

NAEYC Newsletter

SERVING THOSE WHO WORK WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN

WINTER 2004

New Accreditation Criteria—Supervision of Sleeping Infants

The national NAEYC governing board has clarified its accreditation criteria for the supervision of sleeping infants. The changes followed careful study by National Academy of Early Childhood Programs staff, and reflects the board's desire to ensure that infants in NAEYC-accredited programs are well cared for and safe.

In order to maintain NAEYC accreditation, centers must meet all "indicator boxes" of the clarified accreditation criterion regarding supervision of sleeping infants. Effective immediately (as of April 2003), NAEYC-accredited programs and programs seeking NAEYC accreditation, must comply with the following new provisions (under criterion H-7a):

- Teachers must visually check on the infants every 5 minutes.
- Teachers must be capable of hearing and easily seeing all sleeping children. (If a full wall separates the infants, window openings must be large enough to allow a teacher to view all of the sleeping children.)
- Teachers must be able to respond to children quickly.
- Sound monitors may be used in infant rooms to fulfill the auditory supervision requirement. However, teachers who are actively engaged with babies that are awake must be aware of—and able to attend to—the sounds from the monitor.
- Use of video monitors cannot replace visual checks by teachers.
- Young infants must be placed to sleep on their backs, unless a parent signs a release.

New Hampshire's NAEYC-accredited centers are making changes to ensure strict compliance.

At the University of New Hampshire's Child Study and Development Center, a narrow, eight-foot long window has been installed in the nap room at eye level, giving staff a new way to keep an eye on sleeping babies.

"Our aim is to make sure infants are safe and observed," said John Nimmo, the center's executive director, and a UNH professor of Family Studies.

Infants at the center had traditionally been monitored through a combination of staff presence in the nap room and constant audio and video monitoring.

The five-minute check requirement may present a logistical challenge to some centers. Infants are on individual schedules and don't all go to sleep and wake at the same time, so managing waking infants while checking on sleeping ones can get complicated.

Another solution that the UNH center is working on is having a staff member in the nap room at all times to conduct the mandatory five-minute checks.

That person, says Nimmo, could be engaged in other activities—like updating records on a laptop computer or folding laundry—while in the nap room. They would be "able to check children and be accessible," he said, "but also be able to work on something relating to the program."

Audrey Knight, who coordinates the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services' Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Program, says the back-sleeping criterion is critically important.

Babies who sleep on their backs are at a much lower risk of dying from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome than babies who sleep on their bellies.

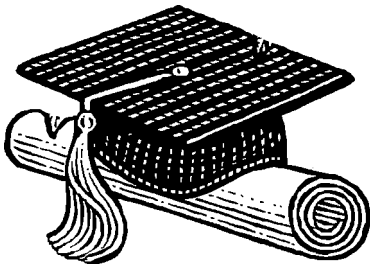
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New Hampshire Association for the Education of Young Children

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NHECPDS Credential Incentive Program

Since 1999, NH early childhood professionals have had access to a state credentialing system. Early childhood professionals at all levels in New Hampshire can apply for state credentials that demonstrate training, skill and professionalism.

The New Hampshire Association for the Education of Young Children strongly endorses the New Hampshire Early Childhood Professional Development System (NHECPDS) and is working to make the credentialing process one step easier for its members—by paying the \$25 state application fee.

Gail Gettens, president of the NHAEYC, hopes members will take advantage of this benefit—and of the benefits of becoming credentialed professionals.

Part of the organization's mission, she said, is "to have members be understood and respected in their communities as professionals."

She said the 1999 legislation was "a watershed for New Hampshire's children."

"Even entry-level positions in other professions have some type of licensing," Gettens said. "There's an understanding that a certain level of skill, experience and training is necessary for other professions."

Early childhood educators are also must be skilled and educated in the care and development of young children. But until that education and professional experience is officially quantified and certified, many in society, unfortunately, continue to think of early childhood professionals as "babysitters."

The NH Early Childhood Professional Development system and the credentials it provides go a long way to help correct misconceptions about the field of early childhood education.

"We finally [have] a way of helping our clients, our local communities, our

society at large understand and respect those in the field as professionals or aspiring professionals," Gettens said.

NHECPDS credentials are a helpful "consumer protection" tool for parents seeking quality early childhood education and child-care programming for their children. Parents now have a concrete means of assessing the professional skills, education, and training of those who are caring for and teaching their children.

"New Hampshire parents are learning about the NHECPDS system," Gettens said. "Increasingly, directors are reporting that prospective parents inquire whether teachers have NHECPDS credentials when they are visiting programs for the first time. Many programs are now requiring their teaching staff to have these credentials at the time of hire."

The NHECPDS requires information and documentation about educational background and work experience during the credentialing process. Ongoing professional development is also

required. There are five credentials offered, each with four corresponding levels: Child care worker: level 1-4; Associate teacher: level 1-4; Lead teacher: levels 1-4; Director: levels 1-4; and Trainer/faculty/mentor: levels 1-4.

State credentials must be renewed every three years.

NHAEYC members who want to take advantage of the application fee benefit can call Diane Heitmiller at 225-4856 or (888) 225-4884 for more information or to request an application form.

Diane urges members to call soon, as the NHECPDS must process your credential application by March 1 in order to receive your credential in person at the celebration of Early Childhood Professionals.

For more information on the NHECPDS and to request a credential application form, please contact Susan Gimilaro, at 271-7983, at the Bureau for Child Development, at the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

New Accreditation Criteria

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"Tummy sleepers are 5-7 times at greater risk of dying of SIDS than back sleepers," Knight said.

And, Knight says, child-care providers must be especially attuned to SIDS risks.

Nationwide, 48 percent of infants are in child care for some part of the day. And a 1999 study showed that 20.4 percent of all SIDS deaths, Knight said, occur in child-care settings, with approximately 60% in a family child care setting.

The risk is increased when children who normally sleep on their backs at home are put down to nap on their bellies.

"Back sleepers who are put down to or allowed to nap on their tummies," said Knight, "are nearly 20 times more likely to die of SIDS than those who

nap on their backs or nap in their usually sleep position. Therefore, consistency is really important."

Widespread public-information campaigns—like the national "Back to Sleep" campaign—have been highly successful in lowering the rate of SIDS nationwide.

In 1992, about 70 percent of infants were put to sleep on their stomachs, Knight said. That number—thanks to widespread public education—was reduced to 20 percent in 2000.

"As that number has decreased," said Knight, "so has the SIDS rate dropped—by approximately 50 percent nationwide since 1992."

About 2,500 infants die of SIDS in the U.S. every year. Ninety-one

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2004 Administrator Award

At the Live & Learn Early Learning Center in Lee, children learn that they are part of a wider community. At Live & Learn, classrooms are designed to be welcoming and accessible to families. “Stay and Play” afternoons, potluck suppers and parent volunteer nights are traditions here.

Children in the after-school program have snacks with town selectmen; they plant flowers for elderly folks, spend time at an adult daycare center.

Community—and reaching out to the wider community—is one of the hallmarks of Live & Learn. It is a philosophy that has been nurtured by Johanna Booth-Miner, who has directed the center for 30 years.

Booth-Miner was recently given the NHAIEYC’s Administrator Award for 2003.

She sees nurturing community as an important part of providing quality care.

Booth-Miner says the center is often a family’s point of entry into the wider community—and center staff helps families make connections to services and community events.

And when Live & Learn staff members venture out into the community, they are immediately recognizable—in

matching center shirts that also advertise that Live & Learn is an NAEYC accredited program.

Booth-Miner sees the role of center director as even more complex than running a smooth child care operation.

“It’s not only providing quality care for children, but interacting with families; being visible in the community; and supporting teachers and staff every day in this profession,” she said.

Live & Learn is located on Booth-Miner’s 65-acre farm. It serves children 18 months through 12 years in day care, kindergarten, before and after-school care, and summer care. The Center is licensed for 90 children and serves 118 families.

Booth-Miner says she was “extremely honored” by being given the award.

