Children, Materials, and the Natural World
October 2, 2014
We are all born with an intuitive desire and need to connect with the natural world and with the world of materials. In this presentation and dialogue, teacher, researcher, and early childhood consultant Louise Cadwell will focus on how we as educators might nurture and develop these natural instincts, and what skills, knowledge, and dispositions develop in our students when we do.

Leadership Matters: Creating a School Culture for Growth, Risk-Taking and Change
February 2, 2015 (tentative)
What does it mean to be a leader in the field of early childhood? Leadership requires thoughtful, strategic, and long-term planning that addresses all components of an early childhood program. In this session, Lesley professors Debbie LeeKeenan and Lisa Fiore will help participants learn about a conceptual framework and practical tools for program-wide transformation, as presented in a new book—Leading Anti-bias Early Childhood Programs: A Guide for Change (Derman-Sparks, LeeKeenan, & Nimmo, 2014). In an interactive format, they will share examples of strategies for establishing a shared vision and mission, reading the context of the program, supporting adult development, and managing conflict.

The Common Core and Early Childhood Education: What Does This Mean for Us?
March 26, 2015 (tentative)
Massachusetts is among the many states that have adopted the Common Core State Standards. How should early childhood educators, both as individual teachers and administrators and as a community, respond? In this session, Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin, a preschool teacher at the Mission Hill School, and director of Defending the Early Years, Catherine Tighe, an early childhood coach in the Somerville Public Schools, and Jason Sachs, director of Boston Public Schools’ Early Childhood Department, share their thoughts on opportunities and perils of the new standards.

ALL SESSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
4:30-6:30 pm
Lesley University, Second Floor Amphitheatre
1815 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA
Near Porter Square T Stop

Contact Yazmin Colon Garcia at ycolon@lesley.edu for information and to RSVP