

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC)  
"Nurturing the growth and development of early childhood leaders in Southern California  
and advocating for the highest quality of early childhood education for all young children."

## SCAEYC Board 2008-2010

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**Blanca Alarcon**

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Accreditation Chairs

**Betsy Hiteshew**

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Member-at-Large



## President's Message

Dear SCAEYC Affiliate Members,

We hope your new year will bring growth, opportunity and success! Just as we work toward facilitating opportunities for success in each of the families we serve, your professional organization will do the same to strengthen and support you in your professional growth and continuing success.

I joined NAEYC when I was a Child Development major in college. My mother, who was also an early childhood educator, suggested that it would be beneficial to me. I was happy to receive the issues of Young Children and the reduced registration fees at local, state and national conferences. My membership gave me resources to help me be a better toddler teacher and I was happy to just sit back, send in my membership dues and enjoy what I received from the organization. I had a vague notion that there were individuals who did the hard work to make sure that newsletters were produced, conferences were planned and organized, and membership was recruited, but I wasn't sure I had the time to help out and, even though I sort of wanted to be involved, how would I know what to do, or how to do it. I was waiting to be asked.

Many, many years later a friend of mine invited me to participate as a guest in a board meeting of the Communities of East Los Angeles (CELA) chapter, the one my mother had belonged to over the years. CELA was in the reaffiliation process with NAEYC and was looking for individuals who would be willing to serve on one of their committees. As the Director of an NAEYC accredited child care center in Boyle Heights, I agreed to serve as the chairperson of CELA's Accreditation committee, and I had my first real opportunity to see how important the volunteers who serve on the NAEYC boards and committees are to the success of the organization.

In 2004, I got another invitation, this time to serve as the Recording Secretary for the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC) Board. I met the most amazing, dedicated people who were committed to re-inventing SCAEYC from a regional affiliate overseeing all of the local chapters in southern California to a strong affiliate under the new NAEYC rules. In the two years that I was Recording Secretary I had an opportunity to really observe the organization, quietly (?) keeping the minutes of the meetings while things were unfolding around me and I realized how important SCAEYC was as a leader in the early childhood community in southern California.

**SCAEYC-East Valleys**  
announces

**A FAMILY FAIRE**  
**Month of the Young**  
**Child Kick-off**  
**Celebration**

**11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Saturday,**  
**April 4, 2009**

(in the event of rain, event will be held on the next Saturday)

**Parnell Park**  
(Scott Avenue at  
Mulberry)

This event is hosted by  
**City of Whittier**

The City of Whittier also  
celebrates

**Month of the Family,**  
which honors the many  
groups who support  
families and provide  
invaluable information  
and resources.

This event is free\* and  
hosts hands-on activities  
for children and  
provides information for  
families.

\*Additional park activities  
require a \$3 per child wrist band.

For information or to  
register for a table,  
contact City of Whittier  
Community Services.  
562.464.3434

**President's Message** (continued from page 1)

SERVING ON THE BOARD OF SCAEYC HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE FOR ME THESE PAST FOUR YEARS AND I WISH I HADN'T WAITED SO LONG TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THIS ORGANIZATION. SCAEYC IS TRULY ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED EARLY CHILDHOOD ORGANIZATIONS AND AS SUCH, HAS BEEN ASKED TO REPRESENT THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY IN MANY WAYS. AS THE LARGEST AEYC AFFILIATE IN LOS ANGELES, WE ARE REPRESENTED ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILD CARE POLICY ROUNDTABLE. WE SPEARHEADED THE CAMPAIGN FOR HIGH QUALITY EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE PRESCHOOL STANDARDS. WE ALSO PARTICIPATED AS A STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATION IN THE LOS ANGELES UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL DESIGN

PROCESS.

YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND WORK WITH A GROUP OF VERY DYNAMIC INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO CHILDREN AND TO DEVELOPING LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY. DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE THAT I DID AND WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO READ YOUR MIND. COME TO OUR BOARD MEETINGS, VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON A COMMITTEE, HELP WITH THE NEWSLETTER OR WEBSITE, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WE NEED EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS LIKE YOU TO STEP UP TO BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY IN LOS ANGELES.

SINCERELY,

**Lisa Wilkin, President**

**NAEYC and Local  
Accreditation Resources**

Thanks to the feedback and comments that programs have made to the NAEYC Academy about the accreditation process, NAEYC has recently announced the creation of the NAEYC Accreditation Program Support Department. This department was created to work directly with early childhood programs, NAEYC affiliates, and accreditation facilitation projects. The Department, 1 800-424-2460, ext. 3, has knowledgeable staff available to answer questions about the accreditation process. Please call them with your questions.

In addition, the Department can guide you through the resources you may need by using the TORCH. The Online Resources Center Headquarters (TORCH) has valuable resources for anyone without any

cost. You can have access to many of the forms needed to prepare for accreditation. Simply follow the self-registration instruction by going to <http://lms.naeyc.org/iCohere/torch>. If you have any questions, please contact NAEYC at 1800-424-2460, ext. 3.

Locally, for more information about the accreditation process, check out the SCAEYC Spring Conference on May 16th and join us for the scheduled NAEYC Accreditation Workshop! We also want to gather people together who are going through, or will be working on, NAEYC accreditation and want to be a part of a support group. E-mail us if you are interested in participating. We will work together to schedule a time and place for a first meeting and work with you!

**SCAEYC Accreditation Committee**

Blanca Alarcon and Carol Hiestand  
Call or e-mail Carol: 818 886-5531  
or [chiestand@socal.rr.com](mailto:chiestand@socal.rr.com)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CCDAA  
66<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
"Many Voices,  
One Message"  
March 11-13, 2009  
Sacramento Radisson  
Sacramento, CA



[www.ccdaa.org](http://www.ccdaa.org)

IDA of CALIFORNIA  
14th CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 22 -24, 2010

The Riverside Convention Center -  
Riverside, CA



[www.idaofcal.org](http://www.idaofcal.org)

*The CAEYC website hosts  
a variety of useful  
resources.*

*Explore the website, and  
note the opportunities to  
apply for preschool and  
primary teaching  
scholarships!*

[www.caeyc.org](http://www.caeyc.org)



### Annual Conference Information

NAEYC conferences bring together early childhood educators representing many roles—teaching staff, program administrators, students, researchers and teacher educators—to discuss the latest ideas and learn from one another.

*2009 NAEYC Annual Conference  
& Expo - November 18-21,  
Washington, DC*

*2010 NAEYC Annual Conference  
& Expo - November 3-6, Anaheim,*

For details on registration,

log on to [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

or call (800) 424-2460.

### "Together We Make a Difference" Early Care and Education Conference

Saturday, March 28, 2009  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm (Pacific Time)

This year, **Connections For Children** joins with the **Center for Community and Family Services** and **Crystal Stairs, Inc.** to present an exciting, informative conference for early childhood educators.

The 2009 "Together We Make A Difference" Early Care and Education Conference features renowned keynote speaker Jonathan Mooney, author of *Learning Outside the Lines* and *The Short Bus*. The conference offers a wide selection of workshop sessions that will inspire your work with young children. The conference will take place at the **CARSON COMMUNITY CENTER 801 E. Carson Avenue, Carson, CA**

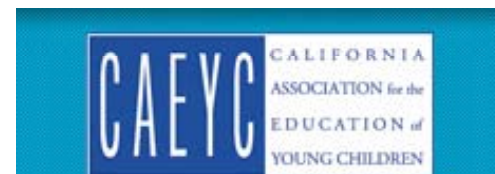
### CAEYC 2009 Annual Conference Information

#### Dates

Conference & Exposition  
Thursday, March 26  
- Saturday, March 28, 2009

#### Conference Location

Sacramento  
Convention Center



It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.

