INNOVATIONS

Early Childhood Education and Care Workshop Series

2014

Nurturing the Scientists in Ourselves As Teachers

Lucinda Burk, Karen First, Laura Friedman, Yvonne Liu-Constant, & Joanne Pressman

January 23 (Thu) 4:30-6:30PM

"*If teachers can join us in mapping paths into subject matter, they are on their way to being able to do so for children*." – David Hawkins

With the growing importance of STEM, early childhood educators need to encourage scientific exploration in young children, yet we rarely have the opportunity to nurture the scientists in ourselves. Inspired by the work of renowned educators and scientists Frances and David Hawkins, the presenters will share insights gained from interactive sessions with teachers and provide an opportunity for participants to *mess about* with materials.

Storytelling and Story Acting For All

Boston and Cambridge Public School Teachers & Ben Mardell

February 24 (Mon) 4:30-6:30PM

Vivian Paley's approach to storytelling/story acting is used by teachers around the world to promote children's language and literacy skills, social and emotional development, and creativity. Yet some may wonder how children with special needs and children learning English can participate. In this session teachers from Boston and Cambridge Public Schools explain how they help all their students benefit from storytelling/story acting.

Engaging Children and Teachers in the Natural World: Cross-cultural Reflections from Ghana, India and the USA

John Nimmo

March 18 (Tue) 4:30-6:30PM

In a world where children *and* adults have less and less contact with the natural world, how and where do we begin to bridge the gap? What is nature in urban settings? What does nature offer the educational experience? Drawing on experiences in very different ecologies and cultures, John will lead us on an exploration of how play, work, identity, and risk-taking must all be considerations in thinking about children, adults and nature.

Cultivating Play-Friendly Communities

Lisa Fiore, Nancy Carlsson-Paige, David Ramsey, & Fretta Reitzes

April 17 (Thu) 4:30-6:30PM

Societal pressures on children and teachers threaten some fundamental experiences and environments that contribute to healthy development. Preserving and celebrating the wonder of childhood has been the motivation behind efforts to elicit children's innate curiosities, nurture self-discovery and increase self-esteem, and to promote authentic joy in learning. This session presents examples in Boston, New York, and other play communities, highlighting the role of teachers in promoting such communities inside and outside of the classroom.

LESLEY UNIVERSITY

All sessions are free and open to the public, and held at the Amphitheatre, Porter Campus, Lesley University, 1815 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA.
Contact Yazmin Colon Garcia at ycolon@lesley.edu for information and to RSVP.