

The Lydia Year: Learning From Pre-Kindergarten Children in Rural Appalachia
New Book From the Association for Childhood Education International

Olney, MD, April 24, 2009—The Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) announces the publication of a compelling new book, *The Lydia Year: Learning From Pre-Kindergarten Children in Rural Appalachia*, by Connie Green, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. *The Lydia Year* is a collection of vignettes describing the experiences of Professor Connie Green, who returns to the classroom after serving as a teacher educator for 20 years. She wonders—can she engage the children, facilitate their problem-solving skills, and have the courage and energy to devote to the demands of 4- and 5-year-olds? Yes, she intends to be “real teacher” again. Green departs her comfortable college setting to renew and authenticate her credentials as an early childhood expert.

Although the book offers glimpses into the challenges of rural life, the central focus of the story is Lydia, a lively 4-year-old girl, whose delightful smiles and hugs can turn abruptly to screams and kicks. Lydia’s challenging behavior due to her difficult home circumstances creates moral dilemmas and classroom situations that Green must resolve. In order to reach Lydia, Green finds that she needs all of her training and the support of her colleagues and the community.

ACEI is proud that two noted childhood education experts have praised the book. Vivian Gussin Paley, award-winning author and early childhood education researcher, comments in the foreword, “In this story of love and pain and wisdom gained, Connie Green discovers the power of a school community to raise up a child and to teach a teacher.” Nel Noddings, a well-known authority on ethics and care in education, notes, “This is a wonderful account...both heart-breaking and heart-warming.”

The Lydia Year follows one teacher’s journey of courage, love, distress, and growth as she discovers that one troubled child and a newly reborn teacher can realize the full essence of the learning process. *The Lydia Year*

is a captivating tale, a reflection to refresh the veteran teacher and a thought-provoking story for new teachers. Green remarks, “I know that I learned the most from Lydia, this small curly-haired little girl with so many needs, who helped me to keep my heart open and find the courage to teach.”

The Lydia Year: Learning From Pre-Kindergarten Children in Rural Appalachia. Author: Connie Green.
128 pp. 2009. ISBN-978-0-87173-175-3. \$22.00

To order a copy or request a review copy, contact ACEI’s marketing department at (301) 570-2111, or (800) 423-3563.

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The Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) is the oldest professional organization in the world dedicated to the development of the whole child, from birth to early adolescence. Founded in 1892, ACEI is an organization of teachers, teacher educators, and parents whose primary purpose is to promote the inherent rights, education, and well-being of children in the home, school, and community. ACEI publishes the award-winning publication *Childhood Education*, as well as the *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*.