

What's Happening at SECA

Inside this issue:

<i>Dimensions</i> has a new look!	2
<i>Putting These Ideas Into Practice</i>	2
New Pages in <i>Dimensions</i>	2
<i>Aula Infantit</i> : SECA launches a new resource	3
2011 Conference Evaluation	3
We Need A New Infant/Toddler Book	4

SECA 2012: More Infant/Toddler Content

It seems as if we celebrate one conference, only to begin planning for the next one! Planning for SECA 2012 is well underway and we've got some exciting news to share with you.

We've recognized over the last several years that good infant/toddler content is hard to find and that program administrators are having difficulty finding training for their staff.

The SECA Board decided at their January board meeting to include an intentional focus on infant/toddler care in San Antonio and do some significant pre-conference sessions on Thursday that provide this type of content.

Don't worry, there will be something for everyone!

The Call for Proposals for SECA 2012 is currently available on the conference page of the SECA website and we have additional content areas that will be presented. This year, we've also included information on how the proposals will be reviewed, so pay careful attention to that background information.

We're also asking that folks think about extending their presentations to 2 hours instead of the normal one. We acknowledge that some topics need more time to go in-depth and we'll select a limited number of these presentations.

The conference will take place at the Hyatt Regency River Walk. All you'll have to do is

go out the back of the hotel and you're at one of San Antonio's famous destinations. You're also within walking distance of the Alamo. **As always, we're trying to blend fun, fellowship and education at SECA 2012! Go to**

www.visitsanantonio.com for more information.



The Riverwalk in San Antonio. It's only a few steps out the door of the conference hotel!

SECA 2011

Now available on the conference page of the SECA website.

The 2011 Leadership Institute with Kate Thegen

Extending the Medical Home to Assure Optimal Outcomes for Young Children
Dr. David Tayloe

The Whole Child: Thinking, Feeling & Moving
Rae Pica

A PDF of the 2011 Conference Program is also available.

2012 Call for Proposals Now Available

The Call for Proposals for SECA 2012 is now available on the SECA website on the "conference page".

We're taking a new approach this year and will ask you to provide more in-depth information for our reviewers.

Included in the Call for Proposals you will find:

- A list of areas for which we are soliciting proposals.
- An expanded list of requirements.

- A rubric that will be used to determine which proposals are scheduled.

We will utilize a group of professionals to review and score proposals, and we wanted you to have the review criteria to help you prepare your proposal.

Dimensions Has a New Look!

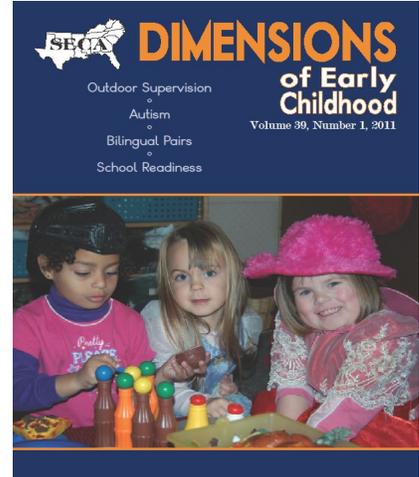
We hope by now that you've received your winter 2011 *Dimensions of Early Childhood*. If you have, you've noticed a substantial change in the design and formatting of the journal.

In January, the SECA Editorial Committee met to review 3 proposed prototypes that would change the look and "readability" of the journal.

The result of their deliberations was the journal that you have just received.

Some changes to note:

- We've changed the print font to make it cleaner and more readable.
- The call-outs and captions are more distinctive.
- The cover design has changed.
- The formatting provides more "white space" to make it a more readable text.



We hope you're pleased with the new look!

Putting These Ideas Into Practice: What's New

We're not finished with the changes made in the first issue and we wanted to let you know what's coming next.

Putting These Ideas Into Practice was originally designed for directors and trainers to use as a hand-out for staff. It

Early Signs of Autism
How to Support Families and Navigate Referral Procedures

Early intervention is critical to support the development of children with autism. — Joyce E. Namer and Amy C. Stevens Griffith

Early Signs of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- Socialization
 - flat facial expressions
 - lack interest in objects or people
 - unresponsive or over-responsive to excitement
 - unresponsive to interactions with others
- Language
 - early language delay or absence of language
 - use language idiosyncratically
 - little eye contact, do not face the person with whom they are speaking
- Sensory Processing
 - seek sensory input or avoid it
 - over-responsive or under-responsive to environment
- Cognitive Functioning
 - may have intellectual disabilities
 - tend to have visual processing strength and verbal comprehension weaknesses

How to Support Families

- know characteristics of various disorders
- document children's behaviors objectively
- know how the referral system works
- communicate clearly and listen empathetically
- understand familial feelings when coming to grips with a diagnosis
- view families from a strengths-based perspective
- offer information resources

RESOURCES

- Autism Society of America: autism-society.org
- Autism Research Institute: autism.org
- Bruce, C. (2003). *Identifying autism spectrum disorders: A guide to diagnosis for parents and professionals*. Bethesda, MD: Woodbine House.
- Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children: dec-sped.org
- Paulchen, E. (2005). *The things that every child with autism wishes you knew*. Arlington, TX: Future Horizons.

Make the Most of the Early Intervention System

- refer families to the state's lead agency for early intervention services
- collaborate with screening and assessment specialists
- implement early intervention services

Note: Dimensions of Early Childhood makes an attempt to credit the source for early childhood studies as well as authors of press releases in published developments.