-Albert Einstein

## What's inside a SCAEYC Membership?

Southern California  
Association for the  
Education of Young  
Children (SCAEYC)

Newsletter Editor:  
12113 Parise Drive  
Whittier, CA 90604

FAX:  
562.944.6815

E-MAIL:  
[kpompey@mac.com](mailto:kpompey@mac.com)

### Newsletter Deadlines:

February 28, 2009

April 30, 2009

Future newsletters will  
be on-line. See  
information in this  
newsletter.

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NAEYC, CAEYC &  
SCAEYC ON-LINE!

See us at:

[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

[www.caeyc.org](http://www.caeyc.org)

[www.scaeyc.net](http://www.scaeyc.net)

scaeyc coming soon!

Increase your awareness of and engage in conversations regarding current events and trends in child development; garner ideas to increase your classroom or administrative effectiveness; revitalize yourself with laughter from hilarious and actual classroom glimpses; receive the latest publications (with a comprehensive membership), and *YOUNG CHILDREN*, the NAEYC publication, and your local affiliate newsletter(s); know the people who can lead you to job opportunities and career ideas...and more. A membership in a strong and vibrant professional organization provides a valuable personal investment, whether you are a student, new teacher, or seasoned mentor. Log on to the member site at [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) and make time to join, rejoin, or renew. We will look for you at meetings and events. (And Board Meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month!) We will be the ones with the nametags

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### SCAEYC Calendar—*Looking Forward*

**February 21, 2009** – Region 5 “**Job-A-Like**” for all members interested in leadership positions. SCAEYC Board will meet at 8:00 a.m. at this event on the **Santa Monica College Bundy Campus**

#### **SCAEYC Board Meeting Schedule**

All meetings are open to all members and are held at:

CDCLA  
1930 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 602  
Los Angeles, CA 90057  
Validated parking and refreshments provided. Please RSVP to Lisa at [lisaw@cdcla.org](mailto:lisaw@cdcla.org)

March 21, 2009	9:30 AM
April 18, 2009	9:30 AM
May 16, 2009	9:30 AM
June 20, 2009	9:30 AM

The Public Policy Committee frequently meets immediately before each Board Meeting at 8:00 AM at the CDCLA office. Please join us to learn about what is happening in Early Childhood in our communities and in California, and what we can do to impact public policy affecting children. RSVP to [kpompey@mac.com](mailto:kpompey@mac.com)

#### **APRIL 4 (SAT): SCAEYC-E.Valleys MONTH OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

**11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.**

**Parnell Park , Whittier**

**Info:** Kathleen 562-907-4937

#### **MAY 7 (THURS): TEACHER RECOGNITION DINNER-E.Valleys**

**Info:** Kathy Holguin 909-466-0530

SCAEYC NEWSLETTER  
12113 PARISE DRIVE  
WHITTIER, CA 90604

## LOOKING TOWARD A GREENER TOMORROW! IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT FUTURE NEWSLETTERS!

In the coming months, the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC) will be launching new internet features and a website that will enhance your experience with professional development programs, resource links, communication and events.

In the interest of encouraging both an economical and ecological approach, beginning with the next newsletter, and hopefully prior to the summer, all communications to members will be sent out via e-mail only, unless otherwise requested. To reach our members who do not have access or availability to the internet, hard copies of the newsletter will still be mailed by written request.

If you have not yet updated your naeyc membership with your current e-mail address, or think that we do not have your e-mail address on file, send us a note at [scaeyc@gmail.com](mailto:scaeyc@gmail.com) with the subject: Update to Member Email Address.

Should you wish to continue to receive hard copies of the SCAEYC Newsletter and other member communications through the mail, you may indicate your preference for a mailed copy and send your request to the SCAEYC office at [cnca@naeyc.org](mailto:cnca@naeyc.org).

