

Early Childhood Education and Care

Pacific Union Conference

Working in Unity; Serving the Community ©

Vol. 3, No. 1, Winter 2005

Adventist Child Care Network 2004 Convention

You should have been there! In November, 2004, Anaheim, California was buzzing with approximately 30,000 early childhood professionals from all over the world for the annual National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Convention and Adventist early childhood educators were there to participate.



ACCN attendees from all over the U.S.

On Thursday, November 11, the Adventist Child Care Network (ACCN) hosted a dinner for all Adventists attending the annual convention. There were no less than twenty-four teachers, directors, administrators, college educators, as well as conference and union representatives.



ACCN dinner brought center directors and ECE college students together.

Unfortunately, through some mix-up, the restaurant failed to provide a private room so

ACCN President, Kayla Sanderson, had to wait until Friday to make her presentation on assessment procedures and resources for early



ACCN President, Kayla Sanderson

childhood programs. During vespers on Friday evening, additional Adventist early childhood professionals joined the ACCN group for sharing and networking, bringing the number of known attendees to over thirty. This was the largest number of Adventist attendees ever in the history of ACCN. It was thrilling to meet and learn about the various venues in which the Lord has placed His willing servants.

Sabbath morning, the Anaheim SDA church welcomed ACCN with open arms and hosted a much appreciated potluck lunch. Afterwards, a small group drove to the Crystal Cathedral for an informative two hour tour and group pictures.

The participative growth of the Adventist Child Care Network is exciting and encouraging. In 2005, ACCN will be meeting again in conjunction with the NAEYC convention in Washington, D.C., December 7-10.

The 2004 convention was a wonderful and rare opportunity for Adventist early childhood professionals and plans for 2005 are already in progress. If at all possible, please plan to join us.



Christine Gillan
Coordinator of Child
Development Centers

Center Highlight

God is Real at Wee Care Child Center

Sylmar, California

Resources

Winter, 2005

The requests come in for prayers each and every week during our on-going day care work. One of our young mothers was diagnosed with double cancer of the spine. It was such a sad time for the family as they took 3-1/2 year old Michael home to be with his mother. Our Sylmar, Wee Care staff and all the students prayed, made get-well cards, sent flowers, and Director Martha kept in touch by phone. After two months, the mother was able to walk slowly, with help. She called to thank us for all the wonderful cards the children had made. She also wrote a letter telling us how this had brought her closer to her God. She is now taking one day at a time, believing God will heal her. Michael has returned to Wee Care and feels right at home.

We have given each parent a copy of *The Passion of Love* published by Amazing Facts. When we receive requests for Bibles from our families, we supply them.

Since September of 2003 we have been working with a troubled child who whines constantly and throws tantrums. Director Martha spent a lot of time working with her parents, instructing them about diet and home discipline. At the end of January, 2005 the child became less hyper and told us she was going to be good every day. She was improving.

In February, 2005 the father came to see Martha. He was excited, as if he had just discovered a miracle. At long last, he read the sugar content of the foods they were giving his troubled daughter. She is now on natural foods, has an early bedtime and her parents (as well as all our staff) are excited about the positive changes in her behavior.

There are so many exciting things happening at our center, one cannot begin to fathom the actual outcome for these children. Some are now on the honor roll in Kindergarten and first grade. Some are coming to visit us on the days they do not attend school. It makes our hearts rejoice to know that we can and do make a difference.

An Important Resource for Poison Prevention . . .

The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) have published a "Household Products Database" that allows parents and others who care for children to look up household products to learn about their possible risks. Examples include pesticides, personal care products, cleaning agents, and arts and crafts products. The database provides the manufacturer's name and contact information, contents of the various products, acute and chronic health effects that might result from exposure to the products, first aid, and handling and disposal guidelines. This resource can be found <http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/products.htm>. It is important to note that this information comes from "material safety data sheets", which are prepared by product manufactures. Since much of the data may be highly technical, we would advise readers to seek guidance in interpreting this information from an appropriate health care provider or your local poison control center (the latter can be reached at 1-800-222-1222).

