

# INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING

## Insights For Early Childhood Educators



APRIL 2024 |  
WWW.NEIGHBORHOODVILLAGES.ORG

### Welcome to the Newsletter

Greetings and welcome to the new Teaching and Learning Newsletter! We are thrilled to present you with this revamped format that offers an enhanced reading experience. We have worked hard to ensure that the new format is aesthetically pleasing and user-friendly. We aim to provide you with a comprehensive collection of educational information, tips, and resources that you can use to enhance your teaching and learning experience.

We understand that receiving quality information is crucial to your professional development, so we have included various articles, features, and tools to cater to your needs. You can expect to find information on the latest teaching methodologies, educational technologies, best practices, and much more.

We hope you enjoy this new and improved format and that it provides you with the valuable insights and resources you need to excel in your teaching and learning journey.

Happy Reading!

Teaching and Learning Team

# WELCOME TO NV

Neighborhood Villages is ecstatic to welcome two  
**NEW Early Childhood Education coaches!**  
Get to know them below.



**Christine Ashman**

Christine has been in the early education field for over 25 years. Her previous roles include family group childcare owner, special education aide, lead teacher in infant and preschool classrooms, and program specialist. She has considerable experience working with dual language learners. She has an M.Ed. in Early Childhood and Special Education, and an M.A. in International Communication.

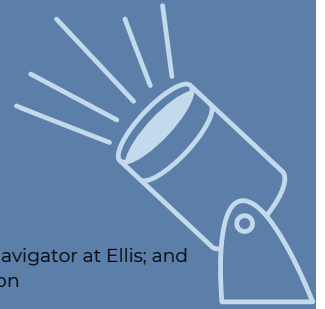
Christine was born in Boston and grew up in Plymouth. She has lived in China, Hong Kong, England, and Australia. She has been an advocate for early care and education and for providers throughout her career. She is currently a member of the Strategies for Children Advocacy Network, 3rd Cohort. She works in early education and advocates for it because quality early learning environments make a real difference in children's lives.



**Erica Maia**

Erica grew up in Watertown, CT. She completed her education at Boston College, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a minor in Music. That summer, she began teaching as an Assistant Toddler Teacher in Newton, MA, emphasizing the strengths-based Brazelton Touchpoints Center approach to early childhood development. There, she fell in love with teaching young children and witnessing how quickly children grow and change through their early years. She became especially passionate about helping children label and navigate their big feelings and brought her love for music into the classroom by making up silly songs, playing instruments, and playing many genres of music for the kids. She is also grateful for the time she spent working as a Lead Toddler Teacher at BU Children's Center, where she had the opportunity to train and mentor the college students working in her classroom. It was there that her interest in coaching blossomed!

# In The Spotlight



2024 Neighborhood Award winners: Ashlee Good-Blocker, Educator at Horizons; Frances Velasquez, Family Navigator at Ellis; and Yasmin Elliano-Anderson, Director of Education at Ellis with DJ Pryor and Pamela Thompson

## 2024 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

At Neighborhood Villages, we know how important it is to invest in early educators, providing them with the teaching and learning support that both they and their students deserve. That's why we held our second annual Professional Development Day, "**Burnout to Brilliance: Reigniting Passion in ECE,**" at UMass Boston. It was a huge success! Over 300 of you joined us for a day full of workshops, awards, and networking. We were thrilled to offer a series of inspiring sessions with an amazing lineup of presenters and welcomed comedian and motivational speaker, DJ Pryor as our Keynote Speaker.

Professional Development Day is only one part of a comprehensive menu of Teaching and Learning supports we are piloting for early educators in The Neighborhood. Our Teaching and Learning services also include a new toddler curriculum, instructional coaching, onboarding workshops, webinars, and this newsletter highlighting best practices. With these coordinated teaching and learning supports, we are showing what it takes to ensure that you (early educators) have the resources you need to deliver high-quality early education to our littlest learners. Here's to a future where every child and educator's journey is lit with brilliance!



