2010 was a very busy year for the staff of Stony Brook Child Care Services. In addition to our usual work with children, families and students we were engaged in the final steps of achieving our NAEYC accreditation. The center was first accredited in 1991 but the process was significantly overhauled since our last re-accreditation and was radically more labor intensive and demanding. The NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) was founded in 1926 and is the world’s largest organization working on behalf of young children. NAEYC sets and monitors standards for high quality programs and accredits programs meeting these standards. Currently, NAEYC reports that only 8% of early childhood programs have attained Accreditation.

Accreditation is a four step process that requires all staff teaching and administration to be fully involved in all phases; Enrollment / Self Study, Application / Self Assessment, Candidacy and Meeting the Standards. The process occurs over a 2 year time span. In the past year, teachers and administrators worked on compiling the portfolios that document SBCCSI’s compliance and high quality. Each classroom created an individual portfolio documenting over 250 Criteria in the 10 Standards ranging from Curriculum and Teaching, to Health and Safety. The program portfolio addressed all 10 Standards including Teachers, Families, Physical Environment, Community Relationships, and Leadership and Management. Our final step in the process occurred at the very end of August (the first two days of SBU’s Fall semester!) when our assessor spent two days observing every aspect of our program and reviewing portfolios. Programs are only given 24 hours notice prior to the assessment visit date. Results can take up to 3 months from a visit but we learned 14 days after our visit that not only had we met all the criteria for accreditation but all our scores were above 90%, even some 100’S!
I came to Stony Brook as an 18 year-old undergraduate with my 1 year old in tow. We spent 4 fabulous years at Stony Brook and my daughter was enrolled in the childcare center the entire time. With a Gates Millennium Scholarship in hand, we left Stony Brook in 2002 so that I could pursue a master’s degree in Higher Education at the University of Vermont. Upon graduation, I immediately went into the Education Research Ph.D. program at the University of Virginia. I wanted to combine my love for higher education, mentoring, and research. Therefore, I became a college professor. Since 2007 I have been at UNC Wilmington where I teach Research Methods courses to masters and doctoral students. As a parent, I want to thank all the staff for their love and care. I still have Vicky’s "artwork" magnet on the refrigerator from the time she brought it home from Clark. Recently, I hung the clay hand that she made at 3 years old (at Benedict) in my bedroom. I am sincerely grateful to Stony Brook Child Care on so many levels.

-Michelle Parker
During our recent Staff Development Day, The Early Years institute presented a workshop titled 'Keeping Media in Mind'.

Did you know....?
- According to a survey in 2003, 90% of children under two have a television in their bedroom.
- 40% of infants watch screen media regularly by the time they are three months old.
- In 2007, 6 to 8 year olds spent only 16 minutes per day on creative play.
- Children ages 8 – 18 years old spend 10.75 hours per day with media.

Here are some creative suggestions to do with your children instead:
- Color
- Visit your library
- Look at photo albums
- Make instruments
- Sing songs and dance
- Have children tell you a story and you write it down
- Play hide and seek
Room 2

Kid Quotes:

“I have skills in my body that are not working right now”. (doing a puzzle) ~ Amanda

“When you’re in preschool you practice stuff”. ~ Sara W.

“Are you running? (while running) "I’m pretending". ~ Avery

Congratulations to Claire on her engagement!

Congratulations to Jessica on her baby girl due in January!
Room 5 had their annual Fall Festival on November 5, 2010. During that week our children were busy making water color leaves, leaf collages collected from nature hikes and talking about the changing season. We were also busy cooking spaghetti squash, pumpkin muffins and apple crisp. We even tried new fruits; pomegranate and quince. On November 5, we had our annual Paper Bag Parade and marched through the building playing our musical instruments finishing off with a yummy feast in our classroom.

Room 8

So much has been going on in Room 8. We will give you a quick peek into our room. On a happy note, we welcomed Will Fedak as a Teacher. He is an excellent addition to our team. On a sadder note, Katie Larkin will be leaving us after 4 years as a teacher to begin her next journey in an LPN program at Farmingdale State.

Cameron, Stella, Matteo, Justin and Nora have been busy with activities such as water play and foot painting. They are also exploring their world and their new found freedom of rolling, sitting up, and crawling all over. Annabelle and Emily are busy "walking" everywhere. There is no stopping them! Lucy, Charlie and Autumn have been busy entertaining the other children during lunch with their great sense of humor. Once they get started everyone soon follows along.

