



Advocacy / Public Policy

Jenifer McKee



NAEYC's Week of the Young Child will be celebrated this year
April 10 – 16th, 2011.

The theme for this year's events is EARLY YEARS ARE LEARNING YEARS. It seems like you can't open a magazine or newspaper these days without seeing an article confirming what a very important job we are doing in early childhood education. This is a good time to host activities at your program to enhance your presence in the community and to highlight the amazing things you do everyday. Invite a local CEO or a county commissioner to visit your program. People who do not have children in early education programs have no idea how much learning is taking place.

This is also a good time to honor your staff, with a breakfast or lunch provided by the families. Parents like to have an opportunity to thank their children's teachers for providing quality care and education to their child every day.

Also, take this week as an opportunity to write a letter to the newspaper editor, highlighting issues that affect the children in our area. This brings important information about early childhood education issues to a broader audience.

Children will be recognized by our legislators in Florida during the week of April 3 – Tens of thousands of paper cut-outs of Children's hands decorated by children and their teachers are collected at child care centers and schools across the state and are hung throughout the Capitol Rotunda creating an amazing display of Children's art.

The hands remain in the Capitol Rotunda the entire week as a reminder to legislators and advocates that we must take care of our most precious commodity our children.

Schools, child care centers, and individuals from across the state have been submitting hands to hang at the Capitol for many years, and we encouraged everyone to participate in this time honored tradition.

The official Hanging of the Hands will take place at the State Capitol Rotunda on Sunday, April 3, 2011 from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Pinellas County will have representatives from Pinellas Early Childhood Association and Pinellas Advocates for Children and Families.

This year we are once again asking that all of the Pinellas County Handprints be in red and placed on a yellow ribbon with a Heart attached to the bottom of the ribbon stating: your School / Program Name on one side of the heart and Pinellas County on the other side.

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DCF update, Pedometers, Pinellas ECA goals and NAEYC conference



Pinellas ECA wants to hear from its members!

We care about you and your opinions. The executive board is charged with review and updating bylaws every other year. The committee met and feels the need to make some revisions to update our bylaws. We cannot change them without your vote. On the next few pages you will see the bylaws with revisions, exclusions have been lined through and new verbiage is highlighted.

A non response will constitute a yes vote. Please send in a letter with any nay votes to Pinellas ECA 2869 54th Ave. St Petersburg Fl. 33714 or email your vote to: President@Pinellaseca.com

Pinellas Early Childhood Association By Laws

Adopted: 2007

Revised: 6/22/10

I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Pinellas Early Childhood Association, hereafter also referred to as Pinellas ECA.

II: Purposes

The purpose of the Pinellas ECA shall be:

To serve and to act on behalf of the needs, rights and well-being of all young children in Pinellas County and their families, with special emphasis on developmental and educational services and resources.

To foster the growth and development of the membership in their work with, and on behalf of, young children.

III: Membership

1. Eligibility. Anyone interested in promoting the purposes of this association may become a member upon payment of annual dues.
2. Levels of Membership. All members of the Pinellas ECA are also members of the **Florida Association For The Education of Young Children (FLAEYC)** ~~Early Childhood Association of Florida (ECA of FL), the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA), and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and are entitled to the rights and privileges of membership consistent with the membership categories of those respective associations.~~
3. Classes of Members. The classes of member shall be Comprehensive Affiliate, Regular Affiliate, and Student Affiliate. ~~The Executive Board ("Board") shall have the authority to establish additional classes of members.~~
4. Any member who fails to pay his or her dues for the current membership year within three (3) months of its start shall automatically be expelled as a member of the Association.
5. ~~Membership Year. The membership year shall be defined as one year from initial joining date.~~ Membership Year. **The membership year shall be defined as one year from the date NAEYC processes the membership.**
6. Annual Meeting; Quorum; Voting.
 - A. The annual meeting of the members of the association shall be held during the annual meeting of the Pinellas ECA at such place as the Board may determine.
 - B. The membership shall be informed by mail **and or electronic vote** of the date and place of the meeting no later than four (4) weeks prior to the meeting. A quorum of members shall be necessary to transact business at the annual meeting. A quorum shall equal twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of

Voting members present in person or by proxy at a meeting.

