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Southeast Alaska Association for
the Education of Young Children



APRIL NEWSLETTER

Have you heard? This last quarter has been a busy and exciting time for SEAAEYC! From hosting our yearly Early Childhood Conference and purchasing land for a family center to undergoing a major rebrand, SEAAEYC has been tackling transformative projects that has allowed us to better align with our mission and deepen our impact within the community. As we look ahead, SEAAEYC welcomes **challenge** and **change** this season with unwavering dedication to families, educators, and child care providers. If 2025 has shown us anything, it is that growth is in full bloom!

AGENCY NEWS

We Are Thrilled to Announce SEAAEYC's New Name: **Southeast Childhood Collective!**

We know, especially through caring for children, that all things change and grow. The same holds true for AEYC. Established in 1982, we've served Southeast Alaska as the regional childcare resource and referral hub through developing and offering a variety of programs. We've grown and changed over the past 43 years, and we're ready for an identity that better reflects our work.

While our name and logo have changed, our mission remains the same and reflects our ongoing commitment to children, families, and educators while emphasizing collaboration and community impact. We continue to provide tools, resources, and guidance to nurture children's development and strengthen bonds.

Why 'Collective'?

Our collaborations with you enable us to support parents as the child's first and most important teachers, enrich the quality of care and education in early learning programs, and mobilize community support to ensure all children have the resources they need to grow and thrive. Check out our [digital story](#) about our name-change journey and stay tuned for our new website!

Thank you for your support and we are excited to embark on this new chapter with you!



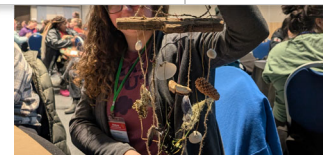
PROGRAM NEWS

SEAAEYC Early Childhood Conference Was a Success!

This March, SEAAEYC hosted its yearly Early Education Conference with a theme *Nature & The Curious Child: The Benefits of Natural Play for Growing Children*. With over 250 attendees and 40 workshops, this conference was a smashing success that celebrated our natural world and the beauty of incorporating it into early childhood learning.

Our wonderful keynote speaker, Koogak'aax (Dr. Angela Lunda), opened both conference days with a look towards global perspectives on early childhood identity development through environmental exploration. She introduced ways on how early childhood professionals can incorporate sustainable and culturally responsive strategies to early learning.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the childcare professionals, keynote speaker, workshop presenters, and partners for making this conference a truly magical experience filled with exploration and learning! We also want to express our gratitude to our conference sponsors—Central Council Tlingit & Haida, Thread, and the Alaska Department of Early Education and Early Development!



Photos from SEAAEYC's Early Education Conference in Juneau on March 14th & 15th.

It's Official! Family Center Land Purchase is Complete!

We are excited to announce that SEAAEYC has officially acquired land in Juneau with the awarded \$5M from Senator Lisa Murkowski for a multi-agency nonprofit family center! This long-held vision of SEAAEYC and the Juneau Partnership for Families and Children, is being developed to support families in the community and provide a range of resources, including a library, art studio, kitchen, childcare programs, meeting spaces for events and trainings, community gardens, indoor playground, and children's museum. View the concept drawings of the Family Center [here](#).



As we move forward with this project, we will be reaching out to community members to learn about what offerings they would like to see included in the building. If you are interested in supporting this project, stay tuned for details about our capital campaign.

Do you have questions or want to support this project? Contact SEAAEYC's Creative Director, Nikki Love, at nlove@aeyc-sea.org or 907-789-1235.

Parents as Teachers Update

PAT is excited to welcome Lea Skaggs to our team! Lea came on as our PAT Program Associate last month and will be helping with office management/administrative work for SEAAEYC. We are so happy to have her!

With weekly playgroups, a robust diaper bank, monthly family nights, and over 70 families on our waitlist, there's plenty of work to do to support all families in Juneau and SE Alaska who are eager to join Parents as Teachers. If you're new to Parents as Teachers, this free home visiting program is open to any family in the Southeast region who has a child from birth to 3 years old. Since July 2024, we've served 152 families with 865 individualized home visits. WOW! Families who participate have access to free diapers and wipes, monthly visits, activity ideas and help connecting behavior with development. To learn more about PAT, visit our website at www.aeyc-sea.org/parents-as-teachers.html.

operating budget. However, without strong support, these funds could be cut. This funding would allow our PAT program and others across Alaska to serve more families and reduce waitlist times.