Mia, Alexis, Mikayla, Jax, Michael, Tunde, Kai, Ben and Melody have been working hard fixing things with tools. They also enjoy doing flashlight dancing.

All of the children enjoyed our Fall pumpkin patch. We did many activities with the pumpkins and gourds as well. We counted and sorted them, painted them, washed them during water play, and cut them open. We felt the inside and scooped out the seeds. We used many of our senses while learning and exploring with them as well.
Room 3

This winter the children will begin a science theme. They will be learning about various science concepts by conducting experiments. Some of the experiments will be:

- Dancing noodles
- Shake up
- The Mentos Mystery
- Load the drop the depth charge
- The Co2 Myth

We also want to take this opportunity to welcome Ru-Jun to PreK3!

Room 4

Pickle Recipe:

- 2 cups white vinegar
- 8 tbsp sugar
- 4 tsp mustard seed
- 4 tsp salt
- 4 cloves garlic (sliced)
- 4 tsp dried dill weed
- 4 bay leaves
- 1-2 large cucumbers unpeeled, sliced

Bring vinegar, sugar, mustard seed, salt and garlic to a boil. Boil until sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and add dill weed and bay leaves. Add cucumbers, garlic and bay leaves to glass jar. Pour vinegar mix into jar. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Kid Quotes:

Grace: “Maybe one day when you grow up you can be a kid like me”.

Diana: (while playing hide and seek) “Where’s Maksym”? 
Maksym: “I’m hiding”.

Kid Quotes:

“I like Hedi. Hedi Spaghetti...I want meatballs”.
~ Elijah

“I’m not done with my milk. I still have 2oz left”.
~ Ru-Jun

Janet: “What does daddy do at work”?
Rachel: “Eat”.
Janet: “Anything else”?
Rachel: “Wash his hands”.

Room 1

Kid Quotes:

“How can I get my child to sleep in her own bed”?

Sharon: When dealing with infants and toddlers have them nap in their crib or bed during the day to help them get used to it. One of the most important things is consistency. Establish a regular bed time and routine with your child. Try giving them a warm bath and then cuddle reading a book or two to relax them before saying goodnight.

Room 3

“Ask Staff”

“How can I make drop off easier”?

Josefina: “For the preschool age, it typically works well when the parent comes in and reads a short book or does a quick puzzle with your child before leaving”.

Kid Quotes:

“Maybe one day when you grow up you can be a kid like me”.

Diana: (while playing hide and seek) “Where’s Maksym”?
Maksym: “I’m hiding”.

Kid Quotes:

“I like Hedi. Hedi Spaghetti...I want meatballs”.
~ Elijah

“I’m not done with my milk. I still have 2oz left”.
~ Ru-Jun

Janet: “What does daddy do at work”?
Rachel: “Eat”.
Janet: “Anything else”?
Rachel: “Wash his hands”.

Room 4

Pickle Recipe:

- 2 cups white vinegar
- 8 tbsp sugar
- 4 tsp mustard seed
- 4 tsp salt
- 4 cloves garlic (sliced)
- 4 tsp dried dill weed
- 4 bay leaves
- 1-2 large cucumbers unpeeled, sliced

Bring vinegar, sugar, mustard seed, salt and garlic to a boil. Boil until sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and add dill weed and bay leaves. Add cucumbers, garlic and bay leaves to glass jar. Pour vinegar mix into jar. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Kid Quotes:

Grace: “Maybe one day when you grow up you can be a kid like me”.

Diana: (while playing hide and seek) “Where’s Maksym”? 
Maksym: “I’m hiding”.

Kid Quotes:

“How can I get my child to sleep in her own bed”?

Sharon: When dealing with infants and toddlers have them nap in their crib or bed during the day to help them get used to it. One of the most important things is consistency. Establish a regular bed time and routine with your child. Try giving them a warm bath and then cuddle reading a book or two to relax them before saying goodnight.

Room 3

“Ask Staff”

“How can I make drop off easier”?

Josefina: “For the preschool age, it typically works well when the parent comes in and reads a short book or does a quick puzzle with your child before leaving”.

Kid Quotes:

“How can I get my child to sleep in her own bed”?

Sharon: When dealing with infants and toddlers have them nap in their crib or bed during the day to help them get used to it. One of the most important things is consistency. Establish a regular bed time and routine with your child. Try giving them a warm bath and then cuddle reading a book or two to relax them before saying goodnight.