

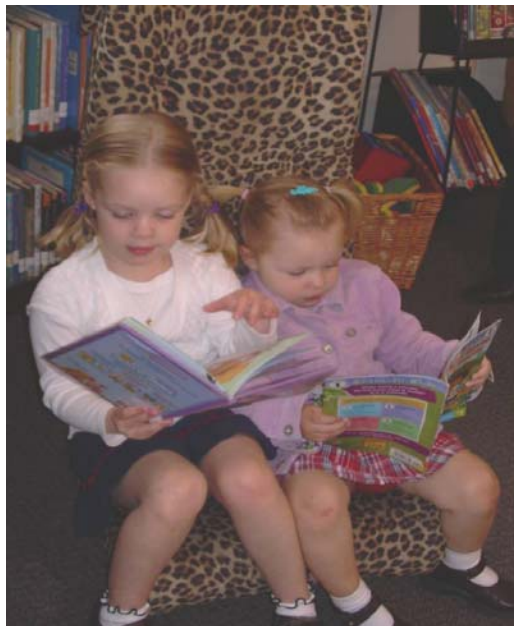


ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Mission Statement:

The mission of KITE is to ensure that all families with young children in Enfield have knowledge of and access to quality early care and educational opportunities both in and outside of the home.

KITE works to heighten awareness and the use of local resources that promote a well-rounded and quality early childhood experience. We aim to have a community that understands and values the importance of children having the chance to enter kindergarten well prepared to learn.



Committee Accomplishments

Transition to Kindergarten/Quality Enhancement Committee

- ◇ Week of the Young Child 04/20-04/24/2009
- ◇ The Intentional Teacher: Using the CT Preschool Curriculum Framework 04/23/09

Community Outreach Committee

- ◇ Held two meetings with Enfield Faith Leaders, chaired by the Superintendent of Schools. From these meetings:
 - Seven faith leaders used our “Six Sundays from the Pulpit” messages at the beginning of the school year.
 - Created a web base of faith leaders who share KITE information with the families with young children that they serve.
- ◇ A sub committee was formed to reach out to area pediatricians, and a plan has been developed to connect with them in January; the anticipated outcome of this union is the formation of a Developmental/Psychosocial Screening process that will be used by area pediatricians.
- ◇ Continue to provide resources for parents, grandparents, and caregivers through the KITE kiosk located in the mall.
- ◇ KITE set up tables outside of all kindergarten classrooms for this year’s Parent Teacher Conferences. Parents were surveyed and KITE information was distributed.

Parent Advocacy Committee

- ◇ Held monthly meetings in order to give parents a mechanism to advocate for issues that are important to them.
- ◇ Developed and created informational brochures as a resource for parents and distributed them to key areas in the community.

Community Planning Committee

- ◇ Planning and preparation for formal planning process to promote the well being and early learning of the children in Enfield.
- ◇ Developed list of prospective members of committee
- ◇ Actively working with the Community Assessment Workgroup identifying and analyzing local unmet needs and strengths of the community.

Summary of the Year

Early Education Fair

This is a yearly event to give families information on a variety of programs geared towards young children including preschools, family child care programs, recreational programs, assistance paying for child care, and social service agencies. It was held on Saturday March 7 at Asnuntuck Community College and 26 programs participated including 13 early childhood programs. There was also representation from the Enfield Public Library, the Fire Departments who also had information on car seat safety, Moms Club, Enfield Neighborhood Services, Nurturing Families, Community Health Center, HUSKY, Care for Kids, and the Family Resource Center. Face painting and other activities were provided for children. This event has grown since its inception in 2005 and was very well attended this year.

Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten:

Each spring KITE partners with the Enfield Public Schools to offer an informational night for the parents of incoming kindergarten students. Parents rotate through centers while Kindergarten Teachers, Occupational Therapists, and Language Arts and Math Teachers demonstrate activities parents can do at home to help prepare their child for kindergarten. At the end of the evening parents are given a bag filled with all of the demonstrated activities. They also receive information on transitioning their child successfully into kindergarten. Each year about 250 families attend this event. Evaluations indicate that parents find the evening extremely helpful.

Outreach to Faith Based Leaders

KITE and the Enfield Public Schools realize we can not wait until children enter our schools at age five to start connecting with them and their families. Faith Leaders see children beginning at birth in many cases, and have established trusting relationships with their families. With this in mind, KITE began coordinating meetings between the faith based leaders in our community and the Superintendent of schools. The meetings provide an opportunity to share information and find ways we can all work together for the good of young children in our community. Some of the outcomes of past meeting have been the creation of "Six Sundays from the Pulpit"; a series of short announcements read for six weeks from the pulpit on the topic of parent involvement in education, and the creation of a faith based email list for KITE to efficiently disseminate information to be shared with families.

