

# Learning Through Objects: Museums and Young Children

May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006

The Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center is offering an innovative training program for museum professionals and early childhood educators interested in using objects to teach young children.

This two-day program will be offered at the Smithsonian Institution. Participants will learn how a host of museum objects - including paintings, sculptures, an African headrest, and an old-time chestnut roaster - can help children, as young as two or three, understand their world.

The program, featuring hands-on exercises with museum objects, lectures, discussions, and gallery experiences, is designed to help museum educators forge more creative encounters with young museum-goers, and to introduce early childhood educators to the magic of museums.

Participants will be encouraged to think expansively about using children's literature, art and objects to create explorations of thematic topics. By tapping resources in their own communities—resources such as objects in local museums and community centers, statues, public art, bridges, buildings, and more, participants learn to bring the world of museums to young children in their communities. All objects, even commonplace ones, tell stories. That's what "Learning through Objects" is all about.

**Cost:** \$300 Early registration before April 1<sup>st</sup>  
\$325 Late registration after April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Location of Seminar:** Smithsonian Institution  
Smithsonian Castle Library, Room 384

**Date:** May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
**Time:** 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Transportation:** Smithsonian Metro Stop (Orange or Blue Line)

**For information:** Ann Caspari & Lynann Derrick, seecseminar@si.edu  
Sharon Shaffer, shaffers@seec.si.edu  
Phone: (202) 633-1399 / Fax (202) 786-3153  
PO Box 37012 MRC 184  
National Museum of Natural History  
Washington, DC 20013-7012

A confirmation letter will be mailed to each participant. Space is limited.

Learning Through Objects: Museums and Young Children  
Registration

Please print out and mail or fax this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (work) \_\_\_\_\_ (fax) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to SEEC.

The seminar fee is non-refundable. The fee includes seminar, lunch, and seminar materials. Please notify us at least three weeks in advance of any special needs.

Send registration with check to:

Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center  
Dr. Sharon Shaffer  
PO Box 37012  
National Museum of Natural History  
Room CE-G50 MRC 184  
Washington, DC 20013-7012

Fax: (202)786-3153

The Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center is a pioneer in museum-based preschool education. Since 1988, SEEC has used museum objects to help children probe the world and all that is in it, to distinguish between real and pretend, and to discover and celebrate cultures other than their own. That's the magic of museums. That's the magic of SEEC!