



RIGHTS, RAISES, RESPECT

News and Issues for the Early Care and Education Workforce

A monthly electronic newsletter

From the Center for the Child Care Workforce,

A Project of the AFT Educational Foundation (CCW/AFTEF)

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This month features a new section, "In the Classroom." Starting this month, we will feature a new tip or practice that you can use in your early childhood classroom. Please let us know if you have ideas or feedback to share at ccw@aft.org.

THIS MONTH

Making the Connection - Advocacy & Outreach

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MAKING THE CONNECTION – ADVOCACY & OUTREACH

Save the Date, Nov. 7-10, NAEYC Conference

Thousands of early child educators will meet up at the National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) annual conference, Nov. 7-10. The conference will be held in Chicago, Ill. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), once again, will honor the early childhood workforce by displaying its colorful and compelling exhibit, AFT's Everyday Heroes. The exhibit recognizes the millions of workers, like early childhood educators, who are doing important work on the job every day.

Look for the AFT's Everyday Heroes exhibit in the Exhibit Hall, where you can connect with other "everyday heroes" and learn more about how we are uniting early childhood educators in the fight for better wages, benefits, working conditions and professional development opportunities.

We will be sending updates in the coming weeks with more information about the exciting activities planned at the booth, including:

- * special events;
- * the NAEYC "Workshop Toolkit," our popular mini-guide for the conference; and
- * the Worthy Wage Day quilt.

For more information about the conference, visit www.annualconference/naeyc.org.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Regular or Antibacterial Soap?? The Winner Is?

(Adapted from a story in the *Washington Times*)

Americans do a lot of hand washing because of concerns about germs. "Did you wash your hands?" is a question that children are asked a lot. Washing hands is an act children are repeatedly told to do, with the intent that it would become automatic behavior. It is a known fact that the best way to prevent the spread of infectious disease is simply to wash your hands. Plain soap and water usually will do the trick. But do antibacterial soaps really clean better than plain soap? Americans use about \$16 billion of supercharged soaps per year.

Antibacterial preparations, once a fixture only in health institutions, have become the norm in homes and schools. The main active ingredient is triclosan, which is found in 76 percent of liquid soaps and 30 percent of bar soaps. According to a report released by the University of Michigan's School of Public Health, antibacterial soaps show no health benefits over regular bath soaps. "Antibacterial soaps at formulations sold to the public do not remove any more bacteria from the hands during washing than plain soaps, said the study that was published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, an academic journal.

Allison Aiello, an epidemiologist who directed the research, based her conclusions on 27 studies conducted between 1980 and 2006 that scrutinized consumer soaps



reinforced with triclosan—also found in hundreds of body washes, cleaners, cosmetics and more. Aiello also had concerns that the way the antibacterial agent reacts in the cells might cause some bacteria to become resistant to commonly used drugs such as amoxicillin. Also, triclosan has been detected in 60 percent of America's waterways, according to the Center for Water and Health at Johns Hopkins University.

"Save your money," says Mike Lohman, assistant director of the AFT's health and safety program. "The more important question is how **thoroughly** you wash your hands with plain soap and water."

Go to <http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/hai/infection-control/model-policy/hand-hygiene/hps-hand-handout2.pdf> to see correct hand-washing technique.

IN THE STATES

Governor's Summit on Early Childhood Development in Virginia

This summer, Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine announced details of his *Start Strong* prekindergarten proposal at his Governor's Summit on Early Childhood Education, unveiling a voluntary program that gradually will expand access to high-quality preschool for more of Virginia's four-year-olds. The summit brought together traditional and nontraditional allies in support of high-quality early childhood education. Former North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt spoke about how North Carolina has been a model state for successful early education, particularly in expanding the availability, affordability and quality of early childhood programs. In addition, Nobel Prize-winning economist James L. Heckman from the University of Chicago and Jeffrey Lacker, president of the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond, spoke about the important economic benefits attributed to high-quality programs in early childhood education, especially among poor children. For more information about the summit, visit <http://www.governor.virginia.gov>.

POLICY & LEGISLATION

Early Childhood Provisions Included in the College Costs Bills

This summer, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate each passed budget reconciliation bills aimed at helping students afford college. These bills provided the single largest federal investment in higher education since the GI Bill, including provisions affecting the early childhood education workforce.

After returning from August recess, Congress brought its reconciliation conference bill, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (H.R. 2669), to the floor of both chambers for a vote. The bill would create a new student loan forgiveness plan for public service employees. An early childhood educator who is eligible for the loan forgiveness program will have to be employed in a public early childhood program for 10 years, either consecutive or nonconsecutive, and must make loan payments during that time. After 10 years or 120 payments on a Federal Direct Loan, the loan's remaining interest and principal will be forgiven.



The House of Representatives passed H.R. 2669 by a vote of 292-97 on Sept. 7, while the Senate voted 79-12 to approve the bill on the same day. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act now awaits President Bush's signature to become public law. For more information on both bills, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.02669>: or <http://edlabor.house.gov/micro/ccraa.shtml>.

Pre-K Act Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives

Last month, U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) introduced the Pre-K Act in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would provide \$1 billion per year in federal funds to help states build and expand effective pre-K programs. To be eligible for grants, state plans need to commit to research-based curricula, having teachers with bachelor's degrees within 5 years, and low teacher-child ratios in every pre-K classroom. We will carefully follow these efforts and continue to advocate for the resources that are needed for high-quality pre-K programs, including funding to support well-prepared and appropriately compensated staff. For more information, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.03289>.

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Study Reports Long-Term Effects of High-Quality Early Childhood Program

A new study issued last month by the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine reports the significant benefits of a comprehensive early childhood program. Chicago's Child-Parents Centers, or CPCs, were started in 1986 for low-income preschoolers by the Chicago Public Schools. University of Minnesota researchers found that by age 24, children who were involved in preschool programs were more likely to finish high school, attend four-year colleges and have health insurance. "A comparatively small investment early in life can improve the quality of life through adulthood and reduce the societal costs imposed by underemployment, educational failure, disability, incarceration and depressive illness," said Duane Alexander, director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, in a written statement. To learn more about the "Chicago Longitudinal Study," see <http://www.education.umn.edu/icd/CLS/>.

New Book about the Pre-K Movement Highlights Lifelong Benefits for Children

The Sandbox Investment: The Preschool Movement and Kids-First Politics takes readers on a story-filled account of how the prekindergarten movement has made progress in recent years. Author David Kirp, a University of California at Berkeley professor and journalist, makes the case for universal preschool by showing the lifelong benefits of high-quality early childhood education, and outlines an emerging "kids-first" agenda. For more information, visit <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog/KIRDOE.html>.



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SOURCES & CONTRIBUTORS

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The Center for the Child Care Workforce (CCW) was founded in 1978 as the Child Care Employee Project, and in 2002 merged with the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation (AFTEF). CCW/AFTEF is a nonprofit research, education and advocacy organization committed to improving early care and education quality by upgrading the compensation, working conditions and training of early childhood professionals.