Gender, Sexuality and the Family in Early Childhood Education

OPEN UP CRITICAL DISCUSSION FOR STAFF AND FAMILIES AT YOUR PROGRAM!

When and how do children develop an understanding of gender?
How can we encourage children's comfort and respect for their own body and other people's bodies?
How can we include and celebrate the diversity of families and family structures in our programs?

During the preschool years, children begin to develop a conception of gender, sexuality, and family. However, there is often little space to for teachers to talk about the questions and behaviors that come up in their classrooms, or how to explore these concepts with children in their curriculum and pedagogy. Parents and family members often feel in the dark as well, with little opportunity to discuss and collaboratively develop strategies for working with their children or young people.

To open up this conversation, we are offering a series of parallel workshops – one set for educators and one set for families – designed to spark discussion, facilitate the development of a shared language, and provide everyone the resources they need to make their classrooms and homes safe spaces for the development and expansive exploration of identity.

Workshops for Educators and Early Childhood Professionals
Session 1: Gender Development, Expression and Play
Session 2: Bodies, Curiosity and Relationships
Session 3: Including All Families and Supporting All Children

Workshops for Parents and Families
Session 1: Gender Development, Expression and Play
Session 2: Bodies, Curiosity and Relationships

We recommend that a school or program run the entire series, but we are able to tailor the workshops to fit the needs of individual programs. To schedule the workshop series or for more information, contact Katie Schaffer at **Katherine.Schaffer@cuny.edu** or by phone at **646-265-2044**. You can also read more about the series on our website: http://www.earlychildhoodny.org/pdi/workshop-GSF.php