### CAEYC REGION 5 (That's US) -- JOB-A-LIKE WORKSHOP

*You are an AEYC member (or want to be). You are a leader (or hope to be). You want to know how seasoned affiliate leaders handle the various tasks and responsibilities. You want to LEARN.*

*You want to LEAD. You want to CONNECT. This is for YOU!*

*Students welcome. No charge to attendees. (AFFILIATE NOTE: \$25 per affiliate.)*

DATE: Saturday, February 21, 2009

PLACE: Santa Monica College, BUNDY Campus, 3171 S. Bundy Drive, Los Angeles - ROOM 339

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

8:00 a.m. SCAEYC Board Meeting

9:00-NOON JOB-A-LIKE

Affiliate leaders: Invite board and committee members and give Dan the list of attendees.

RSVP no later than February 13 to Dan Savage at [Daniel.Savage@ca.rr.com](mailto:Daniel.Savage@ca.rr.com)

**In Memory of Tireless Child Advocates****Tom Hunter**

As a frequent presenter at local, regional, state and national conferences for the Association for the Education of Young Children, Tom Hunter was no stranger to setting the tone, and having just the right words each time we had him grace our affiliate events. He warmed hearts and opened eyes as his quick wit and good humor filtered into his songs, even as they were growing from the ideas and moments with the crowd. Tom loved and shared in ways that every parent wishes for his/her child to do as an adult.

The sad news of Tom's illness and subsequent passing trickled into the hearts of members who shared a deep and abiding history with him. Many were grasping for words to express gratitude and love for the immense joy and pure refreshment he infused into a complicated world. Much of what we know about children, families, life, love, joy and the full range of emotions was enhanced while being around Tom. He brought the best of music and life to everyone who came in contact with him, whether through his music or the example of his life. His music, still available, relevant and touching, is available from the Song Growing Company ([www.tomhunter.com](http://www.tomhunter.com)), and will continue to enliven adults and children's hearts. His songs will be as timeless to adults and children in the future as on the day the songs were written from Tom's vibrant, loving and caring spirit.

**Esther Sutton**

Persistent and dedicated, loving and kind, Esther Sutton remained tireless in her passion to recruit and sustain members for SCAEYC, especially encouraging an interest in understanding how public policy affects daily work with children and families. If she wasn't in legislators' offices, she was writing or calling just to update them, cajole them or compliment them. Members hold dear to their hearts the shared memories of trips to Sacramento and lively visits to committee meetings with Esther. She was always reminding us to

“write a letter.” So, now we will continue to write, in her memory and in her honor, and to do the right thing for children.

## Helen Coffey

Helen taught those who knew her with her every word, her every interaction. Her involvement with the League of Women Voters, SCAEYC, and various other organizations promoting active awareness of children's issues drew us into her world and her work. Helen and husband, Bob, volunteered tirelessly in many community organizations, helping countless numbers of children and their families. If you had ever been to their home, you will recall the joyful, warm and sincerely inviting atmosphere, coupled with energy to complete the tasks at hand. Helen willingly and generously shared, provided a model, and left a dynamic legacy.

**Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children-East Valleys  
Cal Poly Pomona Children's Center**

Present

## **The Humanity of Our Work with Children**

*A Teacher Appreciation Dinner*

*To Inspire Us, Nurture Us, and Uphold the Nobility of Our Shared Work*

*with Children and Their Families*

*Featuring*

**Norma Verdugo Stryker, M.A.**

Associate School Director, Lead Kindergarten Teacher

The Broad Oaks Children's School of Whittier College

**Thursday, May 7, 2009**

**Cal Poly Pomona University**

Bronco Student Center, Ursa Minor (Building 35)

Parking for the evening will cost \$5 per car and can be purchased at Parking Lot C.

Parking is available in Lots C, D, & G. For driving directions go to [www.csupomona.edu](http://www.csupomona.edu)

*CHECK-IN 6:00 P.M.*

*Dinner*

*6:30 P.M.*

*Keynote 7:15 P.M.*  
*Adjournment 8:00 P.M.*

**Cost: \$20.00 PER PERSON INCLUDES FULL ITALIAN DINNER, SPEAKER, NETWORKING, DOOR PRIZES.**

**BRING:** YOUR ENTIRE STAFF, a PHOTO BOARD to showcase your school, 10 COPIES of one of your own HUMOROUS "KID-STORIES" to share. We WILL share our stories, our work, our smiles, and our joys.

