**National Association for the Education of Young Children**

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) works closely in early childhood education, programs, and care facilities. The organization promotes high-quality, affordable childcare that is staffed by appropriate individuals with knowledge of the development of children. The group also encourages people with diverse opinions to share their ideas and thoughts, and for others to listen to their opinions respectfully. Supporting early childhood education teachers and consistently help them to grow in their knowledge is another strong ideal of the organization. The ultimate purpose of NAEYC is to ensure excellent childcare for every child, regardless of his or her circumstances, and to assist educators in their workings with children.

**Services:**

* Professional Development: NAEYC has many different resources for professional development of people who are or will be working with children and families. Some resources include online learning, face-to-face training, conferences, and training DVDs. This service would be excellent for profession as, when I am become a teacher, I will constantly need to develop my skills and abilities in the classroom and outside of it.
* Family Site: The organization has a website dedicated to families interested in NAEYC accredited schools and in helping their children learn and develop. The website features many different articles on an array of topics for both parents and families. This website could be one I recommend to parents who interested in learning more about how they can assist in their child’s learning outside of the classroom.
* Code of Ethical Conduct Tool Kit: This kit has links to different presentations and documents about using an ethical code of conduct in one’s profession. The kit could be used by teachers, parents, and schools to define what will appropriate behavior in interactions and discussions in the school and with each other. Knowing the Code of Ethical Conduct is very beneficial to me, as it can help me to facilitate proper behavior in my discussions with others and with my teachings in the classroom.

**“Exploring Gender Identity in Early Childhood Education through Story Dictation and Dramatization, “ by Jeff Daitsman**

This article by Daitsman comes from observations Daitsman made in classroom about how his students viewed gender roles in stories and his research on this subject for the next few years. I found this article incredibly interesting as many children begin playing out their gender “roles” as they play and learn in the preschool classroom. I thought the subject was thoroughly researched and provide numerous examples and other researched data to support the conclusions. I liked that Daitsman worked in other classrooms bedsides his own and had some teacher collaboration for the observations; I feel by doing these things, he kept his research more objective. I would certainly love to read more on this topic and, perhaps, any follow up research Daitsman or another professional may have conducted.

**Administration for Children and Families**

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is program under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that promotes empowering families in their independence and well-being. ACF works with individuals and communities in working to create a secure environment for children and families. The organization also focuses on general human services and finding solutions to problems in communities. ACF focuses on needs of people in vulnerable situations and how ACF can alleviate their struggles. ACF’s goal is allow everyone to make use of its numerous program and promote a better, safer, more economic environment for everyone in the U.S.

**Services[[1]](#footnote-1):**

* Children Services: ACF has numerous programs designed to help children and adolescents, including Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Intervention, Foster Care, Head Start, and Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention. All these programs involve bettering children’s lives and increase education about child development and appropriate childcare. The services not only help children, but also their parents and families. As these services come from the government, I can trust in the security of them and work with some of the services as I become a more educated person in the early childhood education field.
* Communities Services: These programs focus on the development and funds of communities and include services such as Community Economic Development, Rural Community Development, and Compassion Capital Fund. Theses programs would benefit whole communities, but would probably work with community leaders and representatives rather than families directly. By knowing the community resources available to the families of my future students, I can better understand the construct of the community and, therefore, better understand the operations of the schools in the area.
* Developmental Disabilities Services: These ACF programs concern individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Some programs in this section include Projects of National Significance, State Protection and Advocacy Systems, and State Councils on Developmental Disabilities. I could use these programs to increase my knowledge about developmental disabilities and the different research about them.
* Families and Low Income Individuals Services: The services under this category focus on assisting families and people who have low incomes with such programs as Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood, Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals, Assets for Independence, and Family Violence Prevention and Services. If I am in a low-income area, I may use some of my knowledge about these programs to better understand the families affected by low income. I could also use the services are recommendations for appropriate programs that help families.

**Head Start**

Under ACF, Head Start is an organization that helps low-income families afford high-quality, appropriate childcare and enhance their children’s school readiness. I have heard of Head Start previously, as there is a Head Start program in the Arlitt Center, the preschool on the University of Cincinnati’s campus. The program looks at the whole family rather than just the individual child, which I believe is part of its success. By understanding that the environment at home is just as important as the environment in the class when it comes to the development and learning of a child, Head Start is truly a great program. I personally believe Head Start is exemplarily that other programs could look to for guidance.

**The Center for Effective Discipline**

The Center for Effective Discipline (CED) is organization focusing on using educating people about alternative ways to punish children instead of corporal punishment. CED uses research about the dangers of spanking educate people about this types of punishments can be for a child. The group also has a page about religion in which personal statements from people in religious communities speak out against using corporal punishment. CED has entire page encouraging people to inform themselves about effects of such punishments and how to spread the information they have learned. The purpose of CED is to end violent punishments and to better educate people about alternatives.

**Services:**

* What Can I Do?: This page provides information for parents and any interested people about facts concerning corporal punishment, ways they can write to people about their concerns, and what both kids and parents can do to help prevent more of this type of punishment. This page might useful to me for ways that I can safely and appropriately correct my students’ behavior in the classroom.
* Answers for Parents: This page has the contact information to CED so that parents may directly talk to a person about their concerns. A book about spanking is also linked on the page if parents want to learn more. In my position, I could use the page to contact someone and ask him or her about my concerns regarding some of the people discipline their children.
* Links, News, Laws, and Religion: These pages give numerous information about corporal punishment and provide other sources that parents or anyone interested can look at. These pages would be excellent resources if I needed to learn more about the harmful effects of corporal punishment and if I needed to recommend more information about such a topic.

**“NAPNAP Revises Position Statement on Corporal Punishment”**

The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) now believes that corporal punishment should be eliminated from places where the children are cared for or educated. While this article was short, I thought it was interesting in that I thought NAPNAP would have already had this stance on corporal punishment. I liked that NAPNAP recommends parenting practices that lead to children being self-disciplined. I think that helping your child realize what is right and what is wrong is more important than punishing them every time they do something bad. I wish this article had gone a little more in depth about the research and findings that lead to the statement change.

**ZERO TO THREE**

ZERO TO THREE is an organization that focuses on the first three years of a child’s life. The group uses research and clinical experience in creating its programs and in its promotion of infant and toddler development. The organization uses the understanding that experiences during infancy can positively or negatively affect the child as he or she develops. ZERO TO THREE approaches the development of infants in a holistic way, as every aspect of their development is important. The organization’s purpose is to help every infant and toddler fully reach his or her potential and develop appropriately.

**Services:**

* Behavior and Development Section: This section of the website provides parents with information about children’s development, including pages on Play, School Readiness, Early Childhood Mental Health, and Health and Nutrition. This section would be useful to not only families, but also anyone who may be caring for an infant or toddler. I could use these pages to better understand the development of children and apply that to teaching them in the classroom.
* Maltreatment Section: This section includes information about the trauma caused by maltreatment and court teams that specialized in stopping maltreatment. Anyone could benefit from reading this section, but especially those working with infants or toddlers that may have experience maltreatment. I would use this section to learn more about the court teams and how to contact them about any maltreatment that I suspect might be occurring with one of my students.
* Care and Education Section: This section focuses on preparing children for school and how to care for them appropriately. The three pages of this section are: Child Care, Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care, and School Readiness Interactive. These pages would benefit anyone who works with or cares for children. As a teacher, I would use this page as a recommendation if parents want to know more childcare and what school readiness means.

**“Using Questions to Support Your Child’s Learning,” by Rebecca Parlakian with Claire L. Lerner**

I thought this article was interesting because it should different ways that you can use questions to facilitate not only learning but also language skills, curiosity, and discovery. The examples provided a solid showing of how the questions and interactions can be used to help your child learn. I like that this article calls it “supporting your child’s learning” because that really shows an understanding that children learn so many things on their own. Parents should encourage the natural learning and the questions because they are allowing the children to reach their young learning potential. The article was inspired by a conference session, which made a bit curious about more information regarding this topic.

1. Three other services are supported by ACF (Human Trafficking, Native Americans, and Refugees), but they do not directly relate to the more general topic of child development or education [↑](#footnote-ref-1)