

## VITA

Meir Muller

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### EDUCATION

- 2003-2010 Doctor Philosophy, Early Childhood Education, University of South Carolina  
Advisor: Dr. Irma Van Scoy  
Dissertation: *Kindergarten Children's Conception of Knowledge in Jewish Education*
- 2000-2003 Master's of Education in Early Childhood Education, University of South Carolina
- 1985-1990 Bachelor's in Talmudic Studies, Central Yeshiva Tomchei Tmimum Lubavitz

### EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- 2011 Co-led a joint study abroad experience to Reggio, Italy for students from Clemson University and the University of South Carolina.
- 2011 EDEC 441 (Teaching Mathematics in Early Childhood), two sections taught.
- 2011 EDEC 441(Teaching Mathematics in Early Childhood), course coordinator.
- 2009-2010 EDEC 442 Studies in Integrated Curriculum: Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Fine Arts in Early Childhood Education. Two sections taught per semester.
- 2007-2009 EDEC 342P and 442P practicum instructor supervising six to eight students and performing ADEPT evaluations.
- 2005-2006 Research assistant to Dr. Irma Van Scoy responsibilities included collecting data in Hyatt Park Elementary School and working on key assessment data for NAEYC Program Report.
- 2005 Course Coordinator for EDEC 342. For three semesters, two sections taught per semester.
- 2004 to date EDEC 342, The Young Child: Development, Care and Education

1998 -2000 Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC  
ECD 101 Introduction to Early Childhood Development

### **EXPERIENCE IN EDUCATION**

Columbia Jewish Day School, Founder and Principal (1991-date) (current enrollment 110 students) including the following duties

- Leading opening of all grade levels (preschool-1992; K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, 2000; toddler-2010)
- Leadership in Mission and Vision
- Staffing and Administration
- Facilitating all licensing and accreditation work.
- Liaison with the Board of Trustees
- Teacher Professional Development
- Parent Programs and Communication
- Teaching (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade, weekly school-wide assemblies, and special programs)

### **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

Muller, M. (forthcoming). Children's construction of temporal time in Jewish history. A Collection of Papers from the International Research Group on Jewish Education in the Early Years. Haifa, Israel: University of Haifa.

Muller, M. (2011). Creating Early Childhood Demonstration Sites. White paper sponsored by the Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative.

Muller, M. (2010). *Kindergarten Children's Conception of Knowledge in Jewish Education. Doctoral Dissertation. UMI #11120*

*Muller, M. (2009, May 7). Spare the rod, spend the money. The State Newspaper, pp. A6*

Muller, M. (May, 2009). *Annual Report of the NAEYC Academy including criterion related to the NAEYC 2010 standards revision.* Washington, DC: National Association of the Education of Young Children

Van Scoy, I. & Muller, M. (2005). Class-made experience books: Building Jewish community and enriching learning. *Jewish Values for Growing Exceptional Jewish Children* 3, 18-19.

Muller, M. (2004), The project approach: Let's learn about mezuzah. *Jewish Values for Growing Outstanding Jewish Children* 2, 16-19.

*Muller, M. (2004, February 5). Keep education chief independent. The State Newspaper, pp. A11*

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESSES, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS**

Presented at the Van Leer institute in Jerusalem for Haifa University's International Research Group on Jewish Education in the Early Years. [\(2011\)](#).

Over 25 classes on early childhood education registered for training with South Carolina Center for Child Career Development, (2000-2011)

Keynote for the Jewish Federation of San Francisco's early childhood department. (2010).

Topic: Teaching the Jewish holidays through a Minds on Hands on Approach

Attendance: 350 early childhood educators

Keynote for the Center for Jewish Living and Learning of the Greater East Bay, California (2010).

Topic: Ethics in Early Childhood Education.

Attendance: 200 early childhood educators

Keynote presenter at the Baltimore Center for Jewish Education's (2009).

Topic: Using the Maryland Model for School Readiness to form Partnerships with Parents.

Attendance: 250 early childhood educators

Presented at the NAEYC Professional Development Institute with Dr. Van Scoy (2009).

Topic: A Minds-on Approach: Helping Pre-service Teachers Construct and Apply Knowledge on Piagetian Theory.

Attendance: 50 early childhood educators

Provided workshops for the staff of Benedict College Early Childhood Center, USC's Children's Center, and RSD2 Early Childhood Staff (three separate talks all in 2008).

Topic: Aunt Stacy is coming: Understanding the new NAEYC Accreditation System.

Attendance: Approximately 20 staff members at each presentation

Presented 10-hour workshop for Richland School District Two (2006).

Topic: Math and Science in Early Childhood Education.

Attendance: Approximately 15 staff members at each presentation

Spoke at the first annual South Carolina's Early Education Summit, (2005).

Topic: Lessons Learned from Faith Based Early Childhood Centers.

Attendance: Approximately 200 early childhood educators

Presented at the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal (3M) Committee (2005)

Topic: Support of the Child Care Center Licensing Regulations

Co-Lectured for Candace Thompson's undergraduate course (2004)

Topic: Being a White Ally

Spoke at Chabad national Jewish educators conference in N.Y. (2003).

Topic: The Project Approach in Jewish Education.

Attendance: Approximately 100 early childhood educators.

## **NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

Successfully led school to gain accreditation from the South Carolina Independent School Association (2010).

Successfully led school to become the first school in the state to be nationally accredited under the new NAEYC Accreditation standards (2007).

Created a relationship between CJDS and the USC resulting in CJDS being the only private school to receive practicum and internship student teachers (2007 to date).

Successfully led school to state's highest recognition - ABC Enhanced (2003).

Successfully led school to national accreditation - NAEYC Accreditation (2002).

Created a relationship between CJDS and Richland School District Two Early Childhood Center resulting in "Reading Buddy" program (2002).

## **NOTABLE APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

Invited to join the international research group, Jewish Education in the Early Years, founded by the Center for Jewish Education, University of Haifa and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. Funded presentation and participation at conference in Israel (2011).

### **NATIONAL**

Elected co-president of the Alliance of Jewish Early Education (2009-2011).

Appointed to the Council of NAEYC Accreditation (2007-2010).

Featured in Early Childhood Today (2006)

Scholastic Early Childhood Professional of the Year (2006).

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Featured on the cover of the State Newspaper (2010)

Featured in the College of Education's Education Report (Spring 2007)

Certified Level Two Early Care and Education Technical Assistance Provider in the State of South Carolina (2007)

Appointed to the Governor's South Carolina Child Care Coordinating Council (2005).

Awarded Lahn Fellowship from University of South Carolina (2004).

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

National Association of Education of Young Children

National Council of Teacher's of Mathematics

Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative

Alliance of the Jewish Early Educators

Council For Private School Accreditation (early childhood division).

Coalition of the Advancement of Jewish Education