



Montana  
Association  
for the  
Education of  
Young  
Children

# MtAEYC MATTERS

News for members of Montana Association for the Education of Young Children

Spring 2009

Volume 13 Issue 4

The mission of the Montana Association for the Education of Young Children is to improve professional practice and working conditions for all teachers and caregivers of children, birth to eight years, and to build understanding and support quality early childhood programs.

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## A note from the Secretary: Ann Klaas

Greetings to all MtAEYC members! This is my first attempt at putting together a MtAEYC Matters newsletter and I hope that you all find it interesting and informative. Kristin Segall is the past secretary and she did such a wonderful job. I am hoping that I can fill her shoes! Please feel free to submit everything and anything to me for

inclusion in future newsletters. Normally, our president would write a little note here to our membership, however she has had a very difficult spring that involved some family emergencies. Teresa, our thoughts are with you as you move through this difficult time. A few things of note:

- ⇒ Several members will be attending the **NAEYC Professional Development Institute** that will be held June 13th—17th in Charlotte, NC. We are excited to bring new and important information back to our state.
- ⇒ The Director's Symposium will be held on September 10th & 11th at the newly remodeled, Park Plaza Holiday Inn in Helena. This year MtAEYC will be offering an **Accreditation Seminar** in conjunction with the Symposium! The seminar will be held on the 10th from 8:30—11:30 a.m. and will be designed for anyone interested in accreditation or in would like help with the process of becoming accredited. A second, 5 hr. session will be offered at the conference (see below).
- ⇒ Our new website is up and running! Sharon DiBrito has worked very hard on this and we encourage all of you to visit [www.mtaeyc.org](http://www.mtaeyc.org)

**2009 MtAEYC ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE**  
October 22nd & 23rd, 2009  
Montana State University, Student Union  
Building, Billings  
"MOTIVATING MINDS UNDER THE BIG SKY"

*Join us in Billings, the Magic City, on October 22nd & 23rd, 2009  
for the Montana Association for the Education of Young Children  
Annual Conference*

—

Participants will sign up for a specific track: Social /Emotional, Health & Mental Health, Developmentally Appropriate Practice, Supervision & Management, Family & Community Partnerships, "I Am Moving, I Am Learning", Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), Inclusion Basics, Adult Learning III, and more! In addition, 1 hour breakout sessions will compliment your learning. Jack Hartman and Todd Rowen will provide inspirational keynote addresses!

**Watch for registration information coming soon!**  
**Join MtAEYC now to receive a substantial discount!**

**Registration will be limited to the first 550 people who sign up. MARK YOUR CALENDARS and plan to attend!**

## Chapter Representatives

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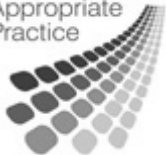
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Developmentally  
Appropriate  
Practice



**Mt Matters will be distributed to all members of MtAEYC at no cost.**

If you would like to contribute an article or have a suggestion as to format or content contact:

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Publication dates are February, June, and October.

## MONTANA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

### Annual Service Awards

Each year, MtAEYC presents two awards to individuals or groups that have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to young children and families, either at the state and/or local level.

Presented below is the criteria for the Early Childhood Service Award and the McCarthy Public Service Award.

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICE AWARD

This award is to be presented to an individual who has demonstrated an exemplary service to MtAEYC at the state level, while maintaining an active role in a support service to programs that care for and/or educate young children and/or their families, and is a current member of MtAEYC.

#### MCCARTHY PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

This award is to be presented to an individual or group that has demonstrated a long term, exemplary commitment to the care and/or education of young children at the state level by actively participating in advocating, developing and/or maintaining public policies affecting young children and/or their families. This public service may be through election, employment and/or volunteer efforts. This individual or group may or may not be a current member of MtAEYC.

*Award selections will be made at the MtAEYC Board Meeting September 2009 and announced and presented at the annual 2009 MtAEYC Early Childhood Conference in Billings in October.*

#### MtAEYC ANNUAL SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION APPLICATION

Please check which award candidate is being nominated for:

\_\_\_ Early Childhood Service Award \_\_\_ McCarthy Public Service Award

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Service:

Please attach an information summary that describes the nominee's contributions to the early childhood field.

