previously described to us the first time she met DJ, so we recognized him and his work immediately. DJ was diagnosed with autism at age three. Due to his autism, he was often bullied and picked on by his peers. To assist in coping with this, he began to write and draw about the Imagifriends who live in a loving, accepting place called Imagiville.

DJ has written and illustrated a story book called “My Imagiville” and created a coloring book of the characters. There is only one rule in Imagiville: No Bullying.

“He [DJ] created a wonderful fictional place where people with autism, like himself, could live and be happy,” says sophomore

Leslie Blaylock, “He now has created thousands of Imagifriends and each one is unique in their own way. Now there are calendars, posters, greeting cards, books, and many more Imagiville products.” Payton Baker, also a sophomore, elaborated on this: “Each Imagifriend has its own name, personality, and he has drawn each one differently. His creativity is mind-blowing!”

DJ was amazingly friendly and polite toward us. Alison Reed, a junior, described meeting DJ as her “absolute favorite part of the conference!” and Courtney Zagorski, also a junior, says “I thought he was fantastic.” As we walked up to his display, he greeted us and asked us all how we were doing. “He just had the friendliest vibe,” says junior Trista Thomas. Ms. Sovich describes his way of speaking as being comparable to a radio announcer’s. When he was young, medical professionals predicted he would never be able to speak at all. Yet now, at 26, he speaks more articulately than most. “You would never know he had trouble speaking,” says junior Stephanie Stegemann.



I am just trying to make the world a better place for kids with autism and to make other people have a better understanding of the condition.

-DJ



Meeting and interacting with DJ was tremendously inspirational to our Early Childhood Education class. "I told him that he was a great writer and he responded by saying 'Thank you, I am just trying to make the world a better place for kids with autism and to make other people have a better understanding of the condition,'" says sophomore Ashton Knudsen.

"He cares about everyone and wants kids to feel safe," adds junior Peyton Perry. Alison Reed expands on this, saying "I see them [his books] helping other kids who are in the same spot he was when he was young." We are grateful for people like DJ. We learned much from attending various workshops at the conference, but we learned just as much from him. Junior Maggie Case described her reaction to meeting DJ: "What I learned was that no matter who you are, where you come from, or what you've gone through, you can still be the person you see yourself as. It doesn't matter what happened in the past, you just learn from it and keep going."

You can learn more about DJ and his Imagifriends on his website: www.Mylmagiville.com.

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inclusioninstitute.fpg.unc.edu

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2014 National
Early Childhood
Inclusion Institute



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May 20—22, 2014

The William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education
Chapel Hill, NC



Kidznotes transforms the lives of underserved children through classical, orchestral music training beginning in early childhood to combat poverty, strengthen inner-city education, and foster positive decision-making to unlock the world. Kidznotes is the first “El Sistema” inspired program in North Carolina and is connected to other “El Sistema” programs across the country and the globe.



Kidznotes currently serves 275 children in seven elementary schools in Durham and Southeast Raleigh. Students are provided with an orchestral instrument, receive 10 hours a week of instruction for the entire school year, and attend a 3-week summer camp. This intense training amounts to 500 hours of practice and performance every year.

In our first three years, the Kidznotes orchestra performed nearly 150 times in the community, highlighting our children and their accomplishments. Our vision is to be a catalyst for change that uses music to build a thriving network of children, families and partners where the passion for music unleashes the human potential to transform lives and communities. The foundation of our vision is our commitment to embrace and value diversity, excellence and collaboration in our daily lives. Kidznotes intends to grow to serve 500 students in Durham by 2017 and to expand to a second “nucleo” in Raleigh, advancing our kids through a system of orchestras from Kindergarten through the 12th grade.

To donate or for more information, see our website at www.kidznotes.org.

Why Public Policy Matters

Written by Beth Moore,
NCAeyc Board of Directors Member

Often, early educators find themselves in the disheartening position of having to explain that their profession is not “glorified babysitting,” but in fact teaching.

