Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children presents

Children: Our Link to the Future

A Conference for Early Educators & Administrators

March 7 & 8, 2014

Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center
219 Littleton Road
Westford, MA 01886

CELEBRATING OUR 10th ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children
19 St. Joseph Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Presented with support of the Massachusetts Association for the Education of Young Children affiliate partners:
Boston AEYC
Cape Cod AEYC
Essex County AEYC
Montachusett AEYC
Western Mass AEYC
Worcester Area AEYC

.5 CEUs available for each day pending approval!
Children are Citizens: Enriching Curriculum, Professional Development and Advocacy in Early Childhood Education

Ben Mardell

Ben Mardell is a professor in early childhood education at Lesley University and was a researcher on the Making Learning Visible Project at Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. For the past 30 years, Ben has taught and conducted research with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and kindergartners. Ben is a co-author of Visible Learners: Promoting Reggio-Inspired Approaches in All Schools, Making Learning Visible: Children as Individual and Group Learners and Making Teaching Visible: Documentation of Individual and Group Learning as Professional Development. He is the author of From Basketball to the Beatles: In Search of Compelling Early Childhood Curriculum and Growing Up in Child Care: A Case For Quality Early Education. Ben enjoys competing in sprint triathlons.

Young children are often seen as simply future or hypothetical citizens. Yet the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child declares that children have the rights to express their “views freely in all matters affecting [them]” and “participate fully in cultural and artistic life.” In short, children not only have the human rights of protection and provision, but the civil right to participate in their community.

This keynote explains how recognizing that children are citizens enriches curriculum, professional development and advocacy by providing examples of such work in the United States and abroad. A framework about how early childhood educators can promote children’s right to participate in their communities will be shared.

Preparing children to participate in a democratic society, one of the primary purposes of education, is often lost in an education climate driven by testing and accountability. Recognizing that young children are citizens challenge assumptions about the capabilities of children and provokes an important conversation about what early childhood education should entail.

Conference Registration Form

Registration closes on February 28, 2014. Register early!

- A free continental breakfast consisting of fresh fruit, assorted fruit breads and muffins, danish and croissant, coffee, tea, and fruit juices will be available in the exhibit hall both days.
- LUNCH In an effort to reduce the price of the conference, we will not be providing lunch either day. We hope that allowing you the option to make your own lunch choice will keep the conference affordable to all.
- There will be two options for lunch: Friday & Saturday: The cost is $20 and must be pre-paid with your registration. The hotel will also offer pre-made sandwiches and salads for sale. Selections will be different both days. Vegetarian options will be available. • Within five minutes of the hotel (by car) are many fast food restaurants. You are free to leave the premises and purchase food to go.
- There will be no refunds after February 28, 2014. Cancellation prior to February 28, 2014 will incur a $25 processing charge, no matter what the circumstances.

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: ________________________________ Phone: _____________________________ E-Mail: ________________________________

Position: ________________________________ Program: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________ City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ______

NAEYC Number (if applicable) ________________________________

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<th>Registration Fees</th>
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A student member is an individual taking two or more college courses at the time of the conference, who is also a member of NAEYC. Student membership is $35.

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<th>Workshop Selections</th>
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In order to qualify for CEUs for the Saturday Conference you must select a workshop in the same core competency area for both the am and pm session.

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Workshops
9:30 A.M.—3:45 P.M.

F-1. Maximize the Effectiveness of Your Salary Budget: Designing a Job Classification and Wage Scale System. Mary Ann Anthony, Director of Child Care Division, Catholic Charities.-Core Competency #8
In many programs pay scales and job functions are arbitrary, and evolved through practice. This workshop will demonstrate why job classification and wage scale systems are critical, what the benefit is to directors, and what the steps are to full implementation.

F-2. Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System: Birth through Kindergarten/An Overview of the tool for QRIS. Mary Police, Educational Consultant –Core Competency #6
We will explore how Teaching Strategies Gold is used to document children’s learning over time as well support, guide, and inform planning and instruction. We will discuss how to use the online tool as well as the paper version.

F-3. Managing Legal Risks in Early Childhood Programs: Online challenges, Use of personal cell phones to Parents Under the Influence. Holly Elissa Bruno, Author, Radio Host, International Keynoter; President of Holly Elissa Bruno Keynotes & Team Building - Core Competency #8
Technology has made the legal challenges more complex for early childhood leaders: Can a teacher use her personal cell phone? What if an employee writes an anonymous blog that is derogatory of your program? Who can be “friended” or texted by staff? Custody issues can also be inflammatory: What if feuding parents can’t agree who should be on the authorized list? What do you do if a dad with custody shows up under the influence, demanding to take his child? Let’s focus on policies, procedures and practices that help prevent legal difficulties as well as how to address troubles that cannot be prevented.

