



A Manner of Speaking

It happens, of course. You bump along thinking that you know who you are. When others see you, you assume that the you they see is the you that you think you are. And then comes the moment when someone or something shatters your perceptions. Messages have been garbled. Somehow the you in the world and the you inside are perceived as different.

My moment occurred at the NAEYC conference this past November. Chattering away at people in our booth, I was challenged about the editorial intent of our magazine in the area of diversity. Specifically, did we intentionally seek out articles written by white authors? Did we intentionally omit or ignore authors of color?

I was speechless. Couldn't they see that in our photography we present a wealth of beautiful and diverse faces? That our covers reflect the diversity of people and programs in our field? Didn't they hear our anti-bias, anti-racist undergirding principles? Didn't they know how important living and working respectfully and honorably in the world is to us?

So I listened and tried to be calm, and we talked. When the heat of the moment subsided, I was still upset. We work hard to live up to our mission statement:

Child Care Information Exchange is committed to supporting center directors in their efforts to craft early childhood environments where adults and children thrive — environments that foster friendship, curiosity, self-esteem, and joy; where parents are welcomed and respected; where the talents of all staff members are fully challenged and justly rewarded.

We do everything we can to support the work of ALL directors and teachers and to improve the quality of child care for ALL children. We attend conferences to meet and learn, seeking out new ideas and searching for directors to recognize and authors to recruit. We make hundreds of phone calls and send out thousands of questionnaires asking about current issues, real center solutions, people to share ideas.

Child Care Information Exchange is and always has been open to ideas, opinions, people, experiences. We want our magazine to be your magazine — we want it to truly be a vehicle for the exchange of information, ideas, resources.

If this is not how you see us, then tell us. Inform us about your issues. Tell us about conferences you think we should attend. Write us about programs we should visit. Send us the names and addresses and phone numbers of people who should write articles. Send us ideas that work in your center.

When you call us or write us, we will listen. Your voice will make us better. That's what an exchange is all about. 🧩

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