The membership shall be informed by mail and or electronic vote of the date and place of the meeting no later than four (4) weeks prior to the meeting. A quorum of members shall be necessary to transact business at the annual meeting. A quorum shall equal twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of voting members present in person or by proxy at a meeting.

~~The membership shall be informed by mail of the date and place of the meeting no later than four (4) weeks prior to the meeting. A quorum of members shall be necessary to transact business at the annual meeting. A quorum shall equal twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of voting members present in person or by proxy at a meeting.~~

IV: Governing Body

1. Name. The principle governing body of the association shall be called the Executive Board.

2. Powers and Duties. The Executive Board shall supervise, control, and direct the affairs of the Pinellas ECA, shall determine its policies or changes therein within the limits of the bylaws, shall actively promote its purposes, and shall have discretion in disbursement of its funds. It may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its business as shall be deemed advisable, and may, in the execution of the powers granted, appoint such committees or agents, as it may consider necessary.

3. Composition.

The Executive Board shall consist of:

President	Vice President of Programs
<u>Vice President</u> President Elect	Recording Secretary
Vice President of Membership	Treasurer
Corresponding Secretary	Newsletter Editor
Member-at-Large	Vice President of Public Policy
<u>Hospitality Chair</u>	Past President,

Elected by the membership of the Pinellas ECA. The board shall consist of the executive board and all appointed positions. The size of the Board is subject to change at its discretion; however, the number shall not be less than eleven (11) nor more than twenty-five (25).

No person shall serve on the Board unless that person is a member of the Pinellas ECA.

Except for the initial year, officers and Executive Board members shall be elected on a rotational basis to take office on the first (1st) day of June of each year of their election for their two year term as designated in the Bylaws or until their successors are elected and qualified, unless she or he is earlier removed or resigns.

No officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position.

4. Board Meetings.

A. The Executive Board shall meet at least two weeks prior to each General Meeting. The president shall designate the time and place of such meetings.

B. Notice of any meeting of the Board shall be deemed to be duly given to a Board member if mailed or faxed to the Board member at least seven (7) days before the day on which such meeting is to be held, or is provior is provided by telephone or other means of electronic communication, not later that two days before the day on which such meeting is to be held. Each such notice shall state the time and place of the meeting and the general purpose of the meeting.

C. The board meeting format will use Facilitative Leadership techniques of business.

B. Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting, if proper notice of the proposed action is given and submitted. If a response has not been acknowledged within a three day period, this would constitute a yes vote. Electronic mail is an accepted form of communication.

5. Quorum and Voting.

A. A simple majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

B. Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the Board may be taken without a meeting, if proper notice of the proposed action is given and submitted. If a response has not been acknowledged within a three day period, this would constitute a yes vote. Electronic mail is an accepted form of communication.

6. Resignations or Removal.

A. An officer or board member may resign at any time. The resignation shall be made in writing and shall take effect at the time specified therein. The acceptance of a resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

B. During the term of office, an officer shall be eligible for removal by a vote of the Executive Board after unexcused absences from three (3) Association functions including board meetings and/or failure to fulfill the required duties of the office as specified in the policy code.

7. Board Vacancies. The President Elect shall fill a vacancy in the office of the President. Other offices shall be filled by appointment by the President with the approval of the Executive Board and shall extend until the end of the term of office being filled.

V: Nominations and Elections

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) Pinellas ECA members.

2. The immediate past president shall chair the Nominating Committee. Two (2) members shall be voted from the floor.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the nominating committee to provide in writing the duties and responsibilities of the office as stated in the policy code to the candidate. The written consent of candidates must be obtained and the candidates must be members of Pinellas ECA.

4. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to present a slate of candidates for the offices to the Executive Board for their approval and for publication on a mailed ballot.

5. No member shall serve on the Nominating Committee more than two consecutive terms and no Nominating Committee member shall be nominated for an office.

6. The election of the ~~Vice President~~ **President-Elect**, Vice President of Membership, Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Editor shall occur in even numbered years. The election of the Vice President of Programs, **Vice President of Public Policy**, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, ~~Hospitality Chair~~, and Member-at-Large shall occur in odd numbered years. The nominee for President Elect shall have served on the Executive Board.