Early childhood education is a crucial period for brain development, social/emotional development and motor development. Early experiences literally shape the architecture of the brain according to studies done at Harvard’s Center for the Developing Child (developingchild.harvard.edu). After decades of valid research we are still defending our profession as valid, necessary and critical to future learning.

It could be adults don’t remember this time of their life—although much of what we learn during birth – age 8 is skill sets needed for daily functioning. Typically, we eat our own food, walk to our destinations, talk and communicate with others, use the restroom independently, make choices, adhere to societal norms and manage relationships without much thought to how or where we learned these necessary skills. Early education sets the stage and lays the foundation for all other learning to occur. Now, these skills may seem elementary, but think about if you did not have even just one of them. Would your life be the same? Could you support yourself? Could you be successful in your field? Maybe, but there would be some level of discourse or energy used to overcome the deficit that wasn’t learned early on.

Many people hear “public policy” and given the current climate of politics in general, may feel overwhelmed and not know which direction to take. It is important to keep the message simple and factual, while helping policy makers understand the importance of early education.

How do we continue the shift in thinking?

Fortified with knowledge and a passion for teaching young children, early educators are making a difference in policy-making and a shift in societal thinking is occurring, but there is a long way to go.

There are many on our side and this will help to spread the word and shift thinking. High-quality in centers and professionals are a priority for parents needing care for their young children. Military leaders understand that early education is crucial for National Security. Law enforcement recognizes that certain skills learned early on can prevent criminal activity later. (Source: *First 2000 Days website*) World-renowned economists such as James Heckman, a Nobel Laureate, state that, “Investments in high-quality early education programs have the highest rate of return of any social investment.” (Source: *James Heckman, University of Chicago Economist and Nobel Laureate, Lessons from the Technology of Skill Formation, 2005*) There are local leaders that will also understand the importance of early education and maybe have just not thought about it.

Starting on the local level, each educator can make a difference. We have the unique opportunity to talk to parents, work with businesses and form relationships with local leaders in the community. This may seem like a daunting task. Many will question what to say, how to set up a meeting or who do I start with. NCAeyc is here to help! With your help we can develop tools for the purpose of advocating, not only for the profession in general but for our youngest citizens.

Call to Action

Advocacy is a broad term. In order to know what to advocate for, conversations need to happen and opinions gathered. The following questions will help NCAeyc gather information and help create tools for our members to use in their daily interactions with the community. By completing the short survey, NCAeyc can determine where to focus our advocacy efforts with policy makers.



Take the 5-minute Grassroots Advocacy Survey now.

CCSA Hosts 41st Annual Conference

On February 22, 2014 Child Care Services Association (CCSA) will host hundreds of early childhood and school age education professionals from across North Carolina at the 41st Annual Advancing Skills and Knowledge (A.S.K.) Conference. Formerly known as *Day for Day Care*, the A.S.K. Conference offers more than 90 innovative learning sessions in a relaxed yet creative environment. This annual event allows teachers, directors, and administrators to step back from their daily grind and open themselves to new and creative ways of inspiring children's learning. Participants meet with colleagues and presenters to share ideas, and rejuvenate their creativity; translating ideas into solutions that can be implemented in classrooms or programs.

Day for Day Care began in 1974, as a community fair sponsored by the Orange County Child Care Coalition. In 1976 the first *Day Care and Early Education Institute* was sponsored by the Durham Day Care Council. From the combined humble beginnings of these two county level events, the A.S.K. Conference has matured into an outstanding opportunity for educators from all over North Carolina to gain inspiration and hone their skills and knowledge around effective teaching and developmentally appropriate practice.

Reflecting the demand in the field, this 41st conference presents a mix of sessions, some offering continuing education units (CEU), on a wide variety of topics such as teaching strategies, infant-toddler development, family engagement and cultural diversity. Topics were carefully selected to meet the professional development needs of early care and school age education teachers and program administrators.



