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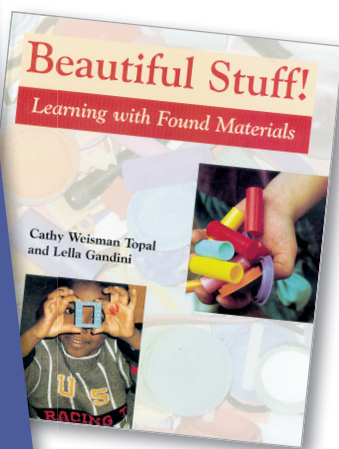
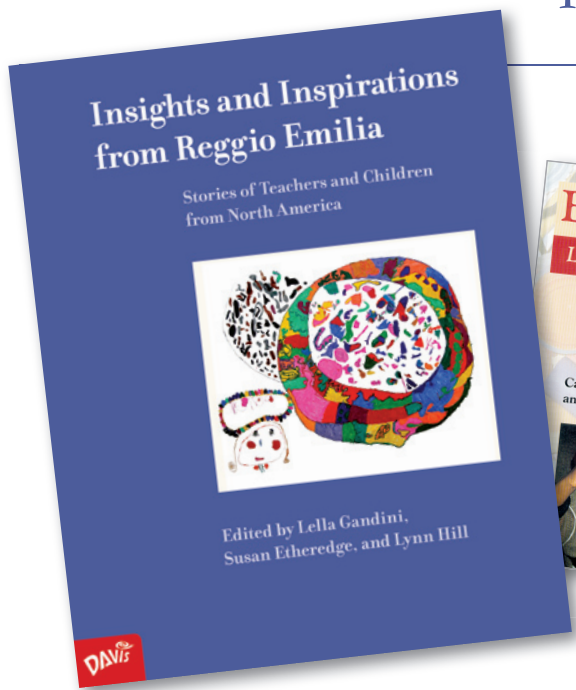
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Learning from the

# Reggio Emilia Approach

in Early Childhood Education

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**Featuring**

Lella Gandini

Susan Etheredge

Cathy Weisman Topal

**Saturday May 2, 2009** 9:00am–12:00pm

Harrington Learning Center, Quinsigamond Community College

The cost to attend this program is only \$5.00 which includes a continental breakfast.

To register contact Dianne Bruce at 508.792.0220 or [dbruce@edwardstreet.org](mailto:dbruce@edwardstreet.org).



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# About the Presenters

## Lella Gandini

Lella Gandini, Ed.D., a consultant in early childhood education and Lesley University Visiting Scholar in 2007–09, taught previously at Smith College and at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is Reggio Children United States Liaison for the Dissemination of the Reggio Emilia Approach. She serves as Associate Editor of *Innovations in Early Education: the International Reggio Exchange*. Lecturer and author of many articles and book chapters about the Reggio Emilia approach, she is co-editor and coauthor of *The Hundred Languages of Children: The Reggio Emilia Approach to Early Childhood Education*; *Beautiful Stuff: Learning with Found Materials*; *Bambini: The Italian Approach to Infant/Toddler Care*; *In the Spirit of the Studio: Learning from the Atelier of Reggio Emilia*; *Insights and Inspirations from Reggio Emilia: Stories of Children and Teachers from North America*. With George Forman, she produced videos presenting and examining projects in the schools of Reggio Emilia, including *An Amusement Park for Birds*.

She has also published research on parenting, children's fears, the use and text of traditional nursery rhymes in Italy, and comparative rituals at bedtime in Tuscany and New England. Lella Gandini is the author of several books in Italian for children, as well as books about parenting and early education in Italy. She presented at the opening at many of the 43 venues of the tour in the United States of the previous versions of the Hundred Languages of Children Exhibit, also with Amelia Gambetti (1987–1999 and 2000–2007).

## Susan Etheredge

Susan Etheredge, Ed. D., is Associate Professor of Education and Child Study and Director of First Year Seminars at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Susan was also a K–3 classroom teacher for many years. Her current research and publications address inquire-based teaching and learning in the early childhood and elementary classroom, with a particular focus on science education in the early years. She is co-author of *Introducing Students to Scientific Inquire: How do we know what we know? And* co-editor (with Lella Gandini and Lynn Hill) of *Insights and Inspirations from Reggio Emilia: Stories of Teachers and Children from North America*. Susan works with teachers in public and independent schools in areas related to professional development and teacher education, served as Interim Associate Dean of the Faculty at Smith, is a past president of the New England Educational Research Organization, and co-directs the Coral Reef Ed-Ventures Program for children in San Pedro, Belize. During 2007–2008 academic years, she spent a sabbatical year observing and studying the innovative early childhood schools in Pistoia, Italy.

## Cathy Weisman Topal

Cathy Weisman Topal has been a visual arts educator at the pre-school, elementary, middle and college levels for over twenty-five years. She is currently a studio art teacher at the Center for Early Childhood Education and the Smith College Campus School at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She is also a lecturer in Visual Arts Education in the Department of Education and Child Study at Smith.

Cathy is the author of five books - *Explorations in Art: Kindergarten; Children and Painting; Children, Clay and Sculpture; Beautiful Stuff: Learning with Found Materials*; and *Thinking with a Line*—that have grown from her teaching and professional development work with classroom teachers and in-service and pre-service teachers across the country.