Make your voice heard: contact your state representatives today and show your support for PAT!

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

- Blue Shibler, SEAAEYC's Executive Director, is teaming up with the Alaska Children's Trust and other organizations at the Capitol to advocate for legislation that will pave the way for 18 weeks of paid family leave.
- SEAAEYC and advocates in Alaska are pushing for changes to the Infant Learning Program, including expanding eligibility criteria for support services for babies and toddlers exhibiting developmental delays, potentially reducing the current 50% delay threshold to 25%.
- SEAAEYC fully supports SB 95 (Child Care: Assistance/Grants) and SB 96 (Child Care: Tax Credits), two critical legislative measures, which will allocate crucial funding to expand child care assistance and provide corporate tax credits for child care investment—ensuring a stronger, more sustainable early childhood system for Alaska's families and providers. Our Executive Director, Blue Shibler, has testified in favor of these bills, highlighting their benefits and advocating for their passage to support the state's child care workforce and families in need.
- SEAAEYC strongly supports the continuation of the \$7.75 million for the statewide Child Care Grant Program, recognizing its vital role in sustaining child care services and supporting providers across Alaska.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Early Learning Fair

Families with children ages 0-5 are invited to a special free event focused on preparing for **kindergarten**! What's happening at the event? Kindergarten sign-up (bring shot records and birth certificate), parent resources (child care options and support groups), FREE vision & hearing screenings, prizes, and turf toys for playtime!

When: April 25th at 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Where: Dimond Park Field House (2961 Riverside Dr, Juneau, AK 99801)

For more info, contact Izzy Ensinger at (907) 789-1235 or iensinger@aeyc-sea.org.

Fundraiser

Join us for a boot-scootin' good time at The Dolly Dash 1k/5k Family Fun Run – a fundraiser for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, proudly sponsored by SEAAEYC! This beloved program delivers free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to enrolled children from 0-5 years old throughout SE Alaska. Enjoy interactive booths and engaging activities with our wonderful local partner agencies!

So grab your cowboy hats, lace up them running shoes, and get ready to dash for Dolly! Whether you walk, trot, or two-step across the finish line, you are helping build a brighter, book-filled future.

Lots of door prizes and an epic 8-prize raffle (Raffle Permit #160005)!

When: June 14th at 10:00am (9:00am Registration)

Where: Airport Dike Trail (2010 Radcliffe Rd, Juneau, AK 99801)

For more info, contact Destinee Siegel at (907) 789-1235 or dsiegel@aeyc-sea.org.

[Register](#)
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THE DOLLY DASH
1k/5k Family Fun Run
Dolly Parton's Imagination Library fundraiser,
proudly sponsored by SEAAEYC!

DOOR PRIZES! **RAFFLE! PERMIT #160005**

WHEN
Saturday, June 14th, 2025
Run starts 10:00am
Registration starts 9:00am

WHERE
Airport Dike Trail
2010 Radcliffe Rd, Juneau AK 99801

REGISTRATION
Adult (Over 18):
\$15 pre-register/\$20 on race day
Youth (18 & Under):
\$5 pre-register/\$6 on race day
Register at:
www.racecentry.com or scan QR code!

REPRESENT DOLLY
We're calling all Dolly Parton enthusiasts to showcase their best wig, pearls, shirt, or full-blown costume.

Enjoy interactive booths and engaging activities with our wonderful local partner agencies!

Partnerships
for Families & Children

seaeayc Southeast Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children
Race tickets may be purchased online or before the event starts. Bring your watch! We will have the big clock-up, but will not officially time all runners. To learn more about the event, kindly visit our website at www.aeyc-sea.org. For inquiries or suggestions, please reach us at (907) 789-1235 or dsiegel@aeyc-sea.org.

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 contacting SEAAEYC directly.



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