“To follow in the footsteps of some of the other great directors who have been nominated was extremely humbling,” she said.

But, she said, the award was not all about her.

“It is not really a sole award,” Booth-Miner said. “The director is the person at the helm of the ship but the ship does not sail with just the person at the steering wheel. It really is a true team effort and the best director in the world still needs an absolutely fantastic team to be able to achieve all their goals and their dreams.”

The NHAIEYC Administrator Award was created to recognize an outstanding administrator whose leadership qualities, managerial skills, and community contributions have significantly influenced early care and education in New Hampshire.

Started in 1995 and continuing through 1999, then reintroduced in 2003, the award has been presented each year at the Administrator’s Conference.

An application for the NHAIEYC 2004 Administrator Award is included in this newsletter. We encourage you to nominate an administrator who you feel exemplifies excellence in center management.

New Accreditation Criteria

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percent of those babies are between one and six months old.

New Hampshire’s SIDS rate has also dropped sharply in that time period—from 0.9 SIDS deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992 to 0.5 per 1,000 live births in 2002, when seven babies died of SIDS in New Hampshire.

The additional criteria of checking sleeping infants visually every five minutes, said Knight, can be helpful in ensuring an immediate response by center staff if a dangerous situation

arose. Knight said that nationally, between 16 and 28 percent of infant deaths may be associated with sleeping children’s heads or faces becoming covered with loose blankets or other objects.

“It’s important to be able to intervene quickly if an unsafe sleeping situation arises,” Knight said, “and that may include an infant somehow getting wedged into a sleep [position] that could be a danger.” The visual checks every five minutes help to ensure constant monitoring and quick intervention.

The NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation is highlighting this new information on its Web site (www.naeyc.org/accreditation), the Accreditation Update and the new Accreditation E-Update, and by contacting validators before they make program visits. Commissioners will include this information in their accreditation decisions. If you have questions about this criterion for sleeping infants, please contact an Accreditation Coordinator for your region, at 800-424-2460.

THE 2004 ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN CENTER MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding administrator whose leadership qualities, managerial skills, and community contributions have significantly influenced early care and education in the State of New Hampshire.

Nominees must have managed a center(s) for a minimum of 5 consecutive years, be a member of NHAEYC, and direct a center in the State of NH. A candidate cannot nominate himself or herself.

Nominee's name: _____
 Nominee's title: _____
 Center's name: _____
 Address of center: _____

Phone number of center: _____
 Nominee's phone number: _____
 Center license number: _____

Years as director at this center: _____
 Total number of years as director: _____
 Total years in early care and education: _____

Is the nominee a teaching director? yes no If yes,
 number of _____
 hours in classroom per week: _____

Licensed capacity: _____ Daily enrollment: _____
 Age groups: _____

Number of staff: Full-time _____ Part-time _____
 Hours of operation: _____

Does the program operate 12 months per year? _____

Program's funding sources and % from each source:
 Parent tuition _____ %
 Public/state funds _____ %
 Employer subsidy _____ %
 Other: _____ %

Is the center accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs or other accrediting body? yes no If yes, center number: _____

Educational Background. *Please list on a separate piece of paper.*

- undergraduate degree/college/major
- graduate degree/college/major
- advanced training certificates
- awards

Please indicate below what support staff, if any, the nominee has at his/her center:

<u>Support Staff</u>	<u>Hours per week</u>
_____ Asst. Director	_____
_____ Admin. Asst.	_____
_____ Program/Edu. Coordinator	_____
_____ Other	_____
(business manager, nurse, social worker)	

Profile of Administrator's Management Skills

On a separate piece of paper, please complete the following profile, commenting briefly on each criterion. If a criterion does not apply, please write "N/A" after it. Please provide the selection committee with detailed examples of nominee's management skills. *Please respond to each item of the profile separately. Each item must have a response.*

- Daily operations and long term planning
- Board relations, if applicable
- Community/State involvement
- Contributions to the field of early care and education
- Role model/mentor
- Parent relations
- Supervisory skills
- Staff training/teacher development
- Communication skills
- Organizational climate/staff morale and motivation
- Skill in managing multiple and often conflicting priorities
- Financial management

Narratives *The narratives are required. Please use additional pages to complete the narratives.*

Narrative I: Please write a description of the program, including the influence the nominee has had on its development and/or progress.

