

KIDBIZ NEWSLETTER
November 2011

A Newsletter for Early Childhood & Child Care Professionals

Brought to you by:
Patricia Dischler
Author, Speaker, Child Care Professional

www.patriciadischler.com

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I attended the NAEYC conference this month in Orlando – Wow! What an enormous event! It took me 15 minutes just to walk from the Exhibit hall to my workshop room to present. I think everyone who attended should get at least one day off from their weekly workout schedule! It was a wonderful event, and I met so many great people in this field. It's always so nice to meet in person and get a chance to really get to know each other. My only regret was I missed meeting Kevin Henkes by about one minute – he lives near me and I was really looking forward to it but by the time I made the hike back from my session he had left for the day.

Don't forget to look below for this month's gift with purchase code and instructions!

*Hug a kid for me!
Patricia*

Invitation to Lead

At the 2012 NAFCC Conference in Las Vegas, the board gathered for a day of training and at one point went around the table to share their stories of how their journey to their leadership position began. As story after story was told, a theme began to emerge: at some point in their career, someone had reached out and encouraged them to take that step up to the next level.

I think we can learn two things from this. First, that we should all be open to this opportunity. When someone invites you to your first conference, or your first national conference, or your first board meeting, or your first advocacy event – say YES. All too

often we talk ourselves out of these opportunities by telling ourselves that they are only for the “leaders” – those who have already reached those levels. Not true. They are for everyone who cares about the work they do. Do you care? Then you qualify. So say YES! You don’t have to know what a conference is all about, you don’t have to be an expert on being on a board, you don’t have to know all your legislators – you don’t have to know everything others in that group know. But what you have to know is that you want to learn. We encourage our children to be life-long learners, right? Doing these things, taking a chance on the next level of involvement, is how we practice what we preach.

I served on a board for 2 years before knowing what words “Roberts Rule” meant. I went to my first national conference having never heard of Tom Copeland. I had my first face to face meeting with a senator about a child care policy issue just one week after going online to find out who my senator was. But each time, I took the chance because I was passionate about learning more, doing more. I wasn’t sure WHAT I was going to do, I just knew I wasn’t going to continue to do nothing. In other words, take a chance on yourself, you might be surprised.

The second lesson I think we learned that day the board shared their journeys, was that it’s important to reach out and take someone’s hand, to let them know you’ve noticed them, that you see potential. Invite someone to join you at a conference, to come to a board meeting, to join you as you advocate. It’s not about pushing someone, because pushing puts them farther away from you. It’s about pulling someone in. Letting them know you are there to answer their questions as they start up those steps but that you believe in them so much that as you make that journey up the steps, there may even be a time where you will step to the side and encourage them to go even farther up those steps then you did.

I’ve had several people who did this for me. Peggy Haack reached out to me and encouraged me to join the WFCCA board and Early Learning Coalition. Sharon Mras reached out and invited me to join her at my first NAFCC Conference. And board members at NAFCC that had pulled me to them were the ones who also the ones who suggested I run for President. I have been blessed and honored by these individuals and it’s my goal to do the same for many others. So let me start here...

I want to personally invite each and every one of you to attend the NAFCC Conference next July in Atlanta Georgia. I’m not doing this because I’m hoping to raise our attendance, or because I think it’s an amazing conference with incredible learning opportunities, I’m doing this because I will never forget being a new provider, with no idea how to do a single thing in my business except love children, and the day my friend Mary Anderson called me up and asked me to join her support group. That was my first step. I know from experience, and the stories of all our board members, that we all need someone to reach out that hand.

I feel so strongly that attending the NAFCC Conference will become a step to your potential as a leader that if you decide to go, I want you to send me an email

(pdischler@wildblue.net) and I will make sure we get a chance to talk at the conference about your experience.

I also want to invite all the current leaders, whether you've just taken a step in this journey or are an old pro, to do the same and find someone to reach out to. Invite them to a meeting or conference and see what happens.

I'm posting this on my blog as well, and I invite everyone to post a comment to let me know you've accepted these invitations, and share the stories of how you either invited someone to lead, or accepted the invitation yourself.

We've all got leadership potential. I can't wait to see yours!