Summary of the Year (continued)

Outreach to Pediatricians

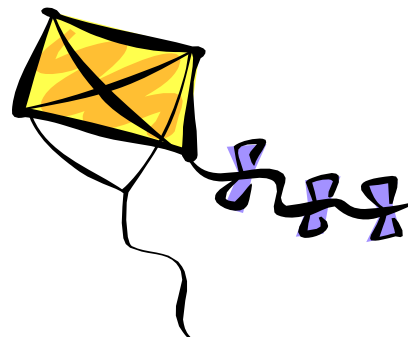
With the help of Dr. Calnen, an area Pediatrician, KITE has developed a plan to engage Enfield pediatricians in the important work of assuring that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn. In January 2010 all pediatric practices will be visited by either the Mayor, Chairman of the Board of Education, or the Superintendent of schools, along with a member of KITE. At these visits, the physicians will be invited to a dinner. We have invited Dr. Ann Milanese, a well regarded Developmental Pediatrician to speak at this dinner. Those attending will be asked to join a task force to look into the feasibility of area practices doing developmental/psycho-social screenings on young children.

Community Conversation

Community Conversations are designed to create a productive dialogue among a broad cross-section of community members that will help citizens become more informed about particular issues and set the stage for effective community actions on behalf of those issues. Enfield held its 5th Conversation on March 25, 2009 thanks to a grant from Community Mediation. The topic was the Kindergarten Experience and there were 57 attendees. Three groups of participants held lively discussions around the issues surrounding Kindergarten including the curriculum length of day, and expectations for readiness. Feedback from surveys was positive and the majority of participants wanted there to be more conversations about the issue in the future. We were fortunate to receive another alumni grant and will hold another conversation in March 2010.

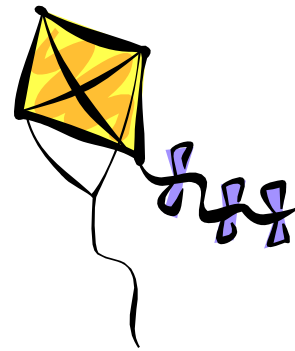
Family Day 2009

In September KITE had a booth at this Year's Family Day on the Town Green. A craft was available for children to do and information about KITE, Early Education, and Parenting was handed out to adults. This event provided an opportunity to connect with parents and help to build our name recognition.



Book Buddies Program

In 2009, the Enfield Fire Departments participated in the Book Buddies Program. The purpose of this program is to promote early literacy in the town of Enfield. Every kindergarten student received a new book. Deliveries were made by Enfield Fire Fighters on the Fire Trucks to area schools in the Spring and Fall of 2009. The names of the books delivered are Fire Bears The Rescue Team, Firehouse Fun and Clifford the complete collection.



Parent Leadership Academy

KITE is proud to announce that this is the fifth year the Parent Leadership Academy is being offered. Each year, for the past four years, twelve to fifteen parents have graduated and are giving back to the community in many ways. Applications are currently being accepted for this year's class. The theme for this year is: *Face Great Challenges, Find Great Success*. The Academy is a twelve-week course open to all parents, grandparents and primary caregivers who reside in or has a child who resides in Enfield. The Academy provides professional seminars and hands-on training in public speaking and communication, collaboration and networking, effective teambuilding and more. During the leadership seminars, participants explore their leadership style and develop their leadership qualities with the ultimate objective of empowering our graduates to use his or her talents to benefit their families and the Enfield community, at large. In addition to the weekly leadership seminars, participants are required to plan and complete a community project, which further enhances their leadership development.

What is the Week of the Young Child?

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 90,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we--as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation--will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

How KITE Celebrated the Week of the Young Child...

KITE celebrated the Week of the Young Child from April 20-24 2009 at the Enfield Square Mall. The WOYC, which is sponsored by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is an annual week-long celebration which focuses on the needs of young children and their families and highlights early childhood programs and services that meet their needs.

KITE participated in the celebration by providing a model early childhood classroom in front of Macy's. Our purpose was to offer an environment for children and parents where they could learn and play together as well as explore the types of materials and activities you might find in a quality early childhood classroom. Our classroom was furnished with low shelves, tables and chairs and learning materials from Asnuntuck Community College's Sensory Motor Room. The classroom had areas for reading, puppet play, blocks, manipulative toys, music, art and sensory play. Throughout the week many families and a local preschool group visited the classroom and engaged in learning and play. The week's festivities also included the kickoff location for "Enfield Gets Ready For Kindergarten" and a presentation on car seat safety.

Financial Report 2009

Unaudited 2009 Income

◇ Graustein Memorial Fund	\$ 20,000.00
◇ Mass Mutual Grant	\$ 750.00
◇ Town of Enfield	\$ 2,500.00
◇ Fundraising & Gifts	\$ <u>1,198.00</u>

Total \$ 24,448.00

Unaudited Expenses:

Total \$ 25,721.54

Enfield

KITE

Key Initiatives To
www.enfieldkite.org

**Early
Learning
Matters**

Early Education