Narrative II: Please describe how the nominee has successfully managed or met the challenges of a difficult issue or crisis.

Nominator Information

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Relationship to Nominee: _____

Please do not send handbooks, photos, brochures, or any other program documents—they will be returned to you unreviewed.

All applications must be received on or before May 16, 2004. A selection committee, independent of the conference organizers and the NHAEYC Board, will review nominee applications and will select the recipient of the 2004 Administrator's Award.

Please mail nomination forms to:
 2004 Administrator Award Committee
 The Learning Center at Concord Hospital
 139 Langley Parkway
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Summer five-day workshop and new training course, *"The Child and Family in the First Three Years"*

Founded in 1998, Sophia's Hearth Family Center in Keene is a nationally recognized demonstration center for early childhood programs and for professional development. They will begin a 13 month part-time training course for early childhood teachers, child care professionals, those who facilitate programs for parents together with their infants or toddlers, and parents/expectant parents interested in deepening their understanding of the child's development in the first three years. The program includes background in the child's physical, cognitive, social, and spiritual

development, supporting the child's development of language through age-guided storytelling, song, and puppetry; care giving skills, and. The course's foundation insights are drawn from the insights of RIE (Resources for Infant Educators), based in Los Angeles, the work of pediatrician Emmi Pikler, and Waldorf early childhood education. The first module will be held on June 28, July 2, and July 5-9, 2004, and will be led by Carol Pinto of RIE; Susan Weber, director of Sophia's Hearth Family Center; and Jane Swain, pediatric physical therapist and movement specialist.

Participants may enroll for one week, for a complete module, or for the entire course of summer, autumn, spring, and second summer. The full course includes 150 contact hours. Each module of the course can be taken independently as a professional experience for the individual participants. Sophia's Hearth's courses are known for their warmth of community and inspiring content. For full course information, please call Sophia's Hearth Family Center at (603) 357-3755, visit our website at www.sophiashearth.org or email them: info@sophiashearth.org.

Funds Available to Support your WOYC Event!

To help promote the Week of the Young Child, NHAEYC is offering to help fund local events. If you or your community is planning an event, please contact the NHAEYC office at 225-4856 for information on how to apply for grant money to assist with your event. The criteria for applying are simple: applicants must be NHAEYC members; the WOYC event must be publicly advertised; the event must focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs; and we must receive the request on or before February 29, 2004. As funds are limited, qualifying requests will be granted on a first come, first serve basis. Grants will range in amounts from \$50 to \$300.

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early

childhood education association, with over 100,000 members and a network of nearly 450 local, state, and regional affiliates (of which you are a member!). This year the Week of the Young Child is April 18-24, 2004.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a



Parents, children and early childhood professionals parade on Main St., Concord during 6th Annual Children's Parade.

nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

To find out more on how to celebrate the Week of the Young Child, click on WOYC at the www.naeyc.org website. The site includes information about the Week of the Young Child as well as suggested community-focused activities.

NHAEYC
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Save the Dates

March 27, 2004 NHAEYC Spring Conference
The Marriott, Concord, NH
NHAEYC Annual Meeting

- *vote on new by-laws*
- *elect new Board members**
- *hear brief summary of the NHAEYC Strategic Plan*

** If you, or someone you know, would like to be nominated for a position on the Board, please contact Diane Heitmiller at the NHAEYC office for details.*

April 18-24, 2004 Week of the Young Child

April 29-May 1, 2004 New England AEYC
Early Childhood and School-Age Conference
Worcester, MA

June 18, 2004 NHAEYC Administrators' Conference
"Celebration of Early Childhood Professionals"
St. Paul's School, Concord, NH
Sponsored by the Bureau of Child Development
Howard Rec. Building
For more information, please contact
Denise Corvino at 271-4206