Image of the Child, What does this mean?

Kay Cutler, Ph.D.

Italian educators in Reggio Emilia and Pistoia use the term ‘Image of the Child’ as a metaphor to draw attention to how teachers perceive children and how their expectations influence their teaching.

They use the words: ‘competent’, ‘capable’, and ‘citizens of today’ to describe children and their Image of the Child.

In this sense, the word competent doesn’t mean that children know everything they need to know about something, but it does mean that they have the abilities and tools they need to figure out how things work. Capable means that children have what they need to learn. The phrase, ‘Citizens of today’ means that children are active individuals now in their world, not simply some time in the future they will be citizens.

Director’s News

Kay Cutler, Ph.D.

I think that April is finally beginning to look like Spring, and that is good, good news! This winter has been really quite long.

Another bit of good news is that we will have a Summer Program this summer!

We will have two classrooms, one for 3 & 4 year olds and one for 4 & 5 year olds for 7.5 weeks this summer. The Summer Program will run from 8:00 am to 11:00 am, Monday through Thursday. The two Mentor Teachers for the summer will be Ashlee Hasselhorst and Amber Engelhardt. It has not yet been determined who will be teaching which class. The tuition for the Summer Program will be $355.00, which is the same hourly rate as the yearly tuition.

Having a Summer Program opens up a lot of opportunities from visiting McCrory Gardens on a regular basis, to growing/tending vegetable and flower gardens, and to doing more water play outside.

Update on Vision & Hearing Screening: Due to the delay in approval for grant funding, the Family Resource Network has moved the Vision and Hearing Screening from March to April. Look for more information about the upcoming screenings in your child(ren)’s cubby/cubbies.

Friendly Reminder: Just a friendly reminder that the Fishback Center collects HyVee receipts to support our scholarships for tuition program. For each $150,000.00 of receipts that we collect, we can receive $1,000.00. Also, the Fishback Center collects Box Tops. Please save your HyVee receipts and Box Tops. There are collection boxes at the front communication table.

Inside This Issue

1 Feature Article – The Image of the Child, What does this mean?
1 Director’s News – Summer Program Details
3 Parent Advisory Council News – Fundraising for Security Upgrades
3 Calendar of Events – March and April Events
These words and phrases challenge teachers and parents to take children seriously, to respect their thoughts and ideas, and to have high expectations about their abilities.

Often in our society, we hear about the cute things that children do or the funny things they say. Children do say funny things and can be very cute, yet is that all they are?

What words do we use to describe children?

What expectations do those words reflect?

They use the words, competent, capable, and citizens of today to describe children and their Image of the Child. In this sense, the word competent doesn’t mean that children know everything they need to know about something, but it does mean that they have the abilities and tools they need to figure out how things work. Capable means that children have what they need to learn. The phrase, ‘Citizens of today’ means that children are active individuals now in their world, not simply some time in the future they will be citizens.

We also often hear that children are our future. This may be true, yet who are they now? Are they an active, influential, important group of people now? Or are they somewhere on the sidelines in our society? When do we, as a society, take them seriously? Do we wave a magic wand around them on their 18th birthday and suddenly their opinions and thoughts count?

Children’s thoughts, here and now, and the depth of their thinking are truly amazing, if only we as adults take the time to focus on what they are thinking.

At the Fishback Center for ECE, we listen to children, take them seriously, and follow up with the thoughts they share with us. Often when children share ideas, teachers, who do not see children as competent, overlook what they say and move on to other things. This leads to children sharing their ideas less often with adults. Children realize when adults are closely listening to their ideas; they seek out those adults to share more. This often leads to interesting conversations and inquiry investigations.

A couple years ago, I was talking to a friend and colleague who worked at the Boulder Journey School, in Boulder, CO. I asked about her son who had just started his kindergarten year. She shared with me a conversation that she had had with him a few days earlier. She had asked him what he thought about school this year. His response was, “You know, mom, the big difference between school last year and this year is that my teachers do not listen to my ideas anymore.” A key idea about the ‘Image of the Child’ concept is meeting the children at the place where they are thinking and then building learning and teaching experiences around their ideas.

I invite you to use the Image of the Child concept with those around you and pause to find out what children are thinking about their world!
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**Calendar of Events**

**April – Vision and Hearing Screenings**

**Place – Fishback Center K-3 Reading Room**

**Time – Varies by Classroom – see your child’s classroom newsletter.**

**April 14th – 4 & 5 Morning Parent-Teacher Conferences**

**April 15th – 4 & 5 Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences**

**April 16th – 3 & 4 Morning Parent-Teacher Conferences**

**April 17th – 3 & 4 Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences**

**April 18th – No School – Good Friday Holiday**

**April 22nd – Toddler Parent-Teacher Conferences**

**April 22nd – Celebration of Learning Reception**

**Place – Fishback Center for ECE**

**Time – 5-7 PM: Please come to view the work that each classroom has been doing this spring.**

**April 29th – Last Day of Preschool**

**May 19th – Last Day of Kindergarten**

**Parent Advisory Council News:**

**Fund-Raising Goal Within Reach**

By Jennifer Lacher-Starace

I am excited to report that we are very close to our goal of raising $1,500 to help cover the cost of security enhancements to the Fishback Center. And we have some fun ideas planned to get us to that goal. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 22 – the day of the Celebration of Learning reception.

**Culver’s Fundraiser on April 22**

We are grateful to the Skogen family, owners of Culver’s in Brookings and parents of a child in the toddler class, who are hosting a fund-raising dinner from 4 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22. Stop at Culver’s for dinner (and dessert, too – after all, it’s for a good cause) before or after the Celebration of Learning, and Culver’s will donate 15% of all sales to the Fishback Center.

**Items Sought for April 22 Raffle**

The Parent Advisory Council, in cooperation with the SDSU student chapter of the Association for the Education of the Young Child, is organizing a raffle, with the drawings to be held at the Celebration of Learning reception. (Winners need not be present to win.) We have gotten some lovely donations so far, including a gift basket from the University Bookstore, a photo session (valued at $185) from Kate Heiberger Photography, and a hand-etched metal cake pan and lid from Designs by Nanette!

The Parent Advisory Council is looking for more raffle items. We are hoping that some of the families might have personal or professional “connections” that would allow them to ask for donations for the raffle. Families might create a themed basket to donate for the raffle, or families might donate a new toy for the raffle. Be creative and let’s make this fun for the young and for the young-at-heart!

Student members of AEYC have plans to canvass local businesses (restaurants, spas/salons, retail shops, etc.), and we are grateful for any donations. Please talk to your classroom’s mentor teacher or to a PAC member for more information.

Raffle tickets will go on sale on Tuesday, April 15, and the price will be $1 for a single ticket, $5 for 6 tickets or $10 for 15 tickets. Participants can put their tickets into drawings for the items of interest to them.
Looking Ahead – Parent-Teacher Conferences
April 14 through April 22nd, 2014

Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up. Please take advantage of the opportunity to talk with your child’s teacher and discuss ideas and questions to help your child grow to their potential. Here are a few ideas to help prepare for Parent Teacher Conferences:

1. Consider your child’s goals that you, the teacher candidate, and mentor teacher developed at the beginning of the year. Consider ways you have seen growth and, also consider areas that may not have changed much for your child. Think about how you would like to discuss or if you would like to discuss these areas of growth.

2. Give yourself plenty of time to discuss your child’s development and skills – schedule your conference at a time when you are not rushed.

3. Create a list of questions that you would like to ask or discuss in your parent-teacher conference.

4. Consider resources or outside information you would like to know more about – ask for your teacher to assist you in tracking down this information.

5. Enjoy the time to talk about your child’s accomplishments and growth!

Team Member Corner – Who is Ashlee Haselhorst?

Ashlee Haselhorst is originally from Cresbard, SD. She graduated from High School in 2001 with 6 other classmates. She married her high school sweetheart, Chad, 8 ½ years ago. They have three beautiful children. Taya is six, Thatcher is four, and Otto is almost 13 months old. Otto is their lucky charm because he entered their world on St. Patty’s Day! Taya wanted a leprechaun, but got a baby brother instead. She also has a two-year-old dog named Luna and she is her children’s best buddy! She loves being around young inquisitive minds. She loves that each day brings something new and exciting. She sees her work as a rewarding job that has the requirement to “play”!

Did you know that Parents and Center Staff sold concessions at the Girls AA State Basketball Tourney (AKA – What we did on our Spring Break)?

Over spring break, on March 13-15, a group of parents and center staff learned how to make Jack’d Up Nachos, Jack’d Up Hot Dogs, how to sell pizza and drinks, and how to scoop (and scoop...lots of scooping) SDSU Ice Cream!

The Parent Advisory Council members, parents, and faculty members worked four double-header sessions of concession sales at the State AA Girls Basketball Tournament, held in Frost Arena. The Fishback Center will receive 10% of the total sales from the areas where they worked. On Thursday afternoon, the group hosted the main concessions booth and, on Friday afternoon, the group hosted the main concessions booth and the pizza kiosk. On Friday night and on Saturday afternoon, the group hosted the pizza kiosk, the hydration station, and the SDSU ice cream stand.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all that helped with this endeavor – Jennifer Lacher-Starace, Kevin Sackreiter, Nathan & Erika Tritle, Adam Juba, Arica Tweet, Laurie Johnston, Deb Schafer, Ting Ting He, Toni & Barnaby Wainman, Kate & Greg Heiberger, Mark Reif, Mary and Aaron Bowne, Tabitha Wedemeyer, John Fishback, Jessica & Joshua Huyck, Ryan Drake, and Kay Cutler.

The total amount of the fundraising from concession sales was $684.70. Then an anonymous donor matched the amount! So the total is: $1,369.40!!