

Tidewater Association for Early Childhood Education Newsletter

From the President's Desk

Dear Early Childhood Educators:

March really did come in like a lion, just not one we are used to. This lion has a bad cough and raging fever, has closed many of our schools, left others caring for the children of essential personnel under new safety regulations, and many of us trying to figure out how to home school our own children as well as trying to stay connected to our class' families and children while learning to teach remotely.

Now that we have all had a chance to breathe, how are you? What do you need? Your TAECE board really wants to know how we can help you navigate this new territory. Please go to TAECE.net and contact us with any questions or concerns you might have.

We thought we might begin to help with some fresh ideas to help you and your parents keep our children learning through play. Our preschool has made these connections through phone calls to parents to check on them personally, using FaceTime with children whenever they want to talk to their teachers, class video conferencing through Zoom or Facebook Live, daily activity videos on YouTube, having parents send pictures of their families' social distancing adventures to put on our classes' websites, and sending them other education websites that we love.

We hope some of these ideas help you on your journey.

Blessings,

Laurie Bell, TAECE Board President

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Ideas to Connect with children

BY PRESIDENT LAURIE BELL

YouTube Videos

Did you know that you can have a private or unlisted YouTube channel in which you can control who sees your videos? This was news to me, along with a few other technological learning curves I had to take a crash course in! Our videos are anywhere from 2 minutes to 10 minutes long and have covered the backyard gardening of carrots to go along with a wonderful book entitled *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens, watching the metamorphosis of Painted Lady caterpillars, showing how to make simple crafts at home such as a stained glass Easter egg, going on a backyard egg hunt with letters on them, reading to the class a favorite book, or creating a simple sensory bin using items they may have at home. The sky is the limit! Just pick a theme for a week or two such as Spring Plants and Animals and have fun

Video Conference Calls

Never hosted a video conference call before. Neither had I. Thankfully, Zoom has many tutorials on YouTube which make it easy. When we meet for our live video conferencing we have held a crazy hat day, show and tell, magic letter dance party, and complete my pattern game, just to name a few.

The magic letter dance party idea came from Pocket of Preschool which is one of the sites listed below. You simply play some of their favorite songs from the year and let the children dance away. When you stop the music, everyone grabs a marker and writes the letter you call out or makes a certain sound. The kiddos had a ball and were all actively engaged at the same time. I will host a "Complete my Pattern" activity using Legos or anything with primary colors this week. I will create a pattern or two for the children to make with me and then ask them to complete the pattern. I may even have them make their own patterns for others to complete.



Websites to Support Families

<https://www.prekinders.com/free-home-learning-resources-coronavirus-schools/>

https://www.themeasuredmom.com/10-tips-for-instant-homeschoolers/?ck_subscriber_id=710234967

<https://www.themeasuredmom.com/what-to-do-with-your-preschooler-when-school-is-cancelled/>

<https://pocketofpreschool.com/distance-learning-idea-list-for-preschool-pre-k-and-kindergarten/>

<https://pocketofpreschool.com/zoom-ideas-and-tips-for-distance-learning/>

<https://consciousdiscipline.com>

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/>

<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

<https://www.funbrain.com>

<https://www.abcya.com>

<https://frugalfun4boys.com/>

<https://www.pre-kpages.com/>

Looking Forward

We are looking forward to school opening back up in the fall. Let's hope that the social quarantine will be behind us and we can start the school year fresh and in person. Either way, we will be offering a variety of trainings to help us earn our continuing education credits whether in person or online, if the social quarantine remains in effect. We plan on hosting the following over the course of the 2020-2021 school year:

August/September: CPR/First Aid Training as well as Child Care Specific Trainings through EMTA Enterprises

Fall: Fall Make It - Take It Morning Workshop (a very popular interactive training event)

Spring, 2021: Get Buggy About Spring Mini-Conference



Grants and Awards

The Alice Powell Grant (maximum \$500 for CDA credentialing, college coursework, creating a classroom library, STEM project, or other project of your choice)

Outstanding Service To Young Children in Tidewater Award (given annually in recognition of a significant contribution to the education and development of young children primarily in the Tidewater area)

Pilot Mentorship Program (for teachers/centers who would like to team with another local teacher/center for mentorship in an area of your choice)

Our membership forms will be online at TAECE.net this summer as well as more information about and applications for each of these grants and awards listed above. Only members can apply for our grants, awards, and pilot mentorship program



More Information?

Please check out our website at TAECE.net for more information, dates, locations, and registrations as these are confirmed by the board.

All these events are either free or provided at a reduced cost to our members.

Membership runs from August to August for a nominal \$20 annual fee.

More Involved?

Do you enjoy serving your community and want to help local early childhood educators and their centers be the best they can be? Are you a member of the Tidewater Association for Early Childhood Education? Then you are in luck! You can serve on the TAECE board!

Time Commitment

The board usually meets once a month or every two months depending on the needs of the community and the organization. Currently we meet on a designated Monday evening at 6:45 PM at the Tabb Library Meeting Room in York County. We plan and implement a fall workshop, spring mini-conference, and help educators get the safety trainings (ie: CPR, first aid, etc...) they need to serve our young children. We also provide grants and awards to members through an application process. These awards have helped teachers get their CDA's, paid for classroom makeovers, and provided for many other center needs.

Board Member Roles:

You can serve on the board in a variety of capacities. You can serve as a member-at-large, be a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, historian, treasurer, or even president. You can also serve on a committee such as hospitality, technology, and programs.

Come to a board meeting and see what we are all about. We would LOVE to have you join us!



**We are looking for YOU - are you interested in being a member of the TAECE board? contact:
Laurie Bell, President at
lauriebell1@cox.net
for more information**