F-4. Language Development and Diverse Language Learners. Maggie Donahue, Inclusive Preschool Teacher–Barnstable Public Schools and Adjunct Faculty @ Cape Cod Community College.-Core Competency #1
This workshop will describe language development, delays, and disorders of young children. The focus will be on making accommodations, creating supports, and planning curriculum to assist children with diverse communication needs. Bring your laptop to create and share visual supports.

F-5. Moving our Children Toward Healthy Lifestyles: Nutrition and Movement Activities to Help Educators Energize their Curriculum. Mary Ellen Rogers, Early Childhood Education Consultant, MCAP Mentor, Retired Director -Core Competency #4
This workshop will address the current obesity threat to our youngest children and the role of ECE educators in providing educational environments filled with exciting activities that support nutrition, physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Be prepared for active, “hands-on” fun!

F-6. Activate your Curriculum. Monica Levy, LeapSmart Director and Certified Trainer -Core Competency #5
You will learn the skills to transform any lesson into an active learning experience for children. This workshop gives you the tools and experience that will empower you with new strategies that will transform the way you approach teaching. Utilizing "Action Cards", as well as creative, hands--on activities you will leave the workshop knowing how to keep any movement activity safe as well as exciting for any size space, how to create learning games that teach math and literacy skills for all learners and much more!

F-7. The Upward Spiral: Igniting Passion, Intentionality and Engagement! Susan MacDonald, Professional Speaker and Coach -Core Competency #8
Positive strength based energy is the key to transforming the quality of early childhood programs. The stress of new initiatives and standards can drain the energy of directors and teachers, creating a school community where low levels of engagement become the norm. Focused, intentional and inspirational leadership will support the development of a vibrant learning community where all children, teachers and adults can thrive!

F-8. You can’t bounce off the walls if there aren’t any! Johanna Booth Miner, Director/owner, Live & Learn Early Education Center & Dave Miner, Certified Outdoor Classroom Designer -Core Competency #1
Children need a sense of place and adult to keep the sense of wonder alive. Come be that adult. Build fairy houses, explore a river, catch bugs and let your imagination go. Join Live and Learn staff in exploring the unique opportunities available outside for preschool aged children. Learn how to build all areas of curriculum into a nature based classroom setting. If you ever wanted to figure out how to stay outside all day this is the workshop for you!

F-9. Meeting the Pre-K Science Standards in Outdoor Play Settings. Paula Goodwin, Rina Zampieron, Kris Scopinich, Director, Mass Audubon’s Drumlin Farm Community Preschool -Core Competency # 5
School yards provide the setting for preschoolers to investigate all the new Pre-K Science Standards. Participants will practice developmentally appropriate exploration of all the standards, and will gain confidence in bringing science core ideas and practices into the classroom.

F-10. The Nature of Wholeness. Jeanine Fitzgerald, Certified Behavior Consultant, Master Trainer, Author.-Core Competency #2
“What we do to our children, they will do to society.” We have the ability to influence children’s development, and our own, toward a healthier, more connected, comfortable and joyful life. Or we can influence toward the ecology of despair. This session defines what really matters when the goal is supporting the lifelong habits of wellness. Every person deserves the opportunity to become more of who they are.
A-1. Storytelling/Story Acting: A Joyful Way to Promoting Children's Language and Literacy Development and Classroom Community
Ben Mardell, Professor, Lesley University - Core Competency #5
We know that preparing children for school involves building their vocabularies and helping them learn about print. But sometimes it seems all they want to do is play! Vivian Paley’s storytelling/story acting bring together children’s love of play and stories in a program that promotes their language and literacy development (along with promoting a healthy classroom community). Participants will learn about the details of the program and engaging in storytelling and story acting themselves.

A-2. Exploring the Reggio Emilia Approach to Education.
Susan MacDonald, Professional Speaker and Coach - Core Competency #5
This workshop provides unique and meaningful learning experiences while actively exploring the Reggio Emilia Approach to education in participants’ professional contexts. Participants in this workshop will discover how to develop unique and meaningful learning experiences for children. Attendees will engage in interactive provocations, hands on activities, and in-depth discussions as they construct their own knowledge and explore ways to bring vision to life in an early childhood setting.

