



Playful Learning: Good for You!

Josh Thompson (he/him)

“Billy” to twelve grandchildren

Agenda

Value of Playful Learning

Value of Playful Teaching



Agenda

Value of Playful Learning

Value of Playful Teaching







Provocation

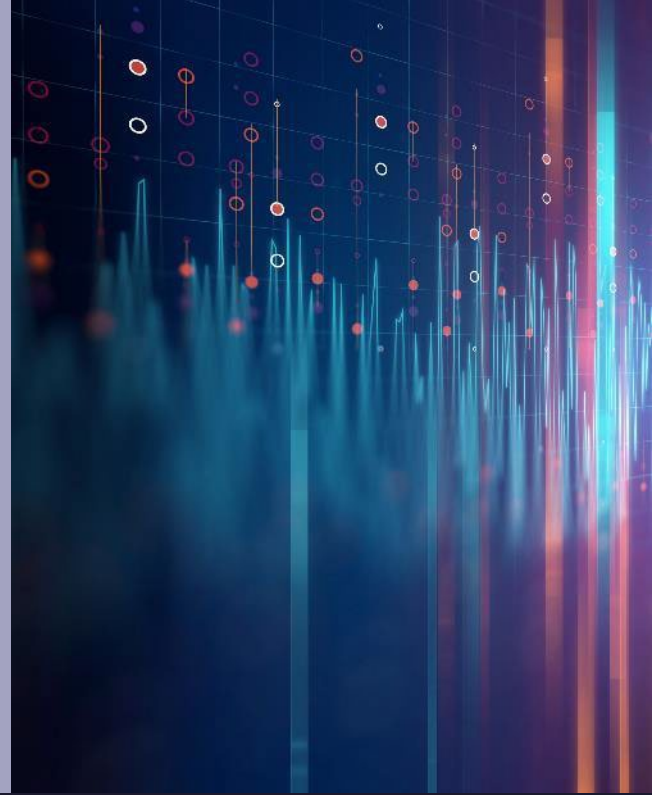
Where did you learn to play?



Provocation

Where did you learn to play?

When did you forget to play?



Provocation

Where did you learn to play?

When did you forget to play?

What is it about your life and work and play with children that can help you remember to play?

Benefits of Playful Learning



An abstract graphic consisting of a network of white and light blue nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a dark blue background. The nodes are arranged in a complex, interconnected pattern, resembling a molecular structure or a digital network.

Benefits of Playful Learning

NAEYC DAP (2020)

www.naeyc.org/dap

An abstract graphic consisting of a network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a dark blue background. The nodes are of varying sizes and are scattered across the frame, creating a sense of interconnectedness and complexity. The lines are thin and white, contrasting with the dark background.

NAEYC DAP (2020)

Play promotes joyful learning that fosters self-regulation, language, cognitive and social competencies as well as content knowledge across disciplines. Play is essential for all children, birth through age 8.

What We Know About Child Development & the Value of Playful Learning

An individual, born to a woman,
a member of a family of two or
more.

“All by myself,
with a little help”



Infant

Toddler

del Jardin

Kindergarten

Primary

“Me first!
Me first!
I just gotta
Be first!”

Let me show you
All that I can do
All that I have
Become

What We Know About Child Development & the Value of Playful Learning

1. Children are naturally curious and have an innate desire to learn about the world.
2. Children are active learners who construct knowledge through hands-on experiences.
3. Children learn through play.
4. Children need environments that foster positive identity development.
5. Children need ample opportunities to move their bodies and use their voices.
6. Children need caring and nurturing relationships with adults.
7. Children need agency over their learning.
8. Children need ample time outdoors.
9. Children need opportunities to develop self-control, self-regulation, and executive function.
10. Children need space to fail and struggle so they can learn to persist and try again.