7. Elections shall be accomplished by May of each year by mail vote

8. Officers shall assume their responsibilities on June 1st.

VI: Committees

The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall have the power to appoint such committees and their chairpersons as necessary to carry on the work of the Association. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

VII: Revisions and Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or in part at any time by a majority of the vote at any meeting of the Association; provided that a copy of any amendment proposal for considerations shall be mailed or electronically mailed to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting, **or** approval of the members through a mail or an electronic mail vote. The President with the consent of the Executive Board shall appoint a committee to review the Bylaws in odd numbered years.

VIII: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall be July 1st through June 30th

IX: Dissolution of the Association

1. A recommendation for the dissolution of the Association shall be adopted by a three-fourths vote of the members of the Executive Board and be submitted in writing to the membership. The recommendation shall be approved by three-fourths of the members voting on the issue.

2. In the event of the dissolution, the residual assets of this organization will be distributed to one or more 501 © (3) organizations selected by the Executive Board, for example ~~FLAEYC ECA of Florida~~.

It is also members who vote for persons in positions of the board. It is important that you are comfortable with who your leaders and spokespersons for this industry are and to make sure you and Pinellas ECA are well represented. A non response will constitute a yes vote. Please send in a letter with any nay votes to Pinellas ECA 2869 54th Ave. St Petersburg Fl. 33714 or email your vote to: President@Pinellaseca.com

	Yes/Accept	Nay/Decline
Bylaw Changes	_____	_____

Slate of Officers for Executive Board

June 2011- May 2013

		Yes/Accept	Nay/Decline
Recording Secretary	Margie Rose	_____	_____
Member-at-Large	Sharon Kruzer	_____	_____
Vice President			
Of Public Policy	Marcia Seibert	_____	_____

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you for a fabulous turn out for the Annual Winter Conference for the Pinellas Early Childhood Association. From all the comments that I heard the participants received great information from the Presenters. Beth Block was enlightening and informative as well as entertaining. Luci Malinski, Patty Lister, Angela Loring and Jori Massarsky all brought valuable insight and solutions for the Child Care Community. Thank you so much to all of our presenters. I apologize to any one who wasn't able to get in at the door on Saturday morning. Pinellas ECA did offer Saturday registration as an option, but we did not anticipate the large numbers that pre-registered and space was limited.

We Need You for the Inspirational Workshop!

I want to bring your attention now to the Inspirational Workshop coming in September (It will be here before you know it). We are looking for Teachers who would like to present a curriculum unit with all the bells and whistles that go with it.

In order to participate you will need to provide the following four requirements:

1. week worth of lesson plans and they must be tied to the Fla. Performance Standards
2. Examples of resources.
3. The integration of all the domains, i.e. math, science, language, etc.
4. Examples of the children's work and photographs of the children at work.

You will not need to have a spoken presentation, but you will need to be prepared to answer questions as people pass your table.

Directors, your Teachers will need your support because this is a time for your teachers to shine and reflect well upon your school. I am sure every Teacher has a unit that they look forward to doing every year because it is so successful. Teachers can learn from each other and the whole experience can be inspiring for both the Presenter and the Observer. The Curriculum Fair will be held in North County this year. Please consider participating and contact me at vickie@northwoodpc.org for further info.

A PRESCHOOL TEACHER... created by Tc

W	O	D	J	U	T	P	E	P	U	E	X	I	G	E	L	K	K	B	C	P	J	A	H	B	P	M	H	T	H
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A	C	T	I	V	E	N	L	J	N	T	E	W	E	X	A	I	R	S	G	I	B	I	U	B	U	L	W	N	D
S	B	V	R	A	W	Z	B	G	J	O	N	N	S	H	A	J	X	U	H	Z	K	I	N	B	F	Z	E	P	L
F	Y	O	N	Z	W	W	K	M	W	K	E	B	P	Z	T	D	U	U	C	S	F	L	C	J	X	R	J	X	F

WORD BANK

- PATIENT
- ACTIVE
- THANKFUL
- RESPECTFUL
- LOVING
- POSITIVE
- ADVENTUROUS
- ANIMATED
- COURAGEOUS
- RELIABLE
- PEACEMAKER
- IMAGINATIVE
- ORGANIZED
- FLEXIBLE
- AFFECTIONATE
- TACTFUL
- NURTURER
- STORYTELLER
- NURSE
- ROLEMODEL

Do you have all these traits?



