

October 2010

Mark Your Calendars: Important Events Coming Up Soon

Friday, October 1: New announced inspection & window covering regulations go into effect. See http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/licensing_branch/amendments

Wednesday, October 13: *Gov. O'Malley Speaks about Child Care:* MDAEYC is co-sponsoring, along with most other State child care organizations, the second of two meetings with candidates for Governor about their plans for child care and other early childhood programs in Maryland. Former Gov. Ehrlich addressed the group last month, and Gov. O'Malley is scheduled to talk to us on Wednesday, October 13, at 1 p.m. at the Legg Mason World HQ Building in Baltimore. For further information, or to register which is mandatory for security reasons, contact dmoore@marylandfamilynetwork.org by noon on October 8.

October 20: NAEYC's new Executive Director, Jerlean Daniel will give the Second Annual Sandra J. Skolnik Lecture, free, at the JHU School of Public Health in Baltimore, 3:30-5 p.m. She will address how we teach tolerance and the messages we send to children about our social, religious and cultural differences. To register, contact cdailey@marylandfamilynetwork.org.

November 2: **Vote!** Early voting is possible from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. October 22-28, except Sunday October 24, at selected locations. The people we elect will decide on vital questions of government supports for young children.

November 3-6: **NAEYC & NBCDI Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA:** This year's conference may be the best ever, with Dr. Barry Brazelton and other luminaries giving us their wisdom and state-of-the-art techniques right next to Disneyland in a warm climate. This week Southwest offered a round trip fare of \$261 from Baltimore to Orange County. Register by 10/8 and save!

Saturday, November 20: On Saturday November 20th MDAEYC, under a grant from NAEYC, will host its first Play Symposium at the University of Maryland (College Park) from 8:30 (registration) to 4:00. Dr. Walter Drew from the Institute for Self Active Education in Florida and Dr. Marcia Nell of Millersville University in Millersville, PA will facilitate it. Register through <http://www.mdaeyc.org/docs/Nov2010PlaySymposiumRegistrationForm.pdf>. The symposium will include lunch and 6 MSDE clock hours, 3 in core knowledge and 3 in curriculum. The cost for all of this is just \$75.00 (\$100.00 for nonmembers of MDAEYC).

Participants will engage in a hands-on play experience while exploring the teacher's role in the learning process. These play activities will help to build learning communities from which we as teachers can draw new understanding about how children learn and how to create quality play experience with young children. Participants will practice new ways of implementing play-based teaching, including strategies for expanding upon the interests of young children and developing curriculum that emerges from creative play. MDAEYC's hope is to implement the results of this symposium with other, smaller play days throughout Maryland, so that people who attended the original symposium might act as play coaches.

Recession Hits Hard for Maryland Child Care

As long as unemployment is high in Maryland and government budgets are under great strain, the child care profession is hurting. We haven't heard of many providers closing shop, but enrollment is way down in many of the highest quality child care programs in Maryland, because increasing numbers of parents feel they can't afford the extra costs that highly qualified teachers and other providers usually require, when they are having trouble paying the mortgage, rent or utilities. These parents often resort to illegal providers, or even to leaving young children at home alone. Because of budget cuts the State can't fully enforce the regulations against those illegal providers, and many of the services they usually provide to parents and providers are delayed or reduced because of the budget cuts. And local government budget cuts make it even worse. In Montgomery County, for instance, child care tenants in public buildings can't get the janitorial and outside maintenance services from their landlords to be able to meet regulatory standards.

In these hard times we all need to pull together even more than usual, and MDAEYC is doing its best to keep the training and common services for providers and parents intact. We will need your help in the coming legislative season, to alert your legislators as to the harmful effects of current budget stringencies on the children and families we care for, and to prevent further cuts. To begin with, please do vote on November 2!

Maryland AEYC Restructuring Efforts Continue: *Report Expected Late October*

The four committees established at MDAEYC's August Retreat to decide on how to reach our goals to improve service to members, partners, and the early childhood field are busy in getting proposals ready for the MDAEYC Board to consider at its October 23 meeting. Following that meeting you may expect at least a progress report from us. We also will be considering nominations for Board positions in the coming year. If you would like to serve as a leader in MDAEYC, please get in touch with our Nominations Chair, Dr. Rivalee Gitomer, at rgitomer@ccbcmd.edu.



The Tide