Submit nomination award application by September 1, 2009 to:

Ann Klaas, 12970 Cottonwood Road, Bozeman, Montana 59718

Or email the information to Ann Klaas at: [ann.klaas@montana.edu](mailto:ann.klaas@montana.edu)



### School Readiness Going Strong

By: Mary Jane Standaert

Over 50 people met in Helena the end of May for two days for the third annual School Readiness Summit. The topic this year was Parent Involvement. The presenters were all from WORD, Inc. in Missoula who shared a wealth of experience and knowledge about working with and engaging parents to support maximum child development. In very creative and interactive ways community groups were able to learn from each other, articulate their successes and incorporate some new plans into their growing endeavors in their communities.

Most communities in Montana should have a School Readiness Team, because most communities have young children who will eventually go to Elementary School. Teams do not have to be formal groups that meet regularly, but if you think about it, if you work with young children, you are probably already meeting with some other kindred spirits. What are you doing in your community that supports young children and their families? My guess is you are doing quite a bit. Let someone know and join the initiative so you can get the emailed information, attend these summits and apply for occasional funding for projects.

The Summit next year will be in early June and could be focused on community team development. If you want more information contact Mary Jane Standaert at 406-444-0589 or [mjstandaert@mt.gov](mailto:mjstandaert@mt.gov)

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**Lynn Beck      Jeanette Hall**

MT Early Care & Education Career Development Advisory Council

**Rita LaMiaux      Teresa DeStefano**

Early Childhood Council for Professional Development

**Ann Klaas**

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## Chapter Reports and Week of the Young Child Happenings

**Central:** WoYC put kites in the windows downtown. Had a radio spot and newspaper articles. They ended the week with their spring conference. Judy Wright spoke on the importance of friendships. She did another session on avoiding burnout.

**Ravalli:** Membership is up. Curious George went to the elementary school and several programs. They had a school readiness social that was well attended. Lucky duck event at the park....children could fish for the ducks that have prize numbers on them.

**Helena:** “Reading in the Rotunda” during WoYC collaboratively with the school readiness team. 1500 bags were distributed to the children with information and a book . Lots of Head Start classrooms and families attended. They also did this at the public libraries and school libraries. Article in the paper. Billboard used for promotion. Collaborated with R&R to do a mini conference in March. Worked with the UM Western students to do a session at the conference. 8 student scholarships were awarded to those students. Students attended chapter meetings.

**Missoula:** Contacted art galleries and had children’s artwork displayed. 5 galleries participated. Clifford and Corderoy costumes were rented (\$200.00) and were lent to centers for \$20.00 to recoup some of the costs. Costumes can be rented through costumespecialists.com

**Bozeman:** Bozeman worked with UM Western students to develop a poster and table tents. Had a conflict with Screen Free week.

**Billings:** conference, conference, conference. Clifford and Curious George were brought in for story time at the library....books were given to all of the children. Over 300 people attended. Lots of new memberships. Gina Young is the new president.

# MtAEYC is 607 members strong !!!!

## MtAEYC Accreditation Committee Update – May 2009

Submitted by Collette Box

Collette Box and Sharon DiBrito have been participating in monthly Affiliate Accreditation Chair phone calls with Gwen Simmons and most recently, Gina Charnitski, Program Resource Specialist. The calls are being transitioned to an online community within the TORCH site ( NAEYC.org), the new website for all things dealing with accreditation. It is fairly interactive and we are getting some interesting information about how other states are providing support for programs. These calls are also being utilized as another way to get information about what NAEYC is working on, most recently the review that the Affiliate Council is undertaking with regards to Affiliate Criteria. A recommendation has been proposed to develop an *affiliate criteria review process* that “would formalize a systematic and routine evaluation of the existing criteria, establishing guidelines and policies and procedures for the NAEYC Affiliate Network.” One of the Affiliate criteria specifically mentioned is the Accreditation Chair requirement. Currently, only local affiliate chapters are required to have an Accreditation Chair. They may be reviewing that criteria - evaluating the effectiveness of the requirement, determining more specific roles and responsibilities, and looking at the level of support needed from National among other things.