Turn & Talk



Bring a child to mind.
Talk about a child you know, and how
that child values playful learning



What We Know About Our EC Teachers and Caregivers & the Value of Playful Teaching



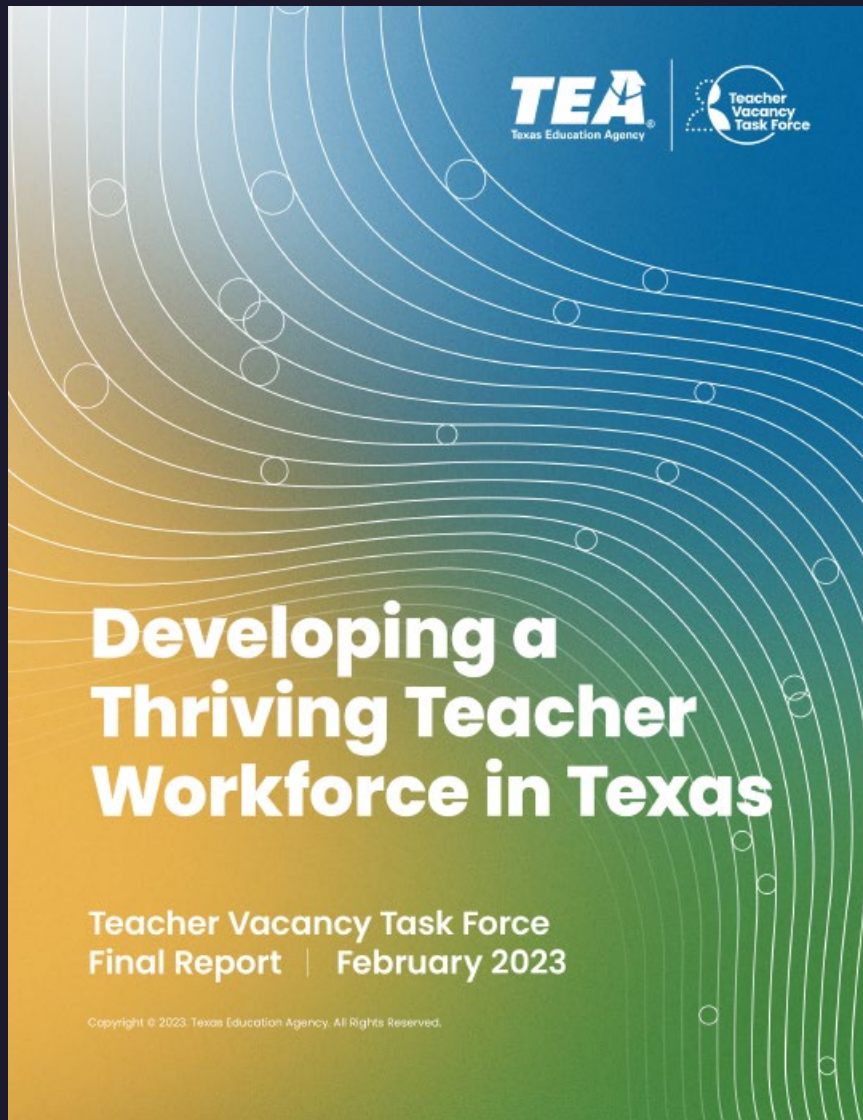
“We Are NOT OK”



Results from ECE Workforce Survey

In January 2024, more than 10,000 early childhood educators took a new ECE field survey from NAEYC. The survey results and accompanying stories illustrate the ongoing challenges facing this field, the exhaustion of providers, the clear benefits of public funding, and the need for additional support following the loss of federal funding that helped stabilize the sector before it expired in September 2023.

[Read More](#)



Compensation

Theme 1: Increase Overall Compensation and Support Strategic Compensation Strategies

Theme 2: Enhance Teachers' Total Compensation Package

Theme 3: Provide Incentives and Support for Hard-to-Staff Areas

Training and Support

Theme 4: Improve the Pipeline and Pre-Service Preparation of Novice Teachers

Theme 5: Expand Training and Support for Teacher Mentorship and Teacher Leadership Opportunities

Theme 6: Provide Access to and Support for High-Quality Instructional Materials

Working Conditions

Theme 7: Demonstrate Respect and Value for Teacher Time

Theme 8: Ensure Schoolwide Culture and Discipline Supports



tuesday, march 12, 2024

Are the Teachers Alright?