20 | Vol 39, No 1, 2011 | Dimensions of Early Childhood

Put These Ideas Into Practice! focused the themes/topics of the articles into brief statements and we thought it might be a useful tool for in-house staff development.

In reviewing how those pages are used, we've decided that they could be much more useful in another format and **we're moving them**

this fall to a web-based resource to go with each issue of the journal.

The pages will now be available in a PDF format on the SECA "members-only" site that will make duplicating them much easier and we'll add other resources to that document that will help you plan your staff development. Resources will include available professional books, children's literature, videos, etc. that lend additional resources to the topic.,

The New Pages in *Dimensions*

Beginning in the fall of 2011, we'll replace the *Putting These Ideas Into Practice* pages in the printed journal with two new pages.

The new pages at the end of each article will be designed as resource pages to extend the article with information that can guide you further into

the topic or classroom practice.

If the article is about professional practice or early childhood education issues, you'll find the following page will contain book reviews of new professional material that will extend the topic and learning for the reader.

If the article is suited to utilizing children's literature, you'll find reviews of children's books that can be used to reinforce the concepts from the article in your classroom or home.

We hope these "hands-on" resources will add value to the journal articles.

SECA Launches the First Issue of *Aula Infantil*

SECA has embarked upon a new venture and we have developed a Spanish language publication that will be available on a quarterly basis. This publication is being developed by professionals who are currently working with and in classrooms in which Spanish is often a primary language for both children and staff.

This publication came about through the efforts of our members in the Miami-Dade area who were searching for Spanish language materials to use with early childhood programs in that area. They were concerned that good, basic materials about child development and good early childhood practice were not readily available and asked SECA to assist.

The publication is divided into these sections:

- *The Zero to Three Corner*
- *The Preschool Zone*
- *Reflections from Directors*
- *For Your Library*

- *Resources and Materials*

The publication includes information from interviews with directors, practical information gleaned from working in an early childhood program and basic child development information.

Aula Infantil is designed to provide an avenue for dissemination of basic information and is not a refereed journal. That's intentional, so that SECA has a variety of publications that provide good resource information as well as publication opportunities for a diverse population of professionals. However, we do hold SECA publications to high standards, and we are pleased to have accomplished individuals who are helping to get us started.

We want to thank the following members for their contribution to the initial issues:

Dr. Wilma Robles-Meléndez, a member of the SECA Editorial Committee and faculty at Nova Southeastern University.

Aula Infantil

Volumen I, Número 1

En este volumen...

- ❖ La continuidad en el cuidado infantil
- ❖ Rincón de los pequeños de cero a tres años: Creando vínculos de apego entre el profesional infantil y los niños
- ❖ Zona de preescolares: Apoyando el desarrollo socioemocional de los preescolares
- ❖ Hablando con los directores: Reflexiones sobre la continuidad en el cuidado infantil
- ❖ Para tu biblioteca
- ❖ Recursos y materiales



Mabel Valdéz Díaz of Nova Southeastern University, and

Carol Montealegre, a member of the SECA Board of Directors and early childhood consultant.

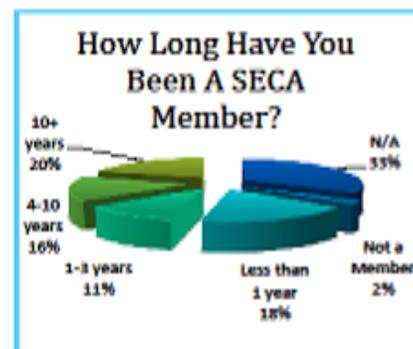
The bulletin is posted at <http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/espanol.php> **Watch for more information about writing for *Aula Infantil*.** For those of you who speak Spanish, we hope you'll take this opportunity to contribute to our effort.

2011 Conference Evaluation

Evaluations are helpful in giving you feedback on what went well and what didn't go so well, and this year was no exception.

Overall, we received high marks from the conference attendees with 80% of our respondents rating the conference value at great or good. 82.2% of our

respondents rated the convention site as great and **95.5% rated the overall conference as great or good.** Forty-seven (47%) percent of our respondents had been SECA members for 1-10+ years: another 18% had been members less than a year. To access the summary go to the "Previous Conference" page of the SECA website at



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Southern Early Childhood Association



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Dee Ard, Fiscal Officer
Sister Roberta Bailey, Secretary

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WE NEED A NEW INFANT/TODDLER BOOKLET!

SECA's Editorial Committee is seeking a **short book with practical ideas for teachers of infants and toddlers**. The booklet is expected to contain captivating classroom stories and recommendations for best practices in working with children from birth to age 3. These topics are to be featured:

- **Physical Environment** (how to set up space, tips for selecting materials and furnishings)
- **Social-Emotional Environment** (examples of effective personal interactions, guidance and discipline strategies)
- **Cognitive Development** (engaging ideas to promote

children's early learning:)

- **Working with Families** (building community, communication)

If you are interested in submitting a detailed outline for review, please access SECA's book author guidelines at www.southernearlychildhood.org.

Book proposals must be submitted **electronically** to editor@southernearlychildhood.org.

Crystal Campbell's grand-baby, Tirrell. Crystal is the South Carolina rep on the SECA Board.



Sean Patrick, son of Katie Williams, Kentucky rep on the SECA Board



Claire Sullins, new daughter of Megan and Peyton Sullins. Megan is on the SECA staff.