

April 2008

Presidents' Message

The theme for NAEYC's Week of the Young Child is Bring Communities Together for Children / Children Bring Communities Together. That is truly what has happened this year locally, as a number of community organizations came together at the United Way/Smart Beginnings offices to assemble a calendar of events and activities for the whole month of April, not just the week. You can access the full calendar at the CVAEYC website (<http://avenue.org/cvaeyc> and click on Month of Young Child Calendar). Our CVAEYC co-chairs, Julia Broome and Ellen Dietrick, have once again put together an ambitious celebration. As of publication time, local governments in the surrounding cities and counties have agreed to proclaim April as Month of the Young Child. Ellen and Julia have also organized distribution of 350 copies of a book and activity packet for The Crayon box That Talked, a book celebrating diversity.

Other spring business for CVAEYC includes electing new Board members and officers who will begin their terms in July. Early this spring when the nominations committee met to begin recruiting a slate, a member said, "You know, a lot of good people are interested in serving, but many of us don't know each other. We need to have a party, so members can actually meet the candidates and get to know each other, before the election." That seemed like a great idea, so in April, the Month of the Young Child, we are going to make our Annual Meeting a party! Whatever else you do to celebrate the Month of the Young Child (and there are many events and activities to choose from this year), we hope you can join us on Saturday, April 19 at the Albemarle County Office Building on McIntire Road between 11:00 and 1:00 for a reception to recognize and celebrate all of the early childhood professionals in our community. We are inviting the candidates for CVAEYC board positions to be there so you can meet and mingle with them, before the election-by-mail in May (see slate elsewhere in this issue). We also plan special recognition for those who have recently met significant milestones in their professional development, such as new CDAs and those who are completing certificate and degree programs in early childhood education this spring. If someone you know falls into that category and you think we might not be aware of their achievement, please let one of us know. We look forward to celebrating with you in April.

Meg Sewell and Nancy Gercke, CVAEYC Co-Presidents

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Week Of The Young Child

Proclamation of April as the "Month of the Young Child" by local governments.

Leadership Charlottesville launch of playground stencil project for child care centers, schools, playgrounds, parks and preschools. For more info: Smart Beginnings, mrushfinn@unitedwaytja.org, 972-1702.

Display of children's art work at branches of Jefferson-Madison Regional Library, related to the book, "The Crayon that Talked". For more info: Central Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, <http://avenue.org/cvaeyc/>, 296-6382.

Seal of Quality Child Care recognizes 16 participating child care and preschool providers. For more info: Children, Youth & Family Services, www.cyfs.org, 296-4118.

Library Story time and Preschool Events and Activities. Jefferson-Madison Regional Library. For more info: www.jmrl.org/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?month=4, 979-7151

Month of the Young Child Calendar is a collaborative project of local community organizations and services.
Central Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children,
<http://avenue.org/cvaeyc/>, 296-6382

Month
of the
Young Child

Bring Communities Together for **Children** Bring Communities Together

April is the Month of the Young Child

Community-Wide Events

(pre-April event) Saturday, March 29 Smart Beginnings Expo. 10:00 am-Noon, Carver Recreation Center, downtown (with Story Fest Day). Children's entertainment, learn about/apply to public preschool programs and learn about quality child care. For more info: www.SmartBeginningsinfo.org, mrushfinn@unitedwaytja.org, 972-1702.

Tuesday, April 1 "The Crayon That Talked" book and activities packets to area preschool teachers. For more info: Central Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, <http://avenue.org/cvaeyc/>, 296-6382.

Saturday, April 5 Parenting Workshop: One Size Doesn't Fit All. A discussion of positive discipline approaches for young children. For more info/to register: Children, Youth & Family services, www.cyfs.org, 296-4118.

April 5-13 Annual Book Sale, Friends of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library. Gordon Avenue Library, 1500 Gordon Avenue, Charlottesville. For more info: info@jmrifriends.org, 977-8467.

April 10-27 Charlottesville Dogwood Festival. For more info: www.charlottesvilledogwoodfestival.org, info@charlottesvilledogwoodfestival.org, 961-9824.