Teachers are also a happy bunch. They are the most likely of all professions to say they "smiled or laughed a lot yesterday," and the most likely to report experiencing "happiness" and "enjoyment" yesterday. What's more, teachers rank No. 2 in saying they "learn or do something new" each day.



Scenes from the Classroom



Trevor Newton

Prek-4



Erin Littlefield

Kindergarten



Vivien Geneser

Camp Geneser



**Christian
Estefania
Castañeda**

Casa de Paz Montessori



Turn & Talk

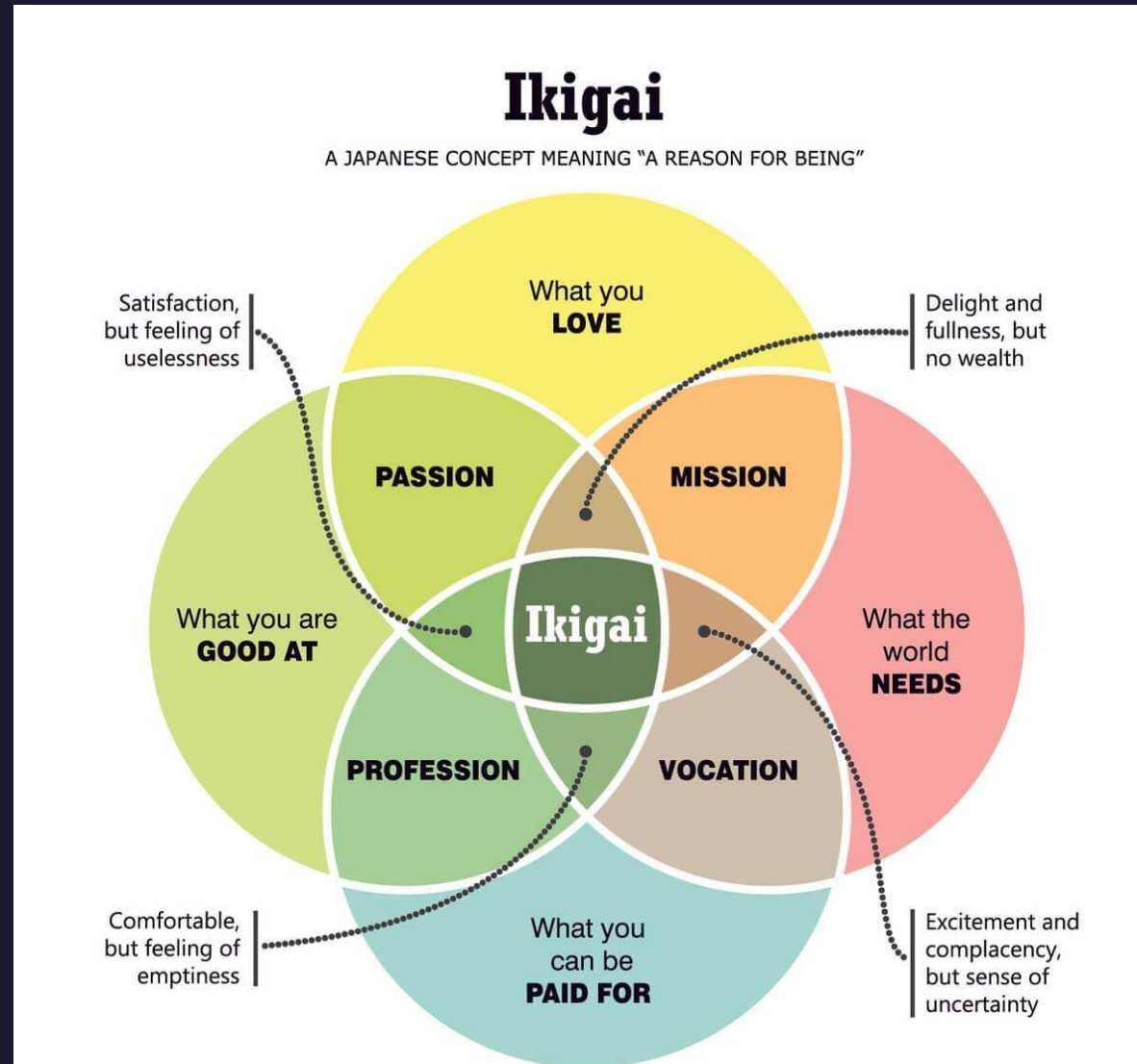


Photos: NAEYC

Bring a teacher to mind.
