Connection

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Credentia ling ECE Professionals

Over the past several years, recognition of the importance of preschool has been growing. Yet, the educational qualifications of preschool teachers and administrators have been steadily declining. In the last two decades the percentage of center-based preschool teachers and administrators with a bachelor's degree has declined from 43% (in 1983–85) to just 30% today, while the number of preschool educators with only a high school diploma/GED or less has risen from 24% to 30% (Sadowski, 2006).

Child Care Licensing Requirements (November 2005)

Teachers in Child Care Centers: Amount of Minimum Pre-service Training in Early Childhood Education by Percentage of States*

(Retrieved June 27, 2006 from http://nccic.org/)

Around the country, advocates, policymakers, and teacher-educators are struggling to find ways to improve the skills and credentials of those who teach our youngest students. Early childhood is quickly becoming the newest grade within the public school system. As such, many are calling for early childhood education credentialing requirements equivalent to those for elementary teachers. The implications are immense for those of us working within the field of early childhood education and care.

Traditional college attendance and course work is not possible for a majority of working professionals wanting to increase their skills while completing a teaching credential. This is why early childhood professionals must begin to explore other educational options, such as distance learning and on-line courses.

Currently, National Child Care Systems, an Adventist owned and operated training company, is offering Adventist directors and teachers annual training, continuing education units, and clock hours toward a Child Development Associate credential.

This is just the beginning, though! In the upcoming months, ACCN hopes to report the option of on-line courses via an accredited college or university. Please pray for the efforts on your behalf to be successful.
JOIN the National Association for the Education of Young Children

Join us for the nation's largest meeting of early childhood educators and professionals in Atlanta, Georgia! Meet with colleagues from across the nation and around the world. Network and discuss the latest research, enjoy hundreds of informative sessions, and explore a lively and vibrant Exhibit Hall.

The NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo is just four short months away, so now is the time to make plans! This year, the conference is being held November 8-11.

Special NAEYC Conference rates have been negotiated with hotels in Atlanta. To take advantage of these rates, be sure to make your reservation by October 20, 2006. After that date, the official room blocks will be released and hotel rates may be significantly higher.

There is more information about the Annual Conference online at http://www.annualconference.naeyc.org/

And in so doing... Remember that . . .

The Adventist Child Care Network will meet, as usual, during the NAEYC annual conference. The Adventist Child Care Network will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 8 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. for the annual business and networking meeting.

On Friday, Nov. 10, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Adventist early childhood professionals are welcome to join us for a sundown worship service.

Saturday morning we will assemble for Sabbath morning worship service and lunch. We will try to make arrangements for transportation to an Adventist church or we may have a minister come speak with our group. Either way we will be able to spend the Sabbath hours together.

Please check the 2006 Annual Conference Final Program for ACCN meetings & room assignments. For more information, contact Christine Gillan-Byrne at (805) 490-6055, or christine@puconline.org

Credentia ling ECE Professionals, continued

REFERENCES: