

North American Reggio Emilia Alliance Formed

On Wednesday, November 20, 2002 during the NAEYC annual conference in New York, the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) guiding board hosted a meeting at the Hilton New York Hotel. The focus of the meeting was the emerging identity, history, current status, the new NAREA web site and opportunities for membership. The meeting included representation by Reggio Children, and introduction of board members and the executive committee of NAREA.

IDENTITY

The North American Reggio Emilia Alliance is a network of educators, parents and advocates seeking to elevate both the quality of life and the quality of schools and centers for young children.

MISSION

- To promote and defend the rights of children, educators and families, of all cultures and class, to exemplary early childhood experiences.

PURPOSE

- To further advance the image of young children, educators, and families as fully intelligent citizens with rights to education, resources, respect and democratic participation.

GOALS

- To strengthen open access to professional development through a variety of communication tools, including periodicals such as *Innovations*, newsletters, flyers and web sites.
- To strengthen open access to resources, including research and literature, through a variety of communication tools, including periodicals, newsletters, flyers and web sites.
- To create professional development initiatives in response to particular needs and requests.
- To strengthen professional relationships among members.
- To serve as a conduit for dialogue and exchange with Reggio Children, Italy and other international organizations who promote the rights of young children.
- To consistently recognize and value diversity by encouraging participation of all cultures, class and type of early childhood program.

The NAREA board invites you to become a member of this exciting new organization. For information about membership, contact Vicki Jacobs, e-mail: vlj6769@aol.com or log onto the NAREA web site: www.reggioalliance.org