Stacy Davison, Assistant Education Director, ADL's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute - Core Competency #2
Thought-provoking video clips, interactive discussions and self-reflective practices create an opportunity to explore gender identity, bias and stereotypes among young children and families, and to learn ways to prevent and address gender bias.

Johanna Booth Miner, Live and Learn Early Learning Center, NH - Core Competency #1
What is visual spatial learning? Gain a deeper understanding of why visual-spatial learning is important and how the visual-spatial learner is often misunderstood. Explore hands on activities that will support each child’s unique talents and abilities, and ways to use the natural world. If possible this workshop will be indoors & outside.

A-5. Challenging Behaviors: There Has to be a Better Way. Megg Thompson, Behavior Consultant/Family Coach/Environmental Consultant - Core Competency #2
Behavior is a symptom of a problem and a form of communication. This workshop will explore the unique pattern of influence upon a child’s behavior and development, and the importance of an inclusive and non-threatening environment for all children. Together, we will explore the concept of “goodness of fit” between the child’s natural tendencies and those of the adult caregiver.

Abigail Kelley, Adjunct Professor and Social Worker - Core Competency #1
This workshop gives the Early Childhood Educator the tools to understand the difference between Separation Anxiety and Separation Anxiety Disorder, the ability to understand the onset of separation anxiety and tools and tips to help children, parents and educators address this issue.

Remember when you were six or seven years old? Laying down on your back in the backyard or on a trail, gazing up at the sky and your imagination ran wild. Before you knew it, you created a story in your head. This is an inspiring workshop that will bring your class back to nature while learning some incredible storytelling techniques. You will walk away with new nature stories and outside activities to use with your students.

Amy O'Leary, Campaign Director, Strategies for Children/Early Education for All - Core Competency #8
This workshop will provide participants with information on early education policy in Massachusetts and the tools necessary to become an effective advocate for children and families that you serve. Participants will engage in interactive discussions with the facilitator and will learn about how to connect with local media, legislators, and other key decision makers. Current early childhood policy and initiatives in Massachusetts will also be highlighted to give a greater context to the work done by the Early Education for All Campaign. All levels of advocacy experience are encouraged to attend!

Vanessa Reiss Vaughn, Early Childhood Education Specialist; Adjunct Faculty, Quincy College - Core Competency #5
Come play with us! This highly interactive workshop will connect Preschool Guidelines and Standards to creative, interesting STEAM learning activities and experiences. Let’s put FUN back into curriculum for ourselves and our preschoolers.

A-10. Don’t Just Drop Off, Drop In.
Dotti McDevitt, Executive Director/Lead teacher A Child’s Wonderland Preschool - Core Competency #3
Participants will learn about the various ways to engage parents in the program from drop off in the morning to family nights that bring them back after hours. Be prepared to share ways your program encourages parents to become involved.

Jacqueline G. Lopez & Valeria E. Lopez, Little Hands, Busy Minds - Core Competency #5
Participants will learn how to use easily accessible items to develop activities for all learners in all learning centers. Topics to be discussed include: science and art activities, math and circle time.

A-12. NAEYC Program Portfolio Training.
Marie Enochy, Boston Public Schools, Accreditation Specialist - Core Competency #6
An interactive workshop for programs who are pursuing NAEYC accreditation will focus on the most current information from NAEYC, shared ideas for meeting criteria, helpful hints in documenting best practice and the actual portfolio process.

PART 1. Sarah Montoya, Early Education and Care Specialist – Core Competency #4
Las alergias de comida afectan a 1 de 13 niños en los Estados Unidos, los niños pequeños son los más afectados. Las alergias a comidas, intolerancias a las comidas, y otros asuntos de alimentación aumenta la preocupación en las personas que trabajan en programas de educación temprana. Los participantes de este entrenamiento serán introducidos a las necesidades de salud y seguridad de niños que tienen dietas especiales. También repasaremos formas de apoyar a los niños y colaborar con las familias y profesionales de salud. Los participantes empezarán a desarrollar un plan de salud para los niños con dietas especiales, alergias, y asuntos de alimentación especial en su programa.

Evett Cortes, Early Childhood Consultant and Behavioral Technician - Core Competency #2
En este taller se discutirán problemas de comportamiento comunes (morder, rabietas, agresión, hiperactividad) que educadores encuentran en su centro y cómo esos mismos comportamientos se pueden manifestar en el hogar de los niños. Estrategias sobre cómo colaborar con los padres se discutirán y también cuándo es adecuado referir al niño a servicios especiales.
P-1. Managing The Classroom Crazies or "Is this really What I signed up For?" Johanna Booth Miner & Sarah Miner, Live and Learn Early Learning Center - Core Competency #2
The year’s not over, spring has sprung and the kids already seem to be trying for Mutiny on the Bounty! It is easy to feel all your buttons getting pushed when the kids start to feel they can take over! Managing a class room can be challenging when there are multiple transition times, wide age ranges, large group sizes, varied personalities and limited classroom support. At times, it can be crazy. Join us for an interactive workshop on effective strategies for redirecting the energy and managing the “classroom crazies.”

P-2. Music & Movement: Preparing Children for Learning - Core Competency #1
Meg Thompson, Behavior Consultant & Debbie Verdicchio, Lead preschool teacher - Core Competency #1
Why do children need music and movement? Why is it essential? We will explore multiple intelligences, children’s natural temperaments, the 6 types of movement and how each one is needed in every classroom, and how you can incorporate new and fun ideas on a budget. We will talk brain research in a way that isn’t overwhelming or boring!

P-3. Dollar Store Math - Core Competency #5
Dotti McDevitt, Executive Director/Lead teacher A Child’s Wonderland Preschool
Think you can’t teach math? Come join us for fascinating ways to incorporate dollar store items into your math curriculum.

P-4. The Power of Storytelling In Your Classroom - Core Competency #5
Shawn Middleton, Storytelling with Shawn - Core Competency #5
A captivating and enlightening workshop that identifies the importance of storytelling in the classroom. You will walk away energized with new strategies and activities to introduce storytelling in your own room, which will help strengthen listening, oral language, reading and writing skills.

P-5. Yes, Even That Parent is Your Partner - Core Competency #3
Brenda Powers, Director, Nazareth Child Care Center - Core Competency #3
Working as a team with the parents often comes as a surprise to us when we begin working in our classroom. How do you engage with the parent, work with them, and not let them work you? We will discuss challenging situations (bring your best scenario) and develop strategies for making these situations work.

P-6. Helping Children Build Resiliency and Self Esteem - Core Competency #1
Abigail Kelley, Adjunct Professor and Social Worker
This workshop gives the Early Childhood Educator the tools to understand how resiliency is cultivated in children and the interplay self esteem has in this arena. Participants will learn tools to help develop resiliency in children.

P-7. The Art of Reading Aloud with Young Children - Core Competency #5
Kerri Schmidt, Manager of Early Literacy, Read Boston
This workshop explores why reading aloud with young children is critical to early literacy development and the powerful ways early educators can use voice, facial gestures and body movements to engage children during story time. Strengthen your skills, enhance your curriculum, and build your literacy toolbox.

P-8. Hearing Loss in Young Children: Identification, Ramifications, and Remedies - Core Competency #1
Fran Friedman, Ph.D
Identify different types of hearing losses, which can be missed by parents and teachers, but that are devastating on development. Discover the ramifications on speech and language, and specific ways you can help. Learn songs and activities that enhance disability awareness and empathy in children.

P-9. NAEYC Classroom Portfolio Training - Core Competency #6
Marie Enochty, Boston Public Schools, Accreditation Specialist - Core Competency #6
This interactive workshop for staff who are pursuing NAEYC accreditation will focus on the most current information from NAEYC, shared ideas for meeting criteria, helpful hints in documenting best practice and the actual portfolio process.

P-10. "My School Dot Com: Schools online" - Core Competency #3
Nina Araújo, Author and Consultant
During this workshop, participants will bring in their ideas and leave with a full functioning website for their programs. They can choose to develop a website for a program, a classroom, or for a component of either (i.e.: online newsletters, fieldtrip forms, health form reminders, family handbooks, etc). We will be using wordpress with an option to add .com domains. It is highly recommended that participants bring their own computers but if not possible, they will still be able to access information by partnering with others and accessing tutorials online afterwards.

P-11. Creating Meaningful Curriculum - Core Competency #5
Vanessa Reiss Vaughn, Early Childhood Education Specialist; Adjunct Faculty, Quincy College
This workshop will give the Early Childhood Educators the tools to develop strategies for making these situations work.