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

**MtAEYC Matters**  
**12970 Cottonwood Road**  
**Bozeman, Montana 59718**

# Montana's NAEYC Accredited Programs

<b>A.W.A.R.E. Early Head Start</b> Butte, MT 59701	<b>MSU Child Development Center</b> Bozeman, MT 59717
<b>ASUM Child Care, Preschool and Family Resources</b> Missoula, MT 59812	<b>Our Savior Lutheran Child Care Ministry</b> Glendive, MT 59330
<b>Child Start Inc.</b> Missoula, MT 59802	<b>Salish Kootenai College Child Care Center</b> Pablo, MT 59855
<b>Co-Teach Preschool</b> Missoula, MT 59812	<b>St. Thomas Child &amp; Family Center</b> Great Falls, MT 59405
<b>Curious Minds Early Care and Education Center</b> Dillon, MT 59725	<b>The Children's Center</b> Missoula, MT 59802
<b>Discovery Developmental Center, Inc.</b> KalisPELL, MT 59901	<b>The Good Shepherds Children Center</b> Missoula, MT 59803
<b>Easter Seals Growing Place</b> Missoula, MT 59808	<b>William R. Lowe Childcare and Enrichment Center</b> Billings, MT 59101
<b>Little People's Academy</b> Bozeman, MT 59715	
<b>Lolo Preschool and Childcare</b> Lolo, MT 59847	
<b>Malmstrom Child Development Center</b> Great Falls, MT 59402	

June 2009



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## **Helping Toddlers Become Problem Solvers**

All parents and teachers have seen the unique ability of toddlers to use toys and materials in unexpected ways. One child may turn a cup into a hammer or a basket into a hat. Another toddler may stand on a riding truck to try to reach a toy or pull over a chair to climb onto a bookshelf. Observant adults recognize these innovations as signs that children are learning to use their thinking skills to solve problems.

Experiences in problem solving help children develop curiosity and patience, along with thinking skills such as flexibility, and understanding of cause and effect. They learn to work toward achieving a goal, and gain confidence in their ability to reach a solution.

Even very young children make discoveries on their own. An infant who accidentally creates a noise with a rattle may then make the sound again and again on purpose. An older infant discovers that by looking under a blanket, he can find a hidden toy. A toddler who cannot pull a wagon up a hill by herself learns that she and a friend can push it up from behind.

By not rushing in and rescuing young children who are facing minor everyday problems, adults can help infants and toddlers develop confidence and increase their thinking abilities. It's also helpful for parents and teachers to provide materials that encourage children to explore. Some toys, such as jack-in-the-boxes and busy boxes, provide opportunities to explore simple cause-and effect relationships. Other common materials like empty cardboard boxes, plastic bowls, or scarves can provide open-ended experiences through which toddlers can make choices and decisions, and find different ways to manipulate the materials.

Other activities can involve materials such as clear plastic tubing (such as the tubing used for aquariums) which children can fill with bright materials, and watch the materials move as they shake the tubes. If you provide inclines or ramps of wooden blocks, a toddler can watch what happens as objects roll down inside the tubes. She may discover that some objects roll faster than others. He may learn about actions and reactions when he sets plastic bottles at the bottom of the ramp to create a unique bowling game. (Whatever materials you provide, remember to be very careful about choking hazards.)

These everyday materials are fun, and can hold children's interest for long periods. They also help children experiment with cause and effect and with gravity and physics. In addition to supporting cognitive development, problem-solving activities help in the social arena as well. Groups of children engaged in these activities negotiate with their friends and learn how to solve interpersonal problems. By providing interesting materials and enthusiastically reinforcing children's attempts to explore and solve problems, parents and teachers can stimulate children's development, promote advanced critical thinking, and help children take pride in their own abilities to find out more about how their world works.

Excerpted from "Using Everyday Materials to Promote Problem Solving in Toddlers" by Laura Segatti, Judy Brown-DuPaul, and Tracy L. Keyes – an article in the NAEYC journal, *Young Children*.

*Early Years Are Learning Years* is an NAEYC resource for early childhood educators, parents, and others who support and nurture the development of young children. For more information about the benefits of NAEYC membership, visit [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

