



CHILDREN'S STUDIES 4900: PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES AND
CHILDREN

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES
SPRING 2011

April 4, 2011

GUEST SPEAKER: NATALIE WILLIAMS
Co-Director, Garden House School of New York

Natalie Williams, mother, educator and administrator, is the Co-Director of *Garden House School of New York*, a traditional preschool in Manhattan.

Since childhood, Ms. Williams knew that she would work with children. As a student, she enjoyed school immensely. Her life has unfolded in such a manner that has enabled her to combine two of her passions; children and education. Ms. Williams was born in Grenada, West Indies and began her academic career in a school influenced by British traditions. Her family immigrated to New York in 1985 and has resided in Brooklyn since then. She obtained a Bachelors of Art in Psychology with a minor in Children's Studies and a MS in Education (School Psychology Program) at Brooklyn College.

Ms. Williams began at Garden House School as an Assistant Teacher and was promoted to Co-Director after 3 years. She has held her current position for 9 years. The school's philosophy of Early Academics, structure and a holistic approach coincide with Ms. Williams' personal educational beliefs. She has served on the *ISAAGNY* (Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater New York) Board both as a member-at-large and as the Early Childhood Heads Chair. She has participated in panels for organizations such as *Educational Records Bureau* (ERB) and *Parents' League of New York, INC.* As a parent volunteer, Ms. Williams served as a member of the *Title I* committee and the *CDEC 22* (as secretary) when her son attended public school.

Ms. Williams believes that children should be able to enjoy childhood for as long as possible and that quality education should be a birthright.