

Friends Early Childhood Educator Award - 2010

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) believes that each individual has an “inner light,” or spirit, which is unique to them. We also believe that excellent teachers identify the inner strengths of their students and speak from their own strengths to the strengths of the student. This communication builds healthy relationships from which learning can best proceed.

Friends accept that we are all unique and that we learn in different ways. Therefore it is important to develop a learning environment that is respectful, safe and encourages different learning styles.

Award Criteria: The nominee should be an educator of children ages zero to six, currently working in the Bradford County region. The person making the nomination (can be a self-nomination) should demonstrate the nominee’s ability to:

- Identify the strengths of each child and work with those strengths to build a caring teacher-student relationship.
- Create a safe learning environment that enhances each child’s ability to learn in various styles and encourages imagination and creativity.
- Manages care and/or classroom teaching on the basis of cooperation, reason and mutual respect and relates equally to children of diverse backgrounds.

The 2010 Friends Early Childhood Educator Award winner (or winners) will be selected by qualified judges named by Towanda Friends (Quaker) Meeting. The winners will be announced at the April 23, 2010 Learning Early Network Conference the Sayre Theatre. The Friends Early Childhood Educator Award winner and their center or school will equally share:

- \$1000 award from the Barclay Friends Education Fund

Applications/Nominations: Nominations for the 2010 Friends Early Childhood Educator Award will be accepted between February 2, 2010 and until April 9, 2010. Nominations should be mailed to Towanda Friends Meeting, Early Childhood Educator Award, PO Box 85, Towanda, PA 18848.

There are two steps required for a nominee to be considered for the Friends Early Educator Award.

1. The person making the nomination should prepare a one-page letter of nomination that gives reasons for the nomination and connects to the award criteria.
2. The nominee should prepare a more informative Award Application that includes the following.
 - a. Name, address, phone number, e-mail address
 - b. How do you identify the strengths of each child and work with those strengths to help with the child’s learning process?

- c. Give two examples of children you have taught who had different learning styles and how you enhanced their learning through those styles.
- d. Give an example of how you manage your classroom on the basis of mutual respect.
- e. Any other information you feel will help the panel judge your application.

Note:

- Award information will be published and listed on the website for the Learning Early Network (www.learningearly.com). The Jan Carpenter Award is another early childhood educator award listed on the website. It is acceptable to apply to both awards, but no one person will be allowed to win both in a particular year. Once a person has won the Friends Award or the Jan Carpenter Award, they will be ineligible for winning it in a subsequent year.