

EARLY CHILDHOOD

MINISTRY RESOURCES



September 30, 2026

For Participants in LEA's Early Childhood Network



Effective November 1, 2026, there will be a slight increase in membership dues. This is our first dues adjustment in four years. This change allows us to invest directly back into our community by expanding our resources, upgrading our offerings, and continuing to deliver the high-quality value you expect. Take advantage of our current pricing now! Renewing early ensures you keep your current rate for the upcoming year while having full access to all our expanding benefits and features. To renew, go to <https://tinyurl.com/LEArenewal>. If you have any questions, please email lea@lea.org.

Play is one of the most natural and powerful ways preschoolers develop problem-solving skills. In early childhood education settings, what looks like simple play is actually complex thinking in action. Children are constantly testing ideas, negotiating with others, adapting to challenges, and discovering how the world works through hands-on experience. Learn more about the importance of play at [Encouraging Cooperative Play and Problem Solving Skills with Preschoolers](#). (Maddie Hutchison in *Building Blocks*)

Piaget is still relevant for understanding the development of children's minds if we are interested in big questions like how do thinking and logical reasoning develop? His work remains important because he was ahead of his time in thinking about how children develop new, valid knowledge, beginning with their actions on the world – an insight that is currently receiving new attention. Read about it in [Piaget's Theory of Childhood Development: A Foundation for Current Understanding of Children](#). (Charlie Lewis and Jeremy I. M. Carpendale in *Child and Family Blog*)

Looking for a book to use in your classroom/center? This week, LEA highlights:

Bailey... The Little Diva

By Lanie Jones

Pawprint Village Press

2026

Bailey enjoys bows, beauty time, and having everything in a particular order and place. Some may think that she is opinionated and dramatic regarding life. When you get to know her, though, her friends see a beautiful side of her, which is gentle, loyal, and full of love. This book is part of a beautiful six-book series, written and illustrated by an early childhood educator, about real-life dogs.

“[Starting the New School Year: Seeing and Serving Unique Learners](#)” by BJ Wiemer is this month’s *Shaping the Future* article. She writes about how best to help all your students succeed this year as they learn in your classroom.

Don’t miss these weekly LEA resources...

[WOW Video](#)

[Weekly Devotion](#) by Ed Grube

[The LEArning Curve Blog](#)

[What Works For Me Podcast](#)

Disclaimer: LEA shares resources from various sources; we encourage you to review them through a Lutheran perspective for use in your ministry.

To unsubscribe, log in to your account at the LEA [Infohub](#):

To post or reply ecenet@listserv.cuchicago.edu

Past Issues: Search the archive [HERE](#).

Contact LEA: 7400 Augusta Street, River Forest, IL 60305 | 708.209.3343 | lea@lea.org | lea.org

Linking, Equipping, and Affirming