



PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS

NEWS UPDATES

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Greetings,

It is great to be back in the swing of things after a great summer! Programs for Educators is going through a makeover. We hope you enjoy our new website, newsletter, blog and new services. There is much more to come as our new website evolves. Stay tuned.

Cheers,

Victoria

PARENTING & PLAY

BACKYARD CAMP: This summer I led a backyard camp called “Camp Friends”. Each day for the art activity we learned about an artist such as Monet, Van Gogh, Pollock, Seurat, and Matisse. The children learned about pointillism, shapes, and texture and, started combining these techniques in their original art. The art that was produced was so magnificent; we decided to have a backyard art show. You can enjoy this show virtually at www.programsforeducators.com. The experience of having a backyard camp left me feeling that anything is possible. Children are curious creatures and if given the tools to explore, each day can be filled with playful learning. For more information about how to run a backyard camp and/or activities to do at home with children please call 978-922-0081 or email at victoria@programsforeducators.com.

BLOGS: This summer I ventured into the world of blogging and discovered there is an entire world of educators communicating, sharing and supporting each other virtually. I discovered three which became my favorites. The first is www.letthechildrenplay.com where I learned about water walls and amazing outdoor ideas for children’s learning. The second is www.playfullearning.com where the educational resources seemed endless and where I was inspired to transform our playroom into a Playful Learning zone. The third is www.teachmama.com where I learned about the Smart Summer Challenge and affirmed the value of parents teaching their children creatively at home.

CHILDREN AND NATURE

CHILDREN’S GARDENS: The garden has always been a special place for me. It has always been a place where I could go and just dig and be. Over the years I have played in my own backyard garden while the kids played. Puttering, planting and enjoying. It was not until these past two years that I started to combine my passion for gardening with my knowledge in education and

teaching. Since then I have spearheaded a Children's Garden at Cove School in Beverly. Together with a small group of committed students, parents and teachers, and with the support of our principal, the garden flourished and is now used by the teachers as an outdoor classroom to promote experiential learning in all disciplines. The garden has grown to include a 'touch 'n feel garden', 'butterfly garden', 'fairy gardens', 'pizza garden', 'teepee garden', 'sunflower garden' and over 350 tulips planted by the students. With the funds provided by being one of the very few programs in the state which won a National Gardening Association grant, we purchased and installed a garden shed to house all the gardening and teaching tools we've amassed.

If you are interested in doing the same at your school, daycare and/or homecare, I'd be happy to work with you. I can assess your outdoor space and discuss how to integrate key outdoor elements for creating an outdoor classroom. If you would like to learn more about what we've accomplished, please see our website (www.tinyurl.com/covegarden), and please do not hesitate to give me an email or phone call and I can help answer any questions you may have. You are also welcome to a copy of our Cove Garden newsletter-"The Seedling". Just email a request to me and I will send you our latest copy.

COACHING AND MENTORING

Our services include:

1. An introductory visit and chemistry meeting at no charge
2. A complete assessment of needs
3. Creation of an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP)
4. Creation of a group or departmental Professional Development Plan.

Options:

- 1 on 1 Coaching and Mentoring
- Virtual Coaching and Mentoring via phone and/or email
- Group Coaching and Mentoring

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

There are many upcoming trainings and workshops to look forward to. Please review workshops descriptions at www.programsforeducators.com. Please also check out the Calendar for additional workshop opportunities.

COLLEGE COURSES:

This Fall semester I am teaching *The Foundations of Early Childhood Education* at North Shore Community College www.northshorecommunitycollege.com Lynn Campus. If you have any questions about additional college courses that I teach, please do not hesitate to email me.



That's all for now. If you know anyone who you think would be interested in this newsletter, please forward it to them and encourage them to join our mailing list

