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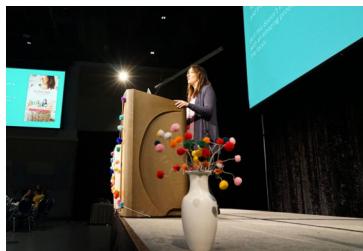


SEAAEYC Newsletter

Overview

SEAAEYC successfully organized and hosted the Early Childhood Conference – Embrace the Mess on March 15th and 16th. This event had over 150 attendees from all over the state of Alaska, as well as childcare providers from the lower 48. This event focused on exploring the power of creativity in early childhood and the benefits of encouraging and valuing artistic expression in the classroom. This conference provided attendees with a diverse selection of 42 workshops, covering topics such as, Music & Movement, Fostering Gender Inclusive Environments, Creating a Culture of Gratitude, Yoga Nidra with Healing Sounds, and Connecting Literacy & Art. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed sponsors, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, thread, and United Way of Southeast Alaska, whose support ensured the resounding success of this year's conference!

SEAAEYC has devoted considerable efforts this quarter to early childhood advocacy. This includes actively engaging with the Alaska legislature, establishing and developing the Family Center, successfully delivering the Early Childhood Conference tailored to childcare providers, providing parenting and child development resources to local families, and promoting educational advancement for childcare providers throughout the Southeast Alaska region.



Pictures from the Early Childhood Conference. Left/first image: Keynote speaker, Talea Kellar.

Program News

PAT is an evidenced based home visiting program for families with children prenatal to age 3. It's free, it's fun and it could be for you! This quarter, PAT has served: 75 families, 102 children, 205 home visits, and 18 group events. Families are paired with a trained home visitor who tailors the visit to the family's interest and needs to grow parent's skills, confidence and enjoyment in parenting. Here are some things parents are saying about the program:

- "Being new to Juneau, this program has been amazing for connecting with other families and finding resources in the community!"
- "A community to help navigate parenthood."
- "It has been wonderful to have a support person to share my parenting frustrations and successes with. In the fog of early childhood parenting it is hard to step back have a non-judgmental view of your family dynamics so having someone there to support you in that way has been extremely meaningful. My home visitor provided validation of the hard times, encouragement, great ideas, and practicality that is sometimes missing when you are in the thick of parenting in those early years."
- "I loved the activities that were brought to each session and I really appreciated the handouts on all the developmental areas for different ages."



Juneau parent enjoying an activity with her toddler during a PAT visit.

Upcoming Events

Early Learning Fair

Join us on Friday, April 26th from 4pm–7pm at the Dimond Park Field House for our **Free Early Learning Fair!** This event is for families with children ages 0–5, with a special focus on getting ready for kindergarten! This event will provide:

- Sign up for Kindergarten – bring shot records and birth certificate
- Resources for Parents – childcare options and parenting support groups
- FREE Health Screenings and Vaccination Information
- Prizes
- Turf toys will be out to play with! Fun for the whole family!

Raven Reads is an award-winning program that promotes early-literacy, language development and school readiness for Alaska Native families with children up to age 5.



The Dolly Dash

Want to support the SEAAEYC Imagination Library? Come participate in ***The Dolly Dash 1k/5k Family Fun Run*** on Saturday, June 8th, 2024 at the Airport Dike Trail. The race starts at 10am. All proceeds benefit our Imagination Library program! If you would like to register for this race or sponsor this event, select one of the following buttons bellow.

[Register for Race](#)[Sponsor the Race](#)

AWARE's 2024 Women of Distinction Honoree

Nikki Love - SEAAEYC's Creative Director

A huge congratulations to Nikki Love, SEAAEYC's Creative Director for being honored as one of AWARE's 2024 Women of Distinction! At AWARE's gala, Nikki's speech centered on the crucial role of **connection** and how it served as a driving force for her endeavors and advocacy in early childhood, particularly in her efforts to establish Juneau's Family Center. She talked about her upbringing and shared her struggles during her early life with her identity and her disconnect from her Tlingit roots. This disconnect morphed into deliberating anxiety and self-doubt in later years. Through the birth of her daughter, Nikki felt her first true connection to her Tlingit family. However, she also became aware of her and the overall lack of social network for families raising children. Through these experiences, Nikki became compelled to cultivate the connection that was absent during her own childhood. Nikki emphasized that a significant motivator behind her work in early childhood is her belief "that every child should feel connected to their place and

"My work at AEYC is about connection. It is about connecting families to child care, activities, parenting resources. Connecting childcare providers to training and wage stipends. And connecting our policy makers to information that helps them dedicate the funding that we need for young children." – Nikki Love



Nikki Love receiving her 2024 Women of Distinction award on March 2nd, 2024.

Family Center News

SEAAEYC and the Juneau Partnership for Families and Children are working towards building a multi-agency nonprofit Family Center in Juneau with the awarded funds from Senator Lisa Murkowski! This Family Center is being developed to support families in our community by providing family activities, classes, screenings, consultations, childcare, and many more exciting resources. Stay tuned on updates about the Family Center at www.aeyc-sea.org/seaaeyc-family-center.html. Here are the concept drawing of SEAAEYC's vision:



Thank You for Your Support!

SEAAEYC's valuable services and resources are made possible through a variety of grants and contributions from generous community members like you. Please consider supporting the SEAAEYC Imagination Library or Diaper Bank, by selecting one of the following buttons below or contact SEAAEYC.



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