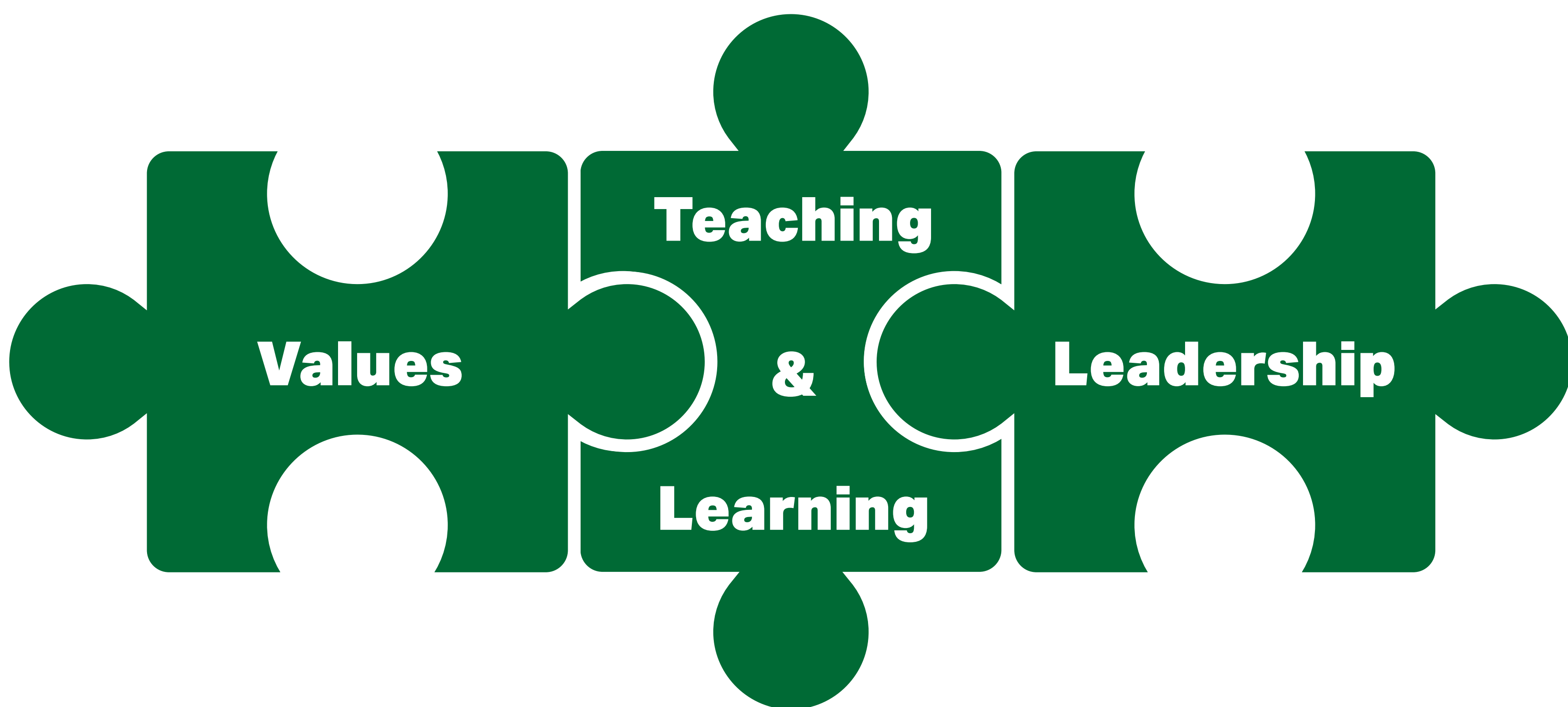


NOVA

Early Childhood Development

The conceptual framework for NOVA is organized around three guiding principles:

1) Values, 2) Teaching and Learning, and 3) Leadership. These three guiding principles are an outgrowth of our mission, and they apply to how we interact with our adult students, and how we hope to see them implement the ideas and practices they have learned when working in early learning settings.



Values

Our program is guided by our values, with an emphasis on holistic approaches and understanding of the unique needs of our students and their communities. Our students, the children they teach, and the families and communities they serve exist within a wider context. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are part of our core values. We emphasize this in our interactions and collaborations with our students in and out of the classroom.

Teaching and Learning

Our pedagogy reflects evidence-based practices. Our curriculum and instruction connect to outcomes with an emphasis on mastery learning. Curriculum at all levels is intentional and connected to professional standards. We promote critical thinking and model pedagogy to prepare educators to implement quality practices with their own students. Developmentally appropriate practice is the guiding feature of quality practices. Our practices are competency-based, culturally-responsive and reflect current research.

Leadership

We believe that it is important to provide leadership to students as they prepare to be leaders in their own early learning environments. We promote advocacy of children, families, and the educational community. We celebrate the growth and achievements that students attain as they progress through the program. We provide many opportunities for reflection and exploration so that students can recognize their own growth and progress.