Talk about a teacher you know, and how
that teacher values playful teaching.



Teaching From Your Whole Person



Courtesy: Toronto Star

Change the Conversation about CARE



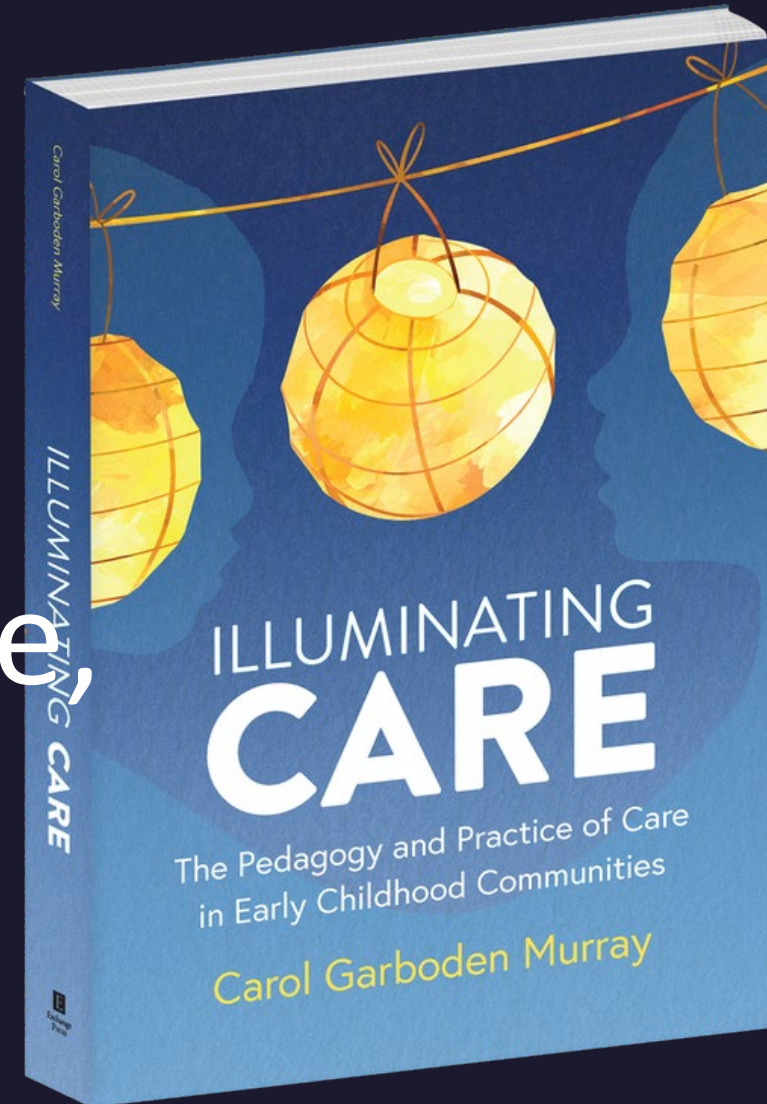
Illuminating Care by Carol Garboden Murray

7 Lamps of Care

Care is: education, a right, partnership,

bodily, an art, a science,

Care is what makes us human.





Heather Bernt-Santy



REIMAGINING OUR WORK



Principle 1:

*Embrace our
humanity*



Principle 2:

*Invite diverse
voices and ways
of thinking*



Principle 3:

*Center our work
on social justice*



Principle 4:

