

June 2017
Follow up from
EVOLVE
EARLY
EDUCATION
2017

Early Childhood Institute of the Hudson River Valley

<http://www.earlychildhoodhudsonriver.com/>



*Cheryl Demuth of
Livingston Street
Early Childhood
Community lead
teachers on a
WALKSHOP!*

“We are early childhood teachers, we are researchers, we are anthropologists, we are child development experts, we are seekers, we are advocates, we are learners, we are mentors, we are a community of practice, we are the friends of children, and we are evolving early education.”

—Carol Garboden Murray

Nature & Children Workshop with Cheryl Demuth



Cheryl shared these resources with us:

1. [Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds](#) advises licensed daycare programs about natural playgrounds and they are in Canada, but they also work in the US, their website and [catalog](#) is a great place to get ideas.
2. [The North American Association for Environmental Education](#) has a great program called [Natural Start Alliance](#)
3. [Rusty Keeler](#)'s website, [EarthPlay](#) and books: of [Seasons of Play: Natural Environments of Wonder](#) and [Natural Playscapes](#)

Reggio Emilia Inspired Workshop

with Maija Reed and Diane Boujikian



Here's what teachers had to say about the workshop on Reggio Inspired Education by **Maija Reed and Diane Boujikian**:

- *Please extend this workshop to a full day!*
- *I am learning about Reggio for the first time and I am interested in documentation and reflection*
- *We need more time to connect and delve deeper. I enjoyed "playing" with new and beautiful materials*
- *It was wonderful to learn about other ways to view curriculum that is interest driven and emergent*
- *I would love a follow up Reggio Materials workshop*
- *This was so inspiring! I suggest a second workshop on Reggio Emilia materials*

Give up teaching so children can **TAKE UP THINKING!**

By Pat Voytko



Here are some thoughts from Pat's workshop on thinking:

There are four ways we often get **IN THE WAY** of thinking:

- We go too fast (PACE)
- We talk too much (COMMUNICATION)
- We don't do enough (FLEXIBLE VIEW POINTS)
- We miss the target (DOCUMENTATION)

Project Zero designed “thinking routines” which are structures that support and scaffold thinking. Thinking routines make the process of thinking visible. Explore thinking on Pat's workshop links:

- [PROJECT ZERO](#)
- [VISIBLE THINKING](#)
- [MIND SHIFT: When kids have structure for thinking, better learning emerges!](#)

Blocks & Literacy Workshop with [Hudson Valley Writing Project](#)

by Elaine Myrianthopoulos and Rebecca Burdett



I attended *Block Play & Literacy* with kindergarten teacher, Rebecca, and preschool teacher, Elaine. They led us through a building workshop that mirrored a week-long process to support foundational literacy. We began by creating denizens out of open-ended materials like cork, feathers, and felt, then were tasked in teams of five to build worlds for these creatures. First, we built with blocks, then refined with accessories like stones and tiles. We shared our creations with the group and wrote about our created worlds before finally breaking them down to reset and repeat. Throughout the workshop, Rebecca shared her experience applying block play and literacy learning in the classroom in an extended elaborate project entitled “Bird Town”, where children eventually elected mayors, wrote laws, negotiated zoning conflicts, and truly experienced their power as citizens. As the workshop concluded we had a great discussion about block play and about our classroom cultures of children and teachers learning together. — Sally Chakwin, *Preschool Teacher, Bard College Children’s Center*

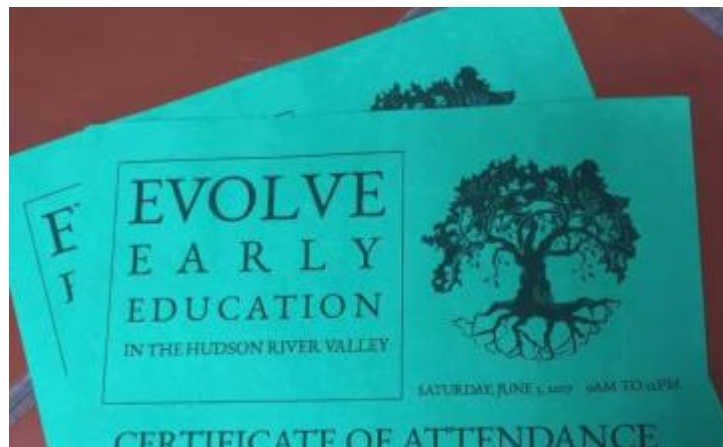


Story: Sanctuary of the imagination

We all appreciated the closing story by author of [Wisdom in the Telling](#), [Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi](#) and it inspired this question, “If we could wish for early childhood teachers everything we wish for young children, what would be on our wish list?”

- Stories
- Friendship
- Beautiful materials
- Good conversation
- Time to think and wonder
- Belonging
- Community
- Fresh air
- Movement
- Listening
- Joy
- Nature
- Sharing
- Play
- Places to imagine

We hope you found some of those things at **Evolve Early Education!**



84 early childhood teachers participated in our conference on June 3rd at Bard College! Let's stay in touch [here](#) and plan more gatherings in the future!