P-12. CLASS. Amy Stephens Cubbage, Director, Training and Professional Development, Teachstone Training, LLC
- Core Competency #6
Do you struggle to provide effective CLASS observation feedback to teachers? Need guidance for using feedback to provide a foundation for improvement? Join us to explore answers and learn to build on your current approaches. This program is recommended for those with intermediate to advanced CLASS content knowledge, including certified CLASS observers, affiliate trainers, and others with extensive knowledge of the tool.

P-13. Trabajando con Niños de Dietas Especiales, Alergias, y Asuntos de Alimentación Especializados. (Working with Children with Special Diets, Food Allergies, & Specialized Feeding Issues) PART 2 - Core Competency #4
Sarah Montoya, Early Education and Care Specialist
Las alergias de comida afectan a 1 de 13 niños en los Estados Unidos, los niños pequeños son los más afectados. Las alergias a comidas, intolerancias a las comidas, y otros asuntos de alimentación aumenta la preocupación en las personas que trabajan en programas de educación temprana. Los participantes de este entrenamiento serán introducidos a las necesidades de salud y seguridad de niños que tienen dietas especiales. También repasaremos formas de apoyar a los niños y colaborar con las familias y profesionales de salud. Los participantes empezarán a desarrollar un plan de salud para los niños con dietas especiales, alergias, y asuntos de alimentación especial en su programa.

P-14. Conexión Comunitaria (Community Connections) - Core Competency #3
Julia Mejia, Community Engagement Specialist
Este taller interactivo explorar las barreras de participación comunitaria y buscar la manera de desarrollar eficazmente las estrategias que informan, influyen y estimulan a las familias a participar activamente.
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE & INFORMATION

Friday Schedule
8:00 - 9:00 A.M. Check in/Breakfast
9:00-9:25 A.M. Welcome-Holly Elissa Bruno/Announcements
9:30 -12:00 P.M. Morning Workshops
12:00 - 1:00 P.M. Lunch/Exhibits Open
1:15 - 3:45 P.M. Afternoon Workshops
5:00-7:00 P.M. Excellence in Education Awards Reception

Saturday Schedule
7:30-8:30 A.M. Check in/Breakfast/Exhibits
8:45-9:00 A.M. Welcome/Announcements
9:00-10:00 A.M. Keynote Speaker
10:15-12:15 P.M. Morning Workshop
12:15-1:15 P.M. Lunch/Exhibits
1:30-3:30 P.M. Afternoon Workshop

Excellence in Education Awards Reception
Friday, March 7th 5-7:30 pm

This year, MassAEYC is excited to share this event with the Department of Early Education and Care. As part of the Early Learning Challenge Grant, EEC has made the commitment to celebrate the hard work and commitment of our Early Educators. We will have the opportunity to learn more about the projects and activities funded by RTT-ELC as we gather together as professionals.

We will also be honoring the Gwen Morgan Emergent Leader Award recipient; the Steve Shuman Men in Early Education Award recipient and the Men’s Interest Forum’s award for an Emerging Professional. If you are interested in nominating someone for the Gwen Morgan Award or for the Emerging Professional Award please visit out website www.massaeyc.com.

We hope you will join us to celebrate the work of you and your colleagues. There will be a cash bar and tasty treats.

Exhibits will be available from Noon—4:00 PM on Friday and from 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM on Saturday. MassAEYC and the conference committee assume no responsibility for any statement of fact or opinion presented at this conference, nor does acceptance of advertising or exhibits imply endorsement of products or services.

Conference will be held as scheduled regardless of weather unless the Governor declares a state of emergency.

DIRECTIONS TO THE WESTFORD REGENCY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER
Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center
219 Littleton Road
Westford, MA 01886

The Westford Regency is off Route 495, exit 32. It is right down the road on the right. Watch for the stone wall.

Accommodations
Westford Regency Inn 219 Littleton Road, Westford MA 978-692-8200
Double Room Rate: $105 per room/per night. Tell the hotel you are attending the MassAEYC Conference.
Amenities: Health club, indoor pool, jacuzzi, full service restaurant, in-room irons, hair dryers.
Deadline for reservations is February 14, 2014.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Chair: Dotti McDevitt & Marley Couchon

Committee Members
Jo Ann Borinski       Maureen MacDonald
Karen Gale            Nancy Toso
Brenda Powers         Nancy Casten

We extend our thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this conference.

Any questions? Call 617-875-0928 or email officemassaeyc@gmail.com