. . . And An Infant Immunization Guide

The schedule recommended for routine childhood immunizations can be quite complicated, particularly for babies, since many vaccinations are given during the first year of life. To make it easier to understand and follow these recommendations, the Immunization Action Coalition has published, on their web site, "Immunizations For Babies", a simple chart that is easy to read and interpret. This chart is reproducible. It can be an important part of parent education, and can help parents make sure their children's immunizations are both up-to-date and complete. It is available at www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4010imm.pdf.

Reprinted from CHILD HEALTH ALERT,
P. O. Box 610228, Newton Highlands, MA 02461

For Your Information

Sweetheart Chocolate Roses

*These Sweetheart Chocolate roses are not only beautiful to look at,
they're also good to eat!*

What you will need:

1. Bag of small chocolate kisses
2. Red or pink plastic wrap
3. Green tape
4. Green pipe cleaner
5. Green pipe cleaners
6. Green Tissue paper

How to construct it:

1. First make your rose bud by taping two foil wrapped kisses together end to end with plastic tape.
2. Cut and drape a 5-inch square of plastic wrap over the point of the top kiss and gather the edges twisting into a tail at the point of the bottom kiss.
3. Twist the top of a green pipe cleaner around the tail to form a stem.
4. Add leaves by twisting the pipe cleaner once around the center of a green strip of tissue paper.
5. Cut each end of the tissue paper strip so that the tissue paper resembles rose leaves. Repeat the above steps several times to make bouquet of Sweetheart Chocolate Roses.

Submitted by: Julie Yamada—Discoveryland Children's Center, St Helena, CA Source: All Time Greatest Book of Kid Concoctions By John E. & Danita Thomas

Legislative Watch

CRECEF PUBLIC POLICY REPORT—December 2004
Subject: Bills Signed & Vetoed by the California Governor
Author: Carolyn Harris, CRECEF Public Policy Chair

Bills Signed by the Governor

AB 1240 Mullin. Criminal Background Checks. This bill increases the fine for having someone without a clearance or failing to submit fingerprints at a center from \$100.00 per violation to \$100.00 per day up to \$500.00 for a first violation and \$3,000.00 for additional violations within 12 months.

AB 1393 Kehoe. Six to Six Program. This extends the 6 to 6 after school program from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006 without requiring them to be licensed.

AB 2525 Committee on Education. Education trailer bill. This would lower the eligibility age for child care and development services from 13 to 12 and limit the cost of administrative and family support services provided by

Legislative Watch, continued

Bills Vetoed by the Governor

AB 355 Mullin. Substitute Employee Registries. The Governor wrote that there were not enough funds available from licensing fees and that monies from prop.98 could not be used for this purpose.

AB 712 Steinberg. Preschool For All. The Governor said that money was not available.

SB 1343 Escutia. Infant and Toddler Child Care Master Plan. The governor write that current law already requires the California Department of Education to develop a master plan for child care and development and that infant and toddler care may be included in it.

SB 1897 Burton. Child Care Reform. Again the Governor cited lack of money in the budget to implement this legislation. He added that the California Performance Review is still being evaluated, and it would [be] in appropriate to proceed to [sic] with SB 1897 without considering all the alternatives.

Capitol Resource Institute Email Report on 2005 California Legislation AB 66 – Lowering Age for Kindergarten; Early Education Bill: AB 66
Subject: Lowering Age for Kindergarten; Early Education
Author: Assembly Member Pavley
Position: Oppose