**Deadline for Reservations: APRIL 20, 2009**

**Checks/money orders only, and payable to: SCAEYC-East Valleys.**

**Reservations are limited and accepted in the order received.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: KATKY HOLGUM (909) 466-0530**

**MAIL RESERVATIONS AND CHECK TO: XROSXA MCDANIELS, DIRECTOR  
 THE SEEDLING SCHOOL, 1035 West HARRISON Ave., CLAREMONT, CA 91711**

**Email: [xmcdaniels@fookillcde.org](mailto:xmcdaniels@fookillcde.org)**

**INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

**SCHOOL Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DIRECTOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendee(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Include names of each attendee. Add a separate sheet, if needed.**

**How Many? Meat Lasagna# \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Lasagna# \_\_\_\_\_**



### **RAND Community Conference on Early Childhood Issues**

Thank you to RAND, the Santa Monica Child Care and Early Education Task Force, Principal investigator Lynn Karoly, Ph.D., a senior economist at RAND, Assemblymember Julia Brownley (D-41), Nick Ippolito, Children and Social Services Deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe (Chairman of First 5 LA), and Nancy Strohl, Executive Director, The Child Care Law Center, for a fascinating and informative conference. For those unable to attend the January 31 RAND conference on Early Childhood issues, **the SCAEYC office has a set of research materials available for review during board meetings.** Interested in purchasing your own? Log on to: <http://www.rand.org/pubs/online/children>.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

*The Changing Face of the United States*

*The Influence of Culture on Early Child Development*

By Beth Maschinot, PhD

ZERO TO THREE's mission is to support the healthy development and well-being of infants, toddlers, and their families. We are a national, nonprofit, multidisciplinary organization that advances our mission by informing, educating, and supporting adults who influence the lives of infants and toddlers.

**BOOK AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM ZERO TO THREE ([www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org))**

Herrold, K., and O'Donnell, K. (2008). *Parent and Family Involvement in Education, 2006–07 School Year, From the National Household Education Surveys Program of 2007* (NCES 2008-050). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. Washington, DC. August 2008

NCES World Wide Web Home Page is: <http://nces.ed.gov>.

NCES World Wide Web Electronic Catalog is: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch>.

The National Household Education Surveys Program website is:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nhes>.

*The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data related to education in the United States and other nations. It fulfills a congressional mandate to collect, collate, analyze, and report full and complete statistics on the condition of education in the United States; conduct and publish reports and specialized analyses of the meaning and significance of such statistics; assist state and local education agencies in improving their statistical systems; and review and report on education activities in foreign countries.*

### ***Setting the Agenda for Children Report Card '09***

**Children Now** is a nonpartisan research and advocacy organization working to raise children's well-being to the top of the national policy agenda. The organization focuses on ensuring quality health care, a solid education and a positive media environment for all children. Children Now's strategic approach creates awareness of children's needs, develops effective policy solutions and engages those who can make change happen. [www.childrennow.org](http://www.childrennow.org) Phone: 510.763.2444 Email: [info@childrennow.org](mailto:info@childrennow.org)



## **World Organization for Early Childhood Education**

**OMEPE** is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization concerned with all aspects of early childhood education and care (ECEC).

**OMEPE** defends and promotes the rights of the child to education and care worldwide and supports activities which improve accessibility to high quality education and care.

**OMEPE** is currently established in over 60 countries and is represented at meetings of UNESCO, UNICEF, and other international organisations with similar aims.

