Aloha Fellow Early Childhood Educators!

Here we are over a year later, and we find ourselves still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it has brought pain and sorrow to many, it has also brought things to the forefront, such as the acknowledgement of the early childhood field as essential! The nation suffered during the closure of childcare centers and early childhood programs. It was evident that our world could not operate without child care. Having childcare centers and early childhood programs shut down, took a toll on families, people’s mental health and well-being, and our economy.

As the world began to open up again, early childhood educators faced the challenge of operating in a pandemic, while providing quality care and services, as well as balancing their own personal lives and families. Although fear and uncertainty struck many, they continued to show up and make the adjustments necessary to operate safely. Each day brought forth new challenges. Each challenge was faced with determination. Programs provided support in any way possible to ensure needs were being met, either through distance learning, virtual opportunities, and for some, blended learning. Communities came together to help those in need.

Although the uncertainty lingers, we continue to push forward for our early childhood community. HIAEYC strives to provide opportunities for professional development and uplift those that touch the lives of our future, our keiki! We are excited to announce our 2021 Virtual Event “Equity Through Play”. We hope you will join us on Saturday, Oct. 23 to hear keynote speaker, Luis Hernandez! His presentation will leave you feeling entertained, motivated, and inspired!

With much love and aloha,
Alex Domingo
HiAEYC Board President
Keiki Korner!

Wonder Based Art Making

Submitted by Na Pua Keiki (Island School, Kauai)
(Activity comes from Wonder Art Workshop Book Written by Sally Haughey)

In this process of making, we are witnessing wonder. The Na Pua Keiki teachers are at the very essence of wondering while they listen and observe the schemas in children’s play. In this wonder-based activity the children are experiencing transformation. They use mortar and pestle to mash and pound the chalk pieces. One child excitedly said, “Look we are making chalk powder!” The next day they took the “chalk powder” and mixed it with white play dough. This was another transformation process as the white play dough and chalk powder was Mortar and Pestle - Making chalk powder by crushing, grinding, and pounding. It takes eye-hand coordination as well as upper body and hand muscle strength to make the chalk pieces into powder.

Would you like to see your activity to featured in our Keiki Corner? Send your submissions to haeyc@hawaii.aeyc.org for consideration!

HiAEYC BOARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Please email HiAEYC with the name of your nominee, the position you are nominating them for, and their contact email. Mahalo!

*SEEKING NOMINEES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS*

Secretary

Member-at-large

Member-at large

Member-at-large

Ballot will be shared in November. Election results shared January 2022.

MISSION: To promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii’s young children (B-8) and their families.
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I have been reflecting on accreditation a lot these days as our Na Pua Keiki program is preparing for another five-year anniversary visit. I view this process as assessing our compass to see if we are navigating in a high-quality path. NAEYC is truly a navigational tool for early childhood education programs to accurately ascertain one’s position, planning, and directional accuracy. Every child deserves access to high-quality learning experiences and NAEYC Accreditation allows a program to become the vessel.

If you are thinking about becoming an accredited program; I invite you to consider this as a positive journey for your program. This process:

• Will allow your compass to stay focused on providing children with a program that is safe, well prepared, and intentional. This leads to greater readiness and success for children in life.

• Ensures that teaching staff and administration work together to build a successful professional learning environment.

• Will connect you to a community investing in high quality learning opportunities for children and resources for families.

Sue Macklin, Early Learning Division Director, Island School

If your program is NAEYC accredited and you would like to be featured in an upcoming spotlight, send an article to us at HAEYC@hawaii.aeyc.org!

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