Analysis: The existing "compulsory attendance" law requires that children attend school when they are age six by December 2 of the school year. Existing law permits children to attend kindergarten when they are age five by December 2. This bill will allow certain local school districts to permit children to attend kindergarten when they are age five by September 1 and first grade when they are age six by September 1. While we are proponents of local control, we do not like the idea of any government, at any level, lowering the compulsory attendance age. We believe that parents are the best ones to determine when their children are physically, emotionally, mentally, and psychologically ready to attend school. There is also some phraseology (in two different places) in this bill stating that a school district may change the age in which a child is "required to attend kindergarten." We do not like this language because children, in California, are not required to attend kindergarten. They must attend school, starting at age six. We strongly oppose any attempts to lower the compulsory attendance law. This bill also requires school districts to "implement outreach efforts to inform parents of the benefits of early education." It also states that a school district "shall expend funds it receives . . . to create and enhance prekindergarten programs." The bill also states that a school district "may, on a case-by-case basis, admit to a kindergarten a child having attained the age of four years at any time during the school year." (Thus, some three year olds may be placed in kindergarten!) These provisions are yet another push for pre-school and, someday, compulsory preschool. There are no proven benefits of taking children away from their parents when they're barely out of diapers and putting them into school at increasingly earlier ages. No study or statistics can satisfactorily show that early education in a government schools is beneficial. On the contrary, several studies show that it can be harmful for children to be daily taken out of their homes and placed routinely in daycare or preschool environments.

F.Y.I., continued . . .

Pacific Union Conference

Updates & Reminders

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NAEYC Public Policy Update

Since the first week of January, 38 governors have given their 2005 State of the State Addresses. Following is our second compilation of those who mentioned early care and education and the early grades in their addresses as of January 27th.

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano (D) proposed funding so that children of low-wage, working parents can obtain quality childcare without spending months on a waiting list; having the Arizona School Readiness Board to continue its work with both the private and non-profit sectors to create a quality rating system for childcare centers; extending all-day kindergarten so it is available to every child at every school in every community; and implementing a statewide Master Teacher program to ultimately put at least one Master Teacher in every school. “Our first priority,

Dates to Remember

Dates to Remember...

March 4—6	CCC Director's Meetings
March 9	SECC Director's Meeting
March 23	SCC Director's Meeting
April 3—9	Week of the Young Child
April 25—29	National Playground Safety Week
May 3	ECE Teacher Appreciation Day
May 4	NCC Director's Meeting
May 18	SECC Director's Meeting
May 18—20	ECE Curriculum Review Committee
July 20	Union CDC Advisory
July 28—Aug 7	CCC Director's Meeting (specifics TBA)
Sept. 28	NCC Director's Meeting
Oct. 13	Union CDC Board
Oct. 19	SCC Director's Meeting
Nov. 7—10	NAEYC & ACCN Annual Conference
TBA	Hawaii Director's Meeting

Updated & Reminders, continued

today and always, is education...But as our state is changing, our economy is changing, and our schools must change.”

Hawaii's Governor Linda Lingle (R) launched the Early Childhood Education Initiative in her State of the State Address. This initiative would allow 3,000 additional children, ages 3 and 4, to attend high-quality, fully accredited preschools. The initiative would give financial assistance for “gap group” families, monetary incentives to preschools that adopt quality content standards, incentives for providers who attend training beyond existing licensing standards, and support for more adults to enter the early childhood education profession. “State, federal and private funding for child care and preschool programs in Hawaii totals nearly \$100 million a year, and yet many working families forego quality child care because they simply can't afford it.”

Source: <http://www.naeyc.org>

California Education Chief Pushes P-16 Approach

The January 28 issue of “Online News”, a publication of the National Institute for Early Education Research carried this story:

“If California Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell has his way, policymakers there will eventually replace the K-12 public school mentality with P-16 ÷ pre-kindergarten to 4 years after high school. In his annual address on the condition of public schools, O'Connell said P-16 should begin with publicly funded preschool for all 4-year-olds and called on Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to restore \$2.3 billion in Proposition 98 funding for schools that the governor proposed eliminating in next year's budget. O'Connell says even students who choose not to attend traditional college need advanced academic skills after high school to perform jobs in today's economy.”



Julie Masterson
Editor