Saturday, February 22, 2014

Snow Date will be March 8, 2014

East Chapel Hill High School

Sponsored by
Child Care Services Association
FPG Child Development Institute

CCSA sponsors this one-day conference as an accessible and affordable learning opportunity for teaching professionals. The conference has a long history of presenting sessions that support the key ingredients of school readiness: nurturing healthy social/emotional development; enhancing language and early literacy skills; developing early mathematical skills and problem-solving; improving intellectual development and ensuring physical health and safety.

The conference planning committee works hard to adapt the workshop content each year as research expands our knowledge regarding children's learning and brain development. For example, through research we know that kindergarten teachers list social/emotional competence as a critically important part of school readiness and as the number one reason for recommending kindergarten grade retention. Children may struggle with learning

if they enter kindergarten unable to relate well to their teachers and peers, and are unable to manage anger and other negative emotions*. In response, the conference features numerous sessions, from 1.5 hours to more in-depth five hour sessions, which focus upon supporting healthy social/emotional development. One such session, *Building Caregiver Capacity to Improve Child Outcomes*, is an intensive, five hour session offering a (.5) CEU and presented in collaboration with the Orange County Preschool Interagency Council (OCPIC).

* NECDL Pre-Kindergarten Study (2005) Early Developments, Vol. 9 No. 1. Chapel Hill, NC: Frank Porter Graham Center.
www.fpg.unc.edu/~ncedl/PDFs/ED9_1.pdf.

This annual event allows teachers, directors, and administrators to step back from their daily grind and open themselves to new and creative ways of inspiring children's learning.

Thanks to sponsorship by the Research Triangle Institute Parent's Child Care Organization (RTI-PCCO), the conference keynote address, *Powerful Friends: Standing Up for Children and Teachers*, features Stuart Stotts, a songwriter, author, and educator from Wisconsin. Stuart has performed for children and families throughout the United States since 1986, giving over

200 performances a year. As a frequent presenter at conferences for early childhood professionals, Stuart brings a mix of music, participation, brain research, with a strong focus on advocacy for children and the profession to all of his presentations. Stuart's highly interactive sessions provide teachers with songs, activities, and strategies that can be immediately implemented with children. His work includes accessible and relevant brain research which reveals why his activities are important and successful with children.

As the Platinum Sponsor for the 2014 conference, *Lakeshore Learning* will present two workshops facilitated by Ron Mohl, Lead Educational Presenter for Lakeshore Learning Materials. In this role, Ron presents to school districts, public and private institutions, Head Start programs, and military bases across the country. By focusing on the importance of play in the learning process, Ron's sessions help educators enrich curricula related to language development, math, science, music and diversity.



This conference allows early childhood and school age education professionals to benefit from the expertise of fellow teachers, directors, higher education faculty, quality improvement specialists and other credentialed experts. The conference also features a vendor exhibit area and resources for daily use in the classroom to support work with children and families.

CCSA is the primary sponsor of the A.S.K. Conference and is celebrating forty years of service in 2013 as a nationally recognized nonprofit organization working to ensure affordable, accessible, high quality early care and education for all families through research, services and advocacy. The A.S.K. Conference is one way that CCSA collaborates with many partners, businesses and stakeholders to address the needs within the early care and education system.



View the conference program and register online at
www.childcareservices.org.

More Than Baby Talk



Frank Porter Graham
Child Development Institute

UNC's Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute has just published "More Than Baby Talk," a free online guide to igniting communication and language skills, which includes ten research-based recommendations for educators who work with infants and toddlers. Please visit mtbt.fpg.unc.edu.

