Writing and Publishing Articles and Blog Posts for Aspiring and Established Early Childhood Authors

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What we Publish

Exchange's story

NAEYC's story

What do I want to write?

Who do I think will read it?
What topics are you interested in writing about?

- Directors
- Teachers
- Faculty
- Families
Our assumptions

- You are an educator, graduate student, program director or advocate in the early childhood field.
- You may or may not have written an article or blog or had your writing published.
Our assumptions (continued)

- You may have always wanted to write or something may have inspired you to want to write now.
- You have a message that needs to be heard.

How do I begin to write an article or blog?

- Ask yourself: What can others learn from me? What topic am I passionate about tackling?
- Identify and read other articles or blogs on that same topic
- Identify publishers that specialize or have an emphasis in early childhood education
- Read the publisher’s instructions for submitting a proposal

How do I begin to write an article or blog? (continued)

- Identify your interest or passion
  - What part of this topic do you want to share with the field?
  - What makes your expertise or perspective unique?
How do I begin to write an article or blog? (continued)

- Identify your audience
  - Who are they and what do they want to know?
  - Match the tone and approach you use to the audience
  - Find an article or blog similar to the one you want to write
    - Tone
    - Audience

The writing process

- Set aside time to write daily
- Ask a colleague to give you feedback
- Make time to research your idea
- Attend conferences, and read to learn about trends in the field
- Develop a support network
  - Colleagues to give feedback
  - Writers' workshops
  - Local writers' organizations
  - Connect with others using social media

How do I select the right publisher for my article or blog post?
Writing guidelines

Before submitting
- Familiarize yourself with the publisher’s guidelines
- Know the publisher’s focus, the gaps in that publisher’s content, how your article will fill the gap or fit with that publication

What publishers want to know
- Briefly describe your topic: the “Pitch”
- Why is there a need for this article or blog post (why will people read this)?
- What else has been written on the topic and how is your approach different or complementary?
- Why are you qualified to write this?
- Do you have a personal story or something unique to add?

What should I include in my submission?
Exchange Submission guidelines

- 1200-1800 words
- High-resolution images, if applicable
- Author bio and headshot
- References/Resources
- submission@childcareexchange.com

Submission guidelines: Young Children

- http://www.naeyc.org/writeYC
- peer-reviewed
- reflects current knowledge base/research
- provide practical strategies for teachers
- developmentally appropriate practice

Submission guidelines: Young Children

- Brief articles, personal stories, viewpoints and opinion pieces: 500-1500 word limit
- General and cluster articles: 1000-3000 word limit
Submission guidelines: *Teaching Young Children*

- [http://www.naeyc.org/writeTYC](http://www.naeyc.org/writeTYC)
- Primary audience is preschool teachers
- Easy to read ideas teachers can try
- Research-based
- Include photos!

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Submission guidelines: *Teaching Young Children*

- [http://www.naeyc.org/writeTYC](http://www.naeyc.org/writeTYC)

1. **Tips:** - 300-500 words. See [10X Good Job Alternatives](http://www.naeyc.org/writeTYC).
2. **Articles:** 500-1200 words. See How [Process Art Supports Preschoolers](http://www.naeyc.org/writeTYC).

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Submission guidelines: *Families*

- [http://www.naeyc.org/writeFamilies](http://www.naeyc.org/writeFamilies)
- Family audience
- 500 words - online content
- Focus on children’s learning and development (not other parenting topics)
Submission guidelines: NAEYC Blog

- [http://www.naeyc.org/writeBlog](http://www.naeyc.org/writeBlog)
- Educator audience
- 500-1000 words
- Timely topics, topics that connect to NAEYC initiatives, topics that promote discussion

Poll #3

What is the publisher’s process for evaluating an article or blog post?

- Varies by publisher
  - Exchange process
  - NAEYC’s process
What does the editorial process look like?

- NAEYC’s process
- Exchange's process
- Exchange Writing Mentors
- Roles and responsibilities

What does the design and production process look like?

- NAEYC’s process
- Exchange’s process
- Roles and responsibilities

Helpful websites (continued)

- General
  - 10 Best Organizations for Writers: [http://www.everywritersresource.com/10-best-organizations-for-writers/](http://www.everywritersresource.com/10-best-organizations-for-writers/)
  - Major Writers Organizations from Writers and Editors: [http://www.writersandeditors.com/major_writers_organizations_57419.htm](http://www.writersandeditors.com/major_writers_organizations_57419.htm)
  - Getting Published (Starting Out) from Writers and Editors: [http://www.writersandeditors.com/getting_published_starting_out_57653.htm](http://www.writersandeditors.com/getting_published_starting_out_57653.htm)
Questions from the audience

Thank you!
Contact us if you have additional questions:
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