

EDUCATION

NQEC Second in Attendance; Koalaty Kid Plays Role

Over the course of its 12 years, the National Quality Education Conference (NQEC) has become one of ASQ's largest—second in attendance only to its annual World Conference.

Crista Kautz, education market development administrator, believes the strength of the conference shows education is ready to take hold of quality practices.

Until recently, NQEC breakout sessions generally focused on content for administrators, and during the last few years, more content for classroom teachers was introduced. This year, however, all stakeholder needs were addressed with sessions for school board members as well as teachers, administrators and higher education professors.

The final ASQ Koalaty Kid Conference was held in 2003, but Koalaty Kid was visibly present at the 2004 NQEC, with a Koalaty Kid track and a series of school tours.

Koalaty Kid Sessions

One session at this year's NQEC was presented by six teachers, led by Cindy Arkebauer and Carol Schoening, from Rock Island School District in Illinois. All six are Koalaty Kid trainers, and they and other Rock Island teachers contributed to a book called *Quality Across the*

Curriculum—Integrating Quality Tools and PDSA With Standards K-5.

The book incorporates state standards, plan-do-study-act (PDSA) and other quality tools into their favorite lesson plans. The book also includes a CD-ROM with the plans and objectives for each.

Quality Across the Curriculum, edited by Jay Marino and Ann Haggerty Raines, was published by ASQ Quality Press in 2004 and is available at <http://qualitypress.asq.org>.

Another session focused on how McCandless Elementary in Hutchinson, KS, is meeting the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act using Koalaty Kid tools. Now in their second year of the program, the teachers at McCandless aim to one day receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

One way they're working toward their goal is by having the children in their classrooms use quality tools, such as PDSA, basic and expanded lotus diagrams, flowcharts and tree, affinity and fishbone diagrams. The teachers are also using the tools to benefit the school.

For information about the conference, keynote speakers and sessions, visit the NQEC page at <http://www.asq.org/ed/conferences/nqec/index.html>.

HEALTHCARE

Leapfrog Group Releases Hospital Quality and Safety Survey

The Leapfrog Group, a business group seeking improvements in the safety, quality and affordability of healthcare, has released the *Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey*, a national rating system.

More than 1,000 hospitals reported the following in response to the survey:

- Eight in 10 have implemented procedures to avoid wrong site surgeries.
- Seven in 10 require a pharmacist to review all medication orders before medication is given to patients.
- Seven in 10 do not have an explicit protocol to ensure ade-



quate nursing staff or a policy to check with patients to ensure they understand the risks of their procedures.

- Six in 10 lack procedures for preventing patient malnutrition.

- Five in 10 do not have procedures to prevent bed sores.
- Four in 10 lack policies requiring workers to wash their hands with disinfectant before and after seeing a patient.

The survey collects data on hospitals' progress toward implementing practices in four categories: computerized physician order entry, intensive care unit physician staff, evidence based hospital referral and the Leapfrog Quality Index of 27 safe practice areas.

Each hospital's results, updated monthly with data from additional hospitals, can be found at <http://www.leapfroggroup.org>. ➤