



October 2008
Volume 1

Des Moines Chapter of the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

Serving and Acting on Behalf of Young Children



We want this newsletter to be useful to you and we want you to be a part of it. We are adding several new features. Dear Gabby, will answer any questions you have about anything that you encounter as an early childhood educator. Please send your questions for Gabby to:

pmahoney@knoxvillesteppingstones.com. Gabby will answer your questions and will select a few to put in the newsletter each month.

We would also like to set up a system like "Pen Pals" some of us had in elementary school. We will match Directors or teachers who have went through the NAEYC accreditation process with someone that has just started or is in the process. You can email each other with questions or concerns that you may have. If you would be willing to participate, please email us and we will set you up with an "Email Pal".

We are also going to have a 2 cents column where you can email a comment about anything in the early childhood field. It will be like the column in the Des Moines Register.

These ideas will not work without you! Get involved and let's have a fun and useful newsletter!

A Message from our Chapter President

This is an exciting time for the Des Moines Chapter. We are moving into a new era of association development with leadership choices in Early Childhood Education. As a chapter of Iowa AEYC we have the opportunity to affect the performance of our colleagues, improve our programs thus improving generations to come. This will take effort on the part of our Board and I am completely confident that with the new slate of officers and the continued commitment we will accomplish all that we set out to succeed.

Jennifer Reynolds, President

Des Moines Chapter Leadership 2008-2009



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**Cathy Eddy, AEA,
Speaks About
Kindergarten
Readiness at DM
Chapter Meeting**

A focus of the Des Moines Chapter this year is going to be on staff training. At our September 11th meeting Cathy Eddy, an AEA Early Childhood Consultant spoke to over 90 people on kindergarten readiness at the United Way Center in Ankeny. Cathy involved us by reading articles and discussing them. Research is inconclusive as to “red shirting” five year olds. Academic achievement is not the only thing we need to look at. The child’s physical, social and emotional development are key also. Each child must be looked at as an individual.

Members were asked what kind of topics they would like to see at trainings. Here are a few suggestions that were given:

- Working with autistic children
- Positive Behavior Strategies
- Creative Curriculum
- Transitioning activities
- Diversity in child care
- Iowa Learning Standards
- Parent Involvement
- Science Ideas
- What agencies can help parents of special needs children
- Troubleshooting computers
- Social & academic growth K-3
- Literacy based activities for home and group situations
- Dibbles and IDGI testing
- How do preschool and kindergarten staff work together?

The board will try and incorporate these suggestions when planning trainings..

Paint pumpkins instead of carving them.
Kids will enjoy the nice change!
The paint can even be washed off and re-painted!



Make pumpkin books. Cut the book in the shape of a pumpkin using orange construction paper. Write on the cover, "What is inside a pumpkin?" Cut open a real pumpkin and let each child explore and study the contents, then give them yellow yarn, yellow construction paper and their own copy of a pumpkin book. They can cover the inside of their books with stringy yarn and ripped paper seeds.



Play "pin the eyes, nose and mouth on the pumpkin"



The Des Moines Chapter of Iowa AEYC is offering Professional Development ECE staff training on: Cultural Diversity with Rebecca Ramirez, Director of Xochipilli Bilingual Education Center. It will be on Thursday, November 20 from 6:30-8:30PM. The Hispanic Educational Resources Center is located at 828 SE Scott, Des Moines, Iowa PLEASE RSVP Jennifer Reynolds at jenniferr@sciowa.org or call Rebecca Ramirez with questions at 515-282-6542.

“Going Green” in early childhood centers? What can we do?

The Principal Child Development Center will be one of the first LEED certified facilities in downtown Des Moines. LEED is an award that stands for Leadership Energy and Environment Design. Jami Behrens, Director at the Principal Child Development Center says, “Recycling is built into our staff training, the teachers incorporate a going green activity each week with the children.” We recycle all of the paper that the children use. We also send home “going green” tips in our newsletters to parents. Our teachers have a resource cabinet filled with recycled materials, such as wallpaper books, egg cartons, plastic cartons etc. Most of the parent newsletters are sent by email to cut down on the use of paper.



By Karen Doughan

The CDC says: take the following steps to protect yourself and others from influenza:

1. Take the time to get an influenza vaccine.
2. Take everyday preventative actions to avoid influenza, good handwashing, covering nose & mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough.
3. If you become ill, stay home from work and school to avoid spreading the illness to others.

For further info, go to www.cdc.gov.



We want to know what kinds of things some of you are doing already at your centers to “go green” /recycle. We will put your answers in our next newsletter. Please email me at pmahoney@knoxvillesteppingstones.com.

Check out: iowagogreen.com



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SAVE THE DATE

Des Moines Iowa AEYC Chapter Meetings:

November 20, 2008-Diversity Training

January 22, 2009– An Introduction to

Inclusive Child Care

by Amy Stevens, Easter Seals