



Director's Note

The Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children Conference

The AAEYC conference was a success with over 500 participants from Fairbanks to Haines. Homer had participants from Birth 2 Three, Head Start and Kachemak Kids. Some of the presenters were Eddie Wood and Kathy Singly of Handle of Homer.

After every session the staff either felt validated, inspired or both. Repeatedly, other participants acknowledged how great it was for our entire staff to attend the conference. Thank you for supporting us so that we could enrich ourselves and your children. Here are some comments from your teachers that reflect the diversity of insight and knowledge gained.

Sierra's comment following a session on *Improving Communication with Parents*: "I'm proud that I was able to share so many positive communication strategies that staff can use with Kachemak Kid's parents and inspire other providers to use them too."

Amy's comment following a session on behavior: "I want to create a calming corner where children can go to gain calmness when *they* feel they need it."

Jackie's inspiration came when she discovered she wants to be a child advocate in a legislative way. She also has some great ideas for developing toddler rituals.

Sevea said "As always, my head is full of inspiration and goals. Networking with the Homer community is a priority. Kachemak Kids will be hosting two community events: Conscious Discipline workshops and Project Wild. I hope our 'School Family' will be the majority of attendees."

Amy, Jackie, Sevea, Sierra and I learned so much throughout the three days. Everyone's participation is commendable. How lucky you all are to have such dedicated caregivers. You can have the best building, shelves full of toys, even the latest cutting edge curriculum but if you don't have *loving* caregivers nothing else matters. We know there are improvements to make and each of us brought back a laundry list of new goals and changes to implement. However, the greatest attribute we have to share is our love for your children.

February Themes



- ❖ Fairy Tales
- ❖ Teeth, Body and Health
- ❖ Sequencing (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

Director's note continued...

New Procedure

This last spell of illness has presented a need for a new center procedure. When three or more kids have similar illness symptoms, a note will be passed out to parents. Symptoms will be identified and parents will be asked to watch for the specific symptoms and keep children home until symptoms are gone. This was a serious, contagious bug that took its toll on our kids and staff!

Time to ADVOCATE for Alaska's Youngest Citizens

This SOS is extended to all families to write to our legislators and Sarah Palin to ask for continued support for Alaska's children. There are two state house bills needing support by our legislators. We should also acknowledge the support last year from Governor Palin for increasing the amount of Child Care Assistance for state licensed programs like Kachemak Kids. KKELC staff and students will be sending out post cards and we hope you will pass on this need for support to your friends and family. We either pay now or pay later. Here's an alarming statistic shared at the conference: Every \$1.00 *not* invested in early childhood will cost \$17.00 later. As tight as our purse strings are getting, it is still the smartest investment we can make. Time is of the essence.

This month at Kachemak Kids

Conscious Discipline Parenting Class

Conscious Discipline is a loving and logical approach that concerns social interactions. We would like to share this technique with Kachemak Kids parents. This technique is useful for all ages, from toddlers to adult. This part video, part discussion, part hands-on class will give you a great parenting tool and maybe even help with challenging adults in your life. Mark your calendar and plan to attend February 19th from 11:30-1:00 for an introduction class. Bring your brown bag lunch. Child care will be provided. A sign-up will be posted at the Parent Communication Corner. There is a \$5.00 per person materials fee.

Parent Luncheon

Teachers and kids will host a Taco Bar Luncheon for all Kachemak Kids families on February 4th 11:30 to 1:00. Please join us for family socializing and learn strategies when you have a picky eater. At noon a nutrition and parent information class will be presented by the Homer WIC program.

Teacher Tips

One thing we learned at the conference is that it takes children 7 minutes to make a transition. When transitioning to and from school, please plan on hanging out about 5-7 minutes at drop off and pick-up. We will be implementing transitional rituals, so follow the teacher's lead to assist your child during these home- to- school-to- home transitions. Thank you.

Reminders

- Parents please check the white board and mail folders at drop off and pick up for KKELC news. Save your calendars on your fridge so you know our special outing dates.
- We have lost about 12 sheets for our nap mats. Please check your laundry room for Kachemak Kid sheets. WE NEED THEM BACK!!

*Welcome New
Kachemak Kid*

Aria Hill



Try this at Home!

Midnight Sun Toast

Alaska turned 50 and to honor Alaska's birthday the preschool kids made this big hit!

1 slice of toast
1 egg
Butter/margarine

Warm a skillet on medium heat. Butter both sides of the bread. Cut a hole in the middle of the bread with a small glass. Place bread in pan & crack the egg in the hole. Cook one side then flip. Don't forget to cook the circle for dunking.

Board of Directors

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299-0694

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Thank You!

To all parents for handling the school closure so the teachers could attend the conference. A big thanks to the families who helped with childcare.

Thank you also to The Otis's and the Morin family for helping finish the loft. The kids love it!

Parent Corner

The total hours for December's parent contributions are nearly 104 hours! The kids really enjoy meeting moms and dads and grandmas and anyone who steps foot in the classroom. The teachers really appreciate the help. If you have not yet volunteered in the classroom, try it. If you do any volunteer work outside of the classroom, a sheet has been put up near the check-in area to track your hours. Please make sure to fill it out, or you may not receive credit for the month.

If you have not signed up for escrip yet, please do so. It is an easy and free way for you to contribute to Kachemak Kids. Remember, have your friends and relatives sign up as well at www.escrip.com - our group number is 500016330.

Board News

The board is concentrating on fundraising and would appreciate any help you can give, specifically soliciting business sponsors and donors. Also, a fundraising party will be held this spring at Alice's. If you'd like to help coordinate, contact Jenny Martin. We will also have our annual spring Garage Sale Fundraiser, please keep this in mind when you start your spring cleaning (I know, it's not spring yet...).

New members are needed for the board or for help on one of our other committees. Feel free to contact any board member to learn more about being on the KKELC board, or refer to the list of board members and committees you received to see what committee you may be interested in joining.

Wish List**January's Hit/February's Need**

The kids have had a blast with the Cabin, Loft and Grocery store. It has been fun to watch the level of play and interaction this project has nurtured. We will be changing the dramatic play area in February to a medical room (Doctor's or vet's office). In addition, the preschool class will have a walking field trip to the South Peninsula Hospital this month (date TBA). Please look at the following list for items we need to add for the area.

Hospital/Nurse/Doctor dramatic play items:

- Stethoscope
- Syringes
- Arm and leg braces

In addition, the center needs more SNACK SUPPLIMENTS (whole grains, low sodium, low fat)

- Crackers
- Graham crackers
- Rice cakes
- Pirate's Booty or other similar snack item

Our Mission: To provide a safe, nurturing, cooperative-style preschool and child care program that strengthens families through the education of parents and staff. We strive to provide awareness and role modeling for the Homer community regarding safe, nurturing child care, child development, and integrated learning for children, their families, and other community members.

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Parent Luncheon/ WIC presentation 1130am- 1pm	5	6	7
8	9	10 Senior Center	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Conscious Discipline/ Brown Bag Lunch 1130am- 1pm	20	21
22	23	24 The Pratt 4pm	25	26	27	28



*Extra hands are welcome for field trips, but please check with the staff if you want to come on a day that your child normally does not attend and/or bring siblings.