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Southeast Alaska Association for
the Education of Young Children



**Supporting the growth and
well-being of the children
throughout SE Alaska**

Serving early educators, families, and community members
since 1982.

SEAAEYC NEWSLETTER

In 2024, SEAAEYC dedicated significant efforts to advocating for policy initiatives prioritizing child care and families, while offering and developing a range of supportive resources to our local communities. From parenting trainings and child care apprenticeships to concepts for a family center and the establishment of the Family Voice Committee, SEAAEYC has dedicated countless hours to fostering a healthy, safe, and family-friendly community.

Did you know that SEAAEYC is a registered Child Care Resources and Referral (CCR&R) hub for Southeast Alaska? Our goal is to assist local and new families with finding child care while providing a variety of resources and trainings to child care professionals. These include the child care apprenticeship program (a first of its kind in Alaska), associate credentials, mentorship opportunities, and annual conferences.

Throughout 2024, SEAAEYC has also focused on equipping parents and caregivers with tools to help them thrive. Initiatives such as Parents as Teachers, Imagination Library, Parent Bulletin, Circle of Security trainings, and many more have successfully helped families feel more connected and supported within our community. These efforts to uplift families and strengthen the child care industry align with our mission to provide high-quality learning and empower all who supports our community's children.

PROGRAM NEWS

SEAAEYC Attends CCAoA's Leadership Institute!

network with other CCR&Rs from across the country and hear about recent updates in child care at the national level. They gained valuable insights into strategies for improving child care in the Southeast region and shared about several of the successful initiatives SEAAEYC has implemented, showcasing our creative solutions to address the evolving needs of families and child care providers. This experience has enriched SEAAEYC's knowledge and provided actionable strategies to further our efforts in supporting our local child care field.

Visit our website to find out more, and visit [Child Care Aware of America](#), the national CCR&R, to learn about the strides they are making to support families and children throughout our country!

Child Care Apprenticeship Program

The SEAAEYC Apprenticeship Program hosted a wonderful event at the Hangar Ballroom last October. Dr. Randi Wolfe from ECEPTS spoke at the event about the big picture of the need for more early childhood apprenticeship programs and highlighted the success of this program's model. Apprentices spoke on a panel about their experiences as part of the program. During the panel, one apprentice stated, "This program has definitely changed how I interact with both children and families. I've learned to approach children with more patience and understanding, recognizing that their behaviors are often rooted in their developmental stage rather than intentional actions. Instead of just managing behaviors, I now guide children through their emotions, helping them build self-regulation and communication skills."

This is the first cohort of childcare apprentices in the state! They will be graduating with an Occupational Endorsement Certificate in Infant and Toddler Development from UAA in May.

To find out more about the SEAAEYC Apprenticeship Program, contact Tess Olympia tolympia@aeYC-sea.org.



Apprenticeship program reception panel on November, 7th of 2024.

Imagination Library

SEAAEYC is proud to sponsor Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Southeast Alaska, a program that delivers free, high-quality, age-appropriate books to children from birth to age five. Each enrolled child receives up to 60 books, mailed directly to their home, fostering a love of reading and improving literacy and kindergarten readiness in our local communities. In 2024, the program mailed an impressive **14,207 books** to **1,489 children**!

young learners throughout our region. If you would like to support this wonderful program, please consider donating [here](#).

What Parents Are Saying About Our Local Program:

"Our Imagination Library books are some of my kid's favorites! We read them again and again, and they love getting a book in the mail from Dolly. It's such a special bonding experience for our family."

"It brings us together, and reading is now a cherished part of our nightly routine."

Parents as Teachers

Blue Ribbon Affiliate

We are proud to announce that SEAAEYC's Parents as Teachers program has completed the [Parents as Teachers National Center](#) Quality Endorsement & Improvement Process and has once again earned the highest designation: the Blue Ribbon Endorsement! Being named a Blue Ribbon Affiliate affirms that our Parents as Teachers program is among the highest quality members of the home visitation and parent education field, implementing the evidence-based Parents as Teachers model with fidelity and quality. Find out more about our affiliate on our [website](#).



NEW 4th Trimester Project!

SEAAEYC Parents as Teachers (PAT) is proud to announce a new pilot program: the 4th Trimester Project. Through this work, any family in SE Alaska with a baby under the age of 4 months has instant access to free, fun, and informative weekly home visits. If you are interested in enrolling or are pregnant, feel free to reach out to Emily at ethompson@aeyc-sea.org to find out more.



PAT 4th Trimester Project participant learning infant massage techniques for baby.

Izzy Ensinger

Izzy (she/her) is excited to join our team as our Community Engagement Coordinator. She brings with her a passion for the importance of community, particularly when it comes to supporting the well-being and growth of children. Prior to moving to the Southeast, she worked in child care in a small Interior town where she saw the difference a supporting community can make. When not planning or attending a local event, you can find her on a trail with her husky and latest book!



UPCOMING EVENT

SEAAEYC Annual Early Childhood Conference

Nature & the Curious Child Conference on March 14th - 15th, 2025

Learn more about this year's conference and register at www.rsvpbook.com/nature.

Additional Information:

- Financial support is available through SEED, housed and managed by thread. Applicants must be working in a licensed child care facility and have an active SEED membership to qualify. Applications are available at Thread's Alaska Seed [website](#).
- Professional Development Reimbursement (PDR) reimburses 100% of the cost of registration. Applications must be submitted within 60 business days of event completion.
- Travel Reimbursements are available to reimburse 100% of airfare and lodging costs up to \$1000 annually. Applications must be submitted at least 21 days prior to travel using actual or estimated expense costs.
- If you are interested in earning university credit, you must attend the Full Conference. Contact Blue Shibler at bshibler@aeyc-sea.org if you have any questions.



Welcome our Keynote, Koogak'aax (Dr. Angela Lunda)

Koogak'aax (Angela Lunda) is a life-long Alaskan of the Tlingit Tribe, Ch'aak (Eagle) Moiety, Kaagwaantaan (Wolf) Clan, and the Sitka Déix X'awool'ja Hít (Two-Door House) with more than

of Alaska Southeast and is involved in two National Science Foundation-funded research projects exploring the phenomenon of environmental and cultural identity development in young children. Her research interests center around young children's experiences on the land and how those experiences influence children's relationship with Land.

During her two part Keynote Address, Dr. Lunda will describe global perspectives on early childhood identity development through environmental exploration and how we can incorporate sustainable and culturally responsive strategies to early learning.


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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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P: (907) 789-1235

E: info@aeYC-sea.org

3200 Hospital Dr Suite 204, Juneau AK 99801

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