*OMEPE is the World Organization for Children's Rights, Wellbeing, and Early Education  
Whittier College is home to the First Collegiate Chapter.  
All events at no charge. More information or RSVP to Kathleen Pompey at 562-907-4937.*

### **FILM SERIES (RSVP- FREE PIZZA!)**

Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Broadoaks Preschool Building

Parking at the lot adjacent to 13514 Olive Drive, Whittier, CA 90601

“Katrina’s Children,” a powerful and moving documentary about Hurricane Katrina

and its aftermath told through the eyes and in the words of children.

Wednesday, April 15, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Broadoaks Preschool Room

*Parking at the lot adjacent to 13514 Olive Drive, Whittier, CA 90601*

“Invisible Children” exposes the effects of a 20-year war on the children of Northern Uganda. These children are forced to fight as a part of violent army live in fear of abduction by rebel soldiers.

### **AWARENESS WORKSHOPS FOR THE COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY**

Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 5:30- 7:00 p.m.:

Workshop on the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

### **FIELD TRIPS**

Tour of California Capitol and Interviews with Legislators and Staff  
Focusing on Child-related Issues + Activities in the CAEYC Child Advocacy Center

*Sacramento, California*

March 26 and 27, 2009

### **CHILD ADVOCACY**

Broadoaks Children’s School and OMEP “Children Helping Children” Projects

*Throughout the year, OMEP members work with Broadoaks children  
on projects to help children in need, both nearby and in far corners of the world.*

### **PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD CONGRESS ON CHILDREN**

August 2010 in Goteborg, Sweden with Dr. Judith Wagner, OMEP-USA

## Investing in kids a smart bet

By Ginger Swigart  
From [dailynews.com](http://dailynews.com)

As the nation and California struggle through an economic crisis, a new administration and Congress gear up to make choices for our future. The right choice to strengthen our economy is to invest in children.

It is imperative that high-quality, affordable, and accessible early childhood education becomes a priority in state and national investments and policy-making. Focusing our efforts on early childhood education both at the grass-roots level and on a national stage will ensure the strength of America today and in the future.

James Heckman of the University of Chicago and Arthur Rolnick of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota are among some of our nation's top economists who agree that the investment in early childhood education leads to a significant return.

Thomas F. Cooley, a dean of the New York University- Stern School of Business wrote in [Forbes.com](http://Forbes.com), "Education, as we all know, is a cumulative process. Thus, calling for a highly educated implies, almost by definition, that individuals receive both early childhood development and a solid education from kindergarten on up."

Cooley also echoed research proving that children who receive proper early childhood development and education in areas like language, motor skills, social skills and emotional support are less likely to drop out of school, commit crimes and require government support later in life.

Simply put, investing in early childhood education lays the foundation for children to succeed in school, work and life.

The California Association for the Education of Young Children strongly believes that our nation cannot wait any longer to make a high- quality, well-financed system of early childhood education a priority in every state and community. Investments in the Child Care & Development Block Grant and for Head Start would help hardworking families, while saving future expenses for them and the nation.

For eight years, early childhood education has not been adequately funded, yet costs to run and maintain child- care facilities and early learning programs have increased at a faster rate than inflation. Several states have instituted cutbacks in their child-care- assistance policies since February 2008. Here in California, we've seen many proposed cutbacks to early childhood education and child- care assistance as our leaders continue to try to find solutions to our state's budget deficit. The economic woes of California can be seen in several other states and will only be countered by a local, state and nationwide commitment to strong, high-quality early childhood education.

Investments in early childhood education would also keep and create jobs in early childhood, which is an economic sector as well. This is also a critical time for investments in human capital and the creation of a vibrant work force. According to one study, by making it possible for parents to work, the licensed child-care sector allows Americans to earn more than \$100 billion annually. A thriving early childhood education field leads to three thriving work forces: families who depend on child care to work, the early childhood work force that would continue providing the care and education, and the future of children who are benefiting from the programs.

As we move forward as a nation in solving California's, and our nation's, economic troubles and building upon what works, early childhood education must remain a priority. Supporting children is not just the right thing to do; it is one of the smartest investments we can make for our nation's future.

*Ginger Swigart is the president for the California Association for the Education of Young Children.*