Saturday, April 12 What's New, Baby? Classes for expectant grandparents, friends and family. Learn what is new and different about baby care, safety, current trends and how to help new parents. 10 am-Noon, (\$15) UVa Hospital, Labor and Delivery Classroom, 8th floor. For more info/to register: 982-3678.

Saturday, April 12 Hereford's Round the Grounds 5K Run/Walk to benefit Children, Youth & Family Services. For more info/registration form: www.cyfs.org, info@charlottesvillerunningcompany.com, 296-4118.

Saturday, April 19 Recognition Reception for Early Childhood Professionals, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Albemarle County Office Building, Room 235 and lobby. For more info: Central Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, <http://avenue.org/cvaeyc/>, 296-6382.

Saturday April 19 Annual Celebrating Children Fair in Fluvanna, 10:00 am-Noon. Fluvanna Middle School. For more info: 842-8221.

April 21-27 National TV Turn-Off Week: Turn Off the TV, Turn on Life. TV Turn-Off pledge sheets at the Jefferson-Madison Public Library beginning Monday, April 7. For more info: 979-7151.

Public Policy Update

State Level

In the last session of the Virginia General Assembly, the funding of the **Virginia Preschool Initiative** was increased to \$22 million. In addition, barriers were removed that have kept some localities from participating in this preschool program for at-risk 4-year-olds.

In **foster care**, the General Assembly funded a 23% increase in payments and improved recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families. Also financial incentives to localities were included if the children are served in the community rather than in institutional settings.

Regional Level

Regional discussion groups will take place throughout the State to learn more about recent legislative changes related to the Virginia Preschool Initiative and strategies for collaboration among preschool programs. If interested, register with the contact person next to the locality and date you wish to attend.

Richmond: April 2 Barbara Couto Sipe (804) 771-5869; coutob@yourunitedway.org

S.Hampton Rds: April 3 Lisa Howard (757) 226-8826; lhoward@smartbeginningsshr.org

Alexandria: April 7 Carol Farrell (703) 838-0785; carol.farrell@alexandriava.gov

Harrisonburg: April 9 Pat Kennedy (504) 568-2557; kennedpa@jmu.edu

Martinsville: April 10 Sheryl Agee (276) 638-3946; sheryl.agee@unitedway.org

Abingdon: April 15 Bryan Phipps (276) 619-2256; bphipps@peopleinc.net

Roanoke: April 16 Abby Verdillo (540) 777-4206; abby@uwrv.org

Local Level

The Charlottesville Regional **Chamber of Commerce** in January passed a **resolution (08-01)** endorsing the "Chamber Support for Child Care & Education

Success." In the resolution, the Chamber encourages our communities and the State to enhance public and private partnerships in proven early education initiatives as a way of strengthening immediate and future workforces.

National Level

The federal budget for '09 will be settled in mid-April. Currently the Senate Budget Resolution has an increase of \$5.4 billion above the President's budget for the Department of Education including such early childhood programs as Head Start and IDEA. The House Budget Resolution has an increase of \$85.3 billion above the President's budget and includes education, training employment, social service needs as well as Head Start and IDEA allocations.

5th Annual State Preschool Yearbook for '06 - '07

is available at <http://nieer.org/yearbook>. This national yearbook provides state-by-state comparisons of state prekindergartens related to factors such as quality, access, and resources.

Reflections on V a E C E Conference in R E ston

Local early childhood educators were asked "What is something you learned at the VAECE Conference that you plan to try in your job?"

Pat Barbara, Preschool Teacher at Clark School, responded: "I will be trying gradually to put together Marti Ringenbach's wood working kit."

Silvia Mills, Family Home Provider, responded: "I'll be using new songs and instruments that include children with disabilities."

Evie Safran, Preschool Teacher at Johnson School, responded: "I have a deeper understanding and more experience now in teaching breathing and yoga exercises to help children calm down and relax."

Michelle Cox, CVAEYC Scholarship Recipient, responded: "I went to one session that compared on-line child assessment tools—High Scope, Creative Curriculum and Work Sampling. Even though I am familiar with these tools, it was quite informative as I hadn't before seen all the capabilities of the on-line versions."

2009 VAECE Conference: Changing the World One Child at a Time

March 12-14, Richmond Marriott

Call for Proposal form----go to----www.VAECE.org