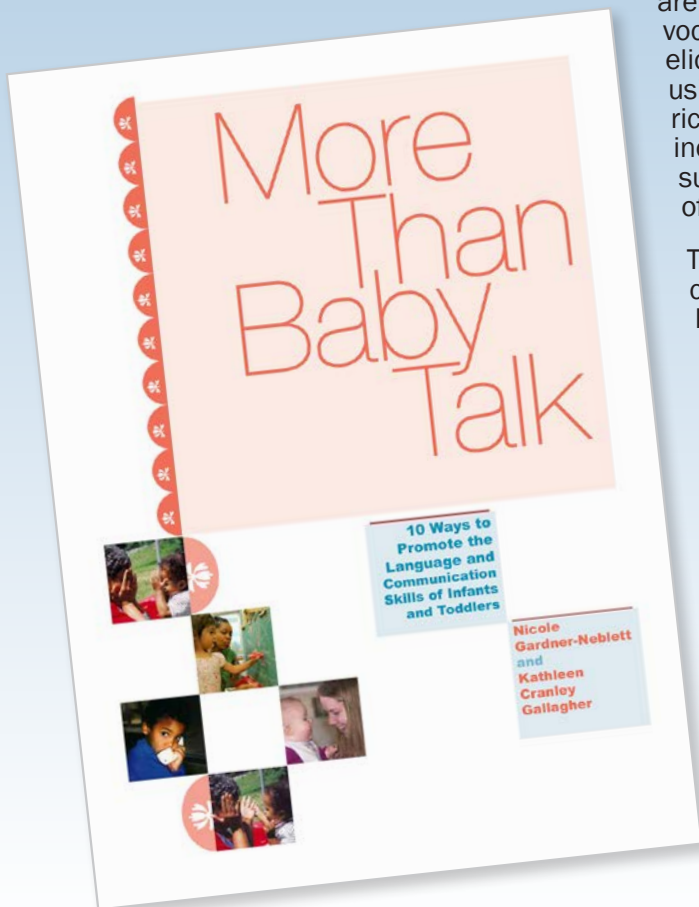
"More Than Baby Talk" recommends one-on-one and small-group interactions that are tried and tested to support the development of language and communication in infants and toddlers from a variety of backgrounds. Among the FPG team's

recommended interactions are responding to children's vocalizations and speech, eliciting conversations, and using complex grammar and a rich vocabulary. Each practice includes the science that supports it and examples of how to use it.

The "Get Chatty" recommendation, for instance, suggests commenting on routines like hand-washing, as they occur. Educators also can use longer sentences, draw connections between children's lives and books, and use songs to tell stories. Many of the practices work well in combination with one another.

By using these strategies, educators and parents can provide children with the rich language exposure and opportunities they need to enhance their language and communication.

Download "More Than Baby Talk" at mtbt.fpg.unc.edu/sites/mtbt.fpg.unc.edu/files/imce/documents/BabyTalk_WEB.pdf.