To post your comment, visit my blog at: <http://celebratefailures.blogspot.com/>

Tips and Tricks

I made something new this week and I think it's a perfect activity for the kids to make really special looking holiday treats – cookie balls! No oven needed, just a microwave.

The concept is simple:

Take a package of store bought cookies, put in a Ziploc and let the kids bang it until they are mashed into crumbs. (Perfect for the toddlers!)

Mix it with a cup of something soft (cream cheese, frosting or peanut butter)

Use a small cookie scoop to scoop up and shape into balls. Freeze on a cookie sheet.

In a small glass bowl, melt chocolate chips in the microwave. (About 2 min. for 12 oz. bag) You can use milk chocolate, white, dark, or even butterscotch or peanut butter chips.

Toss a frozen ball into the melted chocolate and use a fork to cover it and pick up, draining away excess chocolate. Place on wax paper covered cookie sheet. (Tip: use a fondue fork to push it off the regular fork onto the paper for less mess.)

Top with sprinkles, or after a minute dip the fondue fork on the top and pull up quickly to create a chocolate swirl on the top.

Use your imagination to come up with endless flavor combinations:

Mint Oreos, cream cheese, covered in milk chocolate.

Nutter Butters, vanilla frosting, covered in peanut butter flavored chips

Vanilla wafers, lemon frosting, covered in white chocolate.

Get some pretty little fluted paper cups to put them in, place in a white bakers box decorated by the child, tie with a red ribbon, and you've got a great holiday gift!

IN THE NEWS

Start now to plan to attend the 2012 NAFCC Conference –

Join me in Atlanta, Georgia! Easy layaway plan available, check it out at: www.nafcc.org and I'll see you there!

Met some great vendors at NAEYC, check these guys out!

The SoyNut Butter Company www.soynutbutter.com

BONGO Bi-Lingo Buddy www.Bi-Lingo.com

My Children's Treasures, Inc. www.MyChildrensTreasures.com

The BookVine for Children www.bookvine.com

iActive Learning www.iActiveLearning.com

H&H Products 100% Juice www.hartleysbrand.com

Mark Enterprises Insoles www.markenterprises.com

Massaging Insoles www.massaginginsoles.com

Asia Kids www.asiaforkids.com

Culture for Kids www.cultureforkids.com

Families of the World www.familiesoftheworld.com

Syracuse Cultural Workers Tools for Change www.syracuseculturalworkers.com

Kid Carpet www.KidCarpet.com

This makes me think of something – what vendors would you like to see at the NAFCC Conference? Email me your ideas and I'll be sure our conference chair see them!

THIS MONTH'S SALE ITEMS

November Sale Item: Because I Loved You – 30% Off!

This is my memoir, a very personal story of love. I share my journey through an unexpected pregnancy when I was 21, a choice for open adoption, and the trail-blazing years where my son's adoptive parents and I built a loving, respectful relationship that has become the roadmap for others to follow. Whether your life is touched by adoption or not, I guarantee this book will touch your heart. A great holiday gift! And since November is National Adoption Awareness month, it's a great time for a sale!

Regular Price: \$16.95 Sale Price \$11.87

December Sale Item: Patty Cake Preschool Parent Handbook CD - \$10 Off!

Just in time to beef up your contract before the new year, this CD has the entire 50 page Patty Cake Preschool Parent Handbook on it for you to use as a template for creating a Parent Handbook that really works! On a Word file, you can find the places in bold to replace my information with yours and start your next year out on the right foot with all the parents you serve!

Regular Price: \$25.00 Sale Price: \$15.00

Order yours today at: www.patriciadischler.com or www.KIDBIZResources.com!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Taking time for Family until the New Year, but my spring calendar is filling up fast so call now to book me for your next keynote or R&R training!
- NEW! I've been doing school bookings for awhile, but getting more organized with it because it's something I love to do! To learn more about bringing me to your child's school to inspire the emerging writers there check out www.patriciadischler.com/school.htm
- If you are a member of a group planning a training event and would like to book one of my keynotes or workshops, visit the Lecture page on my website and contact me for availability. Visit www.patriciadischler.com/lecture.htm.

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Patricia Dischler
Author, *From Babysitter to Business Owner*, *Because I Loved You*, *Tips and Tricks* and *The Patty Cake Kids & The Lost Imagination Cap*.
www.patriciadischler.com

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