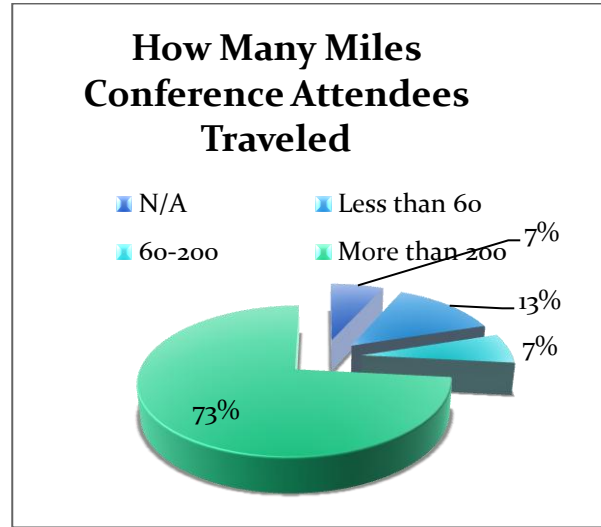
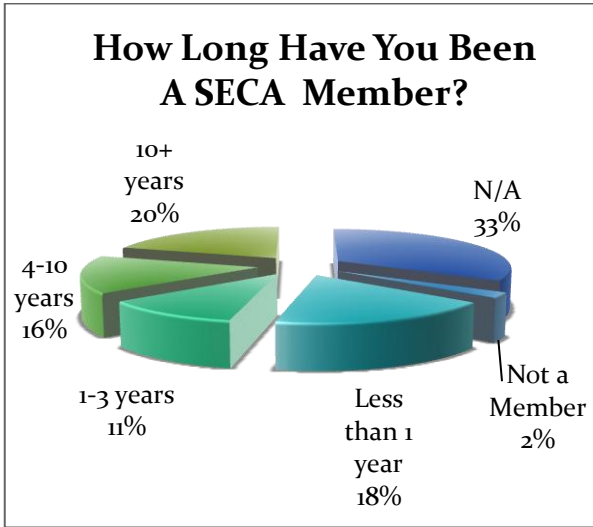


## SUMMARY OF 2011 CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Conference attendees' were asked to fill out the 2011 Conference Evaluation and submit it to the SECA office. In the following pages you will find a summary of conference attendees comments towards this year's interest sessions, presenters, vendors and suggestions for future conferences. Below you'll find charts containing the percentage of attendees that rated the conference, as well as how they rated the conference.



### Percentage of Attendees That Rated Conference & How

Item Rated	Great	Good	Fair	N/A
Vendor Sessions	28.9	33.3	6.7	31.1
Keynote Speakers	33.3	35.6	13.3	17.8
Exhibits	26.7	55.6	15.6	2.2
Conventions Site	82.2	15.6	2.2	0
Overall Conference	64.4	31.1	2.2	2.2
Hotel Accommodations	66.7	15.6	0	17.8
Interest Sessions	55.6	35.6	2.2	6.7
Value	51.1	28.9	6.7	13.3

## SUMMARY OF 2011 CONFERENCE EVALUATION

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Forty percent of conference attendees surveyed attended the Thursday sessions. When conference attendees were asked about Thursday sessions, they remarked that the sessions were exciting as well as interesting and did not feel pressured to purchase products. They also found the products to be informative, useful, and fun. They appreciated the opportunity to see new products and learn how to use materials. Vendors that were mentioned in their comments were: *Ron Mohl*, *Lakeshore Learning* and *US Toys*. A few conference attendees did mention that they wanted more choices, and found the sales pitches to be basic with old ideas. They also would have liked to have more time to browse and wanted to see more props.

When attendees were asked what they liked best about the conference, the majority praised the location and the convenience of area amenities. Attendees enjoyed the variety of the sessions, and felt the 1-hr sessions set a good pace for the day. They thought the conference was well organized and found it easy to navigate. They enjoyed the opportunity to network and see old friends. They also enjoyed the interest/trainer sessions and the Director's seminar, noting they were hands on with new ideas and information. A few attendees felt that *Nancy Cheshire* and *Lois Wachtel* needed more time and *Dr. Dean* was geared more toward older children. They also mentioned the start times were confusing and suggested that sessions should start at the same time. The Pirates house dinner was mentioned as having bad entertainment and food. There were also issues with the sticker certificates, due to being disorganized with missing and incorrect stickers.

Conference attendees were then asked which presenters or sessions they found useful. There were a number of presenters and sessions that were praised for their presentation and information. The most referenced are as follows: *Nancy Cheshire*, *Lois Wachtel*, *Pam Phelps*, *Maryann Harmon*, *Lisa Maddox Vinson*, *Dr. Alice Hall*, *Dr. Tammy Pawloski*, *Heather Newton*, *Dr. Jenny Flannagan*, *Leann Hackler* and *Cami Miller*. In contrast attendees mentioned *Dr. Bradley* had difficulties presenting the material, seemed out of it, couldn't form sentences and was unprepared. Also mentioned was *Tyrone Williams*. Attendees felt he spoke of resources for much older children and spoke too much about theories and too softly. He didn't provide handouts and his information was forgettable. The Using Predictable books session was also mentioned as out of sorts, not prepared and could not be heard.

Lastly attendees were asked was to suggest topics and speakers for future conferences. Speakers like *Lois Wachtel* and *Nancy Cheshire* ranked highest followed by *Ron Lally*, *Heather Newton*, *Dr Jenny Flannagan*, *Maryanne Harmon* and *Lisa Maddox Vinson*. In addition to presenters, attendees suggested ideas such as, summer camp programs, SECA tee-shirts to wear at conference and sign language arts & crafts. Also suggested is having authors present, how to write effective grants and how to lobby & change politics. Attendees did feel the need to have vendors screened for developmental appropriateness and less musicians selling their CD's. The attendees that rated the conference expressed a love for SECA and felt that the hospitality of our volunteers made the conference a more pleasant experience!