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at CHAPEL HILL

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NCAeeyc

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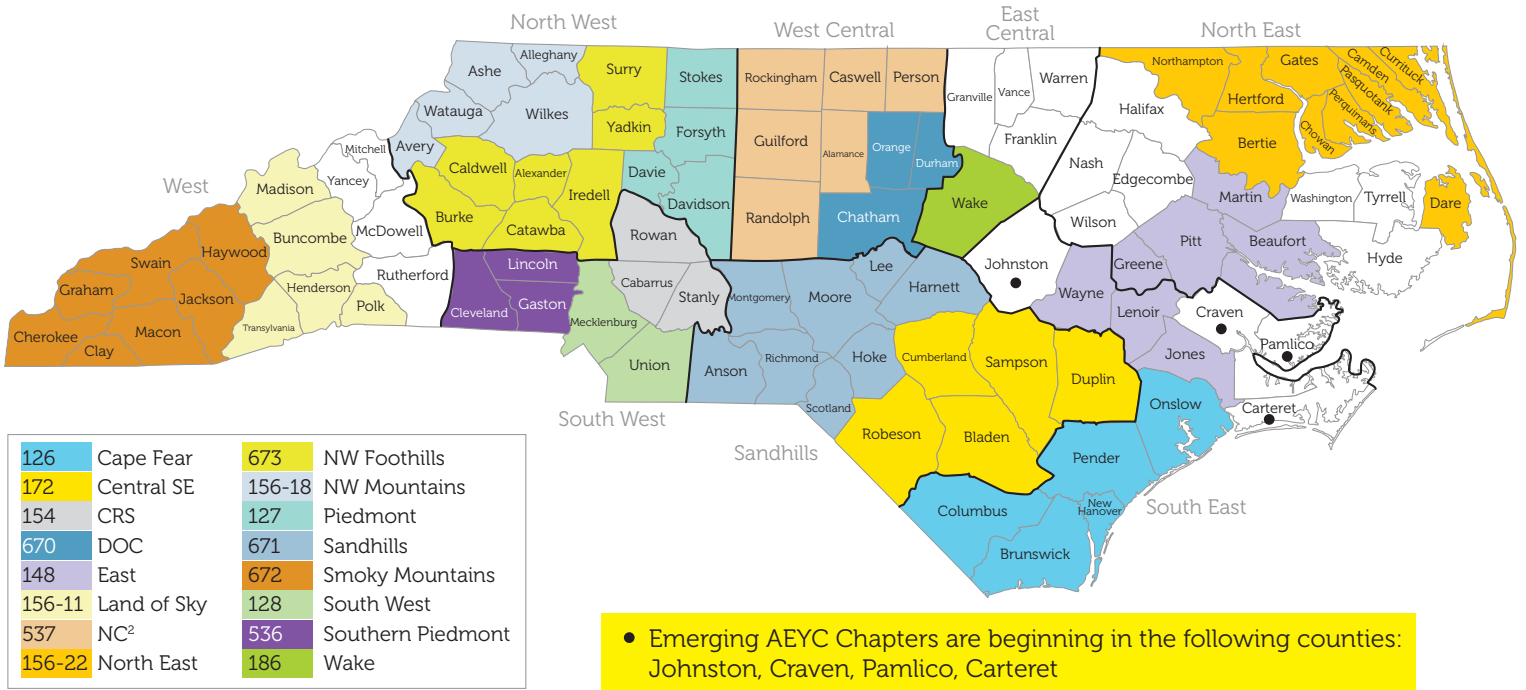
2014 Conference

September 11 - 13

Raleigh Convention Center

North Carolina's Chapters and Local Affiliates

NCaeyc Local Affiliate Map (NCaeyc Regions noted w/black outline) as of May 1, 2013



Local Affiliate Counties

Cape Fear: Brunswick/Columbus/New Hanover/Pender/Onslow
Central South East: Cumberland/Robeson/Sampson/Bladen/Duplin
CRS: Cabarrus/Rowan/Stanly
DOC: Orange/Durham/Chatham
East: Beaufort/Martin/Pitt/Lenoir/Greene/Wayne/Jones
Land of Sky: Buncombe/Henderson/Transylvania/Polk/Madison
NC²: Rockingham/Guilford/Randolph/Alamance/Caswell/Person
North East: Northampton/Hertford/Bertie/Chowan/Perquimans/Pasquotank/Dare/Camden/Currituck/Gates

Northwest Foothills: Iredell/Alexander/Catawba/Surry/Yadkin/Burke/Caldwell
North West Mountains: Watauga/Avery/Ashe/Wilkes/Alleghany
Piedmont: Forsyth/Stokes/Davie/Davidson
Sandhills: Moore/Lee/Montgomery/Richmond/Scotland/Hoke/Harnett/Anson
Smoky Mountains: Cherokee/Clay/Graham/Haywood/Jackson/Macon/Swain
Southern Piedmont: Gaston/Lincoln/Cleveland
Southwest: Mecklenburg/Union
Wake: Wake

Learn how to get involved in chapter or local affiliate activities!
 Contact Lorie Barnes at lbarnes@ncaeyc.org.

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To contact any NCaeyc board member, please send an email to: generalinfo@ncaeyc.org.

NCaeyc extends deepest appreciation to past Board member
Krista Turner for her service and leadership.



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