Pinellas ECA Goals

Pinellas ECA has a NEW goal that every child in Pinellas County experiences learning through play while supporting the needs for Early Childhood Professionals to meet State Standards and to make learning visible. In order to meet this, the Pinellas ECA Board would like to expand training around the community. If you have a facility that can provide a comfortable adult setting for learning and are willing to open the training to Pinellas ECA members, non-members, and to parents, contact Susan Weber at 727-588-6343 for further information.

DCF Update

Be on the look out for a new sign in process when you log in into the MyFlorida.com/childcare website. In order to make the website more efficient and user friendly, users will be required to enter an email address and that will be used for a future password.



Pedometers:

Thank you to all of the Pinellas County programs who participated in the

Pedometer Challenge. Yes, the pedometers seemed to be a bit inaccurate, but we had a good time anyway! We will be notified of the total number of steps submitted by Pinellas County and will know how much of an impact we were able to have on our legislators!

The total submitted, on behalf of steps taken by Florida providers, caring for Florida's Children, In a one week period February 28, 2011 thru March 4, 2011 was:

17, 296, 259.0

(17 million, two-hundred-ninety-six thousand, two hundred fifty-nine steps)

Save! Save! Save!

November 2 – 5, 2011

If you plan to attend the NAEYC National Conference in Orlando Become a member NOW and save \$10 between membership registration and non membership registration. Enjoy all the benefits for a year while giving yourself \$10 you can spend in the Vendor Hall.



Contact Patty Lister Vice President of Membership

plister@elcpinellas.org

Join the Pinellas Early Childhood Association by

by

visiting our Web Site at ~ <http://www.pinellaseca.org/joinus.html>

Congratulations !

**Temple B' nai Israel
Early Childhood Center**

for

Achieving NAEYC Accreditation

We are proud of your achievement

and

support to quality for children.

Reminder

Do not forget that within 24 hours after a disaster, you are mandated to call and report the condition of your home or center to 211.

**PINELLAS EARLY CHILDHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

**130 RIVIERE ROAD
PALM HARBOR, FLORIDA 33683**



Non-profit Org.

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Permit #4023

St. Petersburg, FL

Books for Sale

Pinellas ECA is now selling mini licensing regulation manuals for centers. We will have them available at all of our workshops and trainings for \$10 each. A discount will be offered for purchases of five books or more at \$7 each. For additional information or to purchase a manual now call Judi Bruckner at 521-6931.

PCLB News - Fingerprinting

Background screening is required for all child care providers.

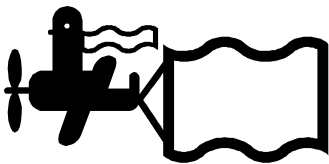
LIVE SCAN is available at Department of Health,
205 Dr. MLK Street North, St. Petersburg, FL at a
cost of \$43.25 per card.

**Checks should be made out to: Pinellas County
Health Department and are by appointment only.**

Please call 727-820-4213 for further details.

Directors Did You Know:

At the end of a licensing inspection you should be asked if you would like to add a comment at the end of report before signing. You have that right! That way when the inspection report is posted online at least you can state what the actual infraction was. For example If you are found in noncompliance for toxics. You can put under comments that a bottle of white out was found dried up in a drawer in the director's office away from children. This is for our protection and should be utilized when needed.



Advertising Opportunity

Pinellas ECA'S Newsletter will soon provide child care centers a resource for child and family friendly vendors throughout Pinellas County

Pinellas ECA is opening it's quarterly newsletter for advertising. Vendors that cater to child care centers, family homes, teachers, Directors and Owners can contact Lori Cole for more details. Those within the child care community will soon be able to find enrichment program providers, fundraising companies, food delivery services, printing companies and more in the newsletter.

This is a way for the Pinellas Early Childhood Association newsletter to be even more of a resource to our child care community here in Pinellas County.

For more information on how to advertise in the next Caring newsletter, send a rate card request to lcole@ywcaoftampabay.org.