Do you want your classroom/program to be featured by Teaching & Learning?  
Share your ideas with us: [pthompson@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:pthompson@neighborhoodvillages.org)

# LET'S TALK

# LET'S TALK ABOUT DOCUMENTATION

Documentation can be in many different forms. In this *Teacher Talk*, we discuss tips for easy documentation approaches in regard to experiences and curriculum.

## The Early Education Coaches' Tips:

1. Carry around index cards, sticky notes, or a piece of paper that can fit in your pocket for quick notes.
2. Photos will be your best friend! Take pictures to capture moments of wonder and exploration. See if you can take a picture from the child's angle.
3. Along with pictures, try to capture the child's words.
4. Plan for which child you will observe!

Do you have a favorite way of practicing stress reduction and self-care at work? Share it with us! Email: [pthompson@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:pthompson@neighborhoodvillages.org), or talk to your coach!

A monthly dose of teaching ideas, updates, and inspiration for teachers across the Neighborhood: EBSOC, Ellis Early Learning, Epiphany Early Learning, Horizons for Homeless Children, and Nurtury Early Education.

# Workshops and Opportunities

## Mitigating Workplace Stress and Promoting Well-Being



Join the Zaentz Early Education Initiative on April 30th to hear from Harvard Graduate School of Education faculty, who will discuss the science and signs of adult stress, the importance of mitigating stress for adults, and strategies to support their own well-being. The Zaentz Initiative is fully covering the cost of this program. Registration is free to all interested participants.

Click [HERE](#) for access to the Zoom link and registration for this Zoom event. The event is on April 30th from 12-2 pm EST.

## Lesley College

### Closing the Opportunity Gap: Promoting Access & Equity Through Literact

Join us for the 2024 Kids, Books & Anti-Racism Series to deepen your understanding of how to cultivate anti-bias and anti-racist practices in classrooms and schools. Learn how to facilitate rich, inclusive discussions with your students that will teach them to be critical readers, honor their lived experiences and ensure each child grows up literate in our educational system



**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
School of Social Work  
THE CELL TO SOCIETY LAB



# Wellbeing and Play in Schools Webinar Series

**SPONSORED BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**LICENSED EDUCATORS ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CEUS.**

## *Math and Playful Materials: Collecting and Curating What You Have and What You Can Find*

**JOIN**

**MARINA SEEVAK, MAT**

**Founding Executive Director of**

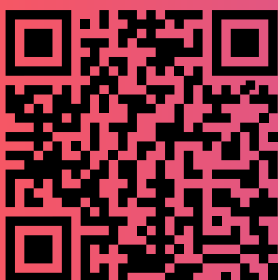
**The Beautiful Stuff Project**

**Lots of examples from real life classrooms  
will be presented and attendees will leave  
ready for action in their settings.**



**TUESDAY APRIL 16, 2024**

**7:00-8:00 PM**



**[Register Here](#)**

Questions? Contact: Dr. Maggie Van Camp [vancampm@bc.edu](mailto:vancampm@bc.edu)

REGISTER NOW



# PATHWAYS TO POWER:

## Everyday advocacy for families & caregivers

27  
APRIL

🕒 11 AM – 3 PM

📍 Epiphany Early Learning Center  
230 Centre St, Dorchester

Join us for an engaging day of learning to unleash your inner advocate.

- Registration required
- Lunch will be provided
- Children are welcome to attend



**N** Northeastern University  
College of Social Sciences and Humanities  
Humanities Center

Thank you for joining our Teaching and Learning Newsletter community! We appreciate your contributions and encourage you to share any upcoming program news and highlights with us.

Our newsletter is eagerly anticipated by all, so if you have content for the next edition, please send it to [pthompson@neighborhoodvillages.org](mailto:pthompson@neighborhoodvillages.org) at least two weeks prior to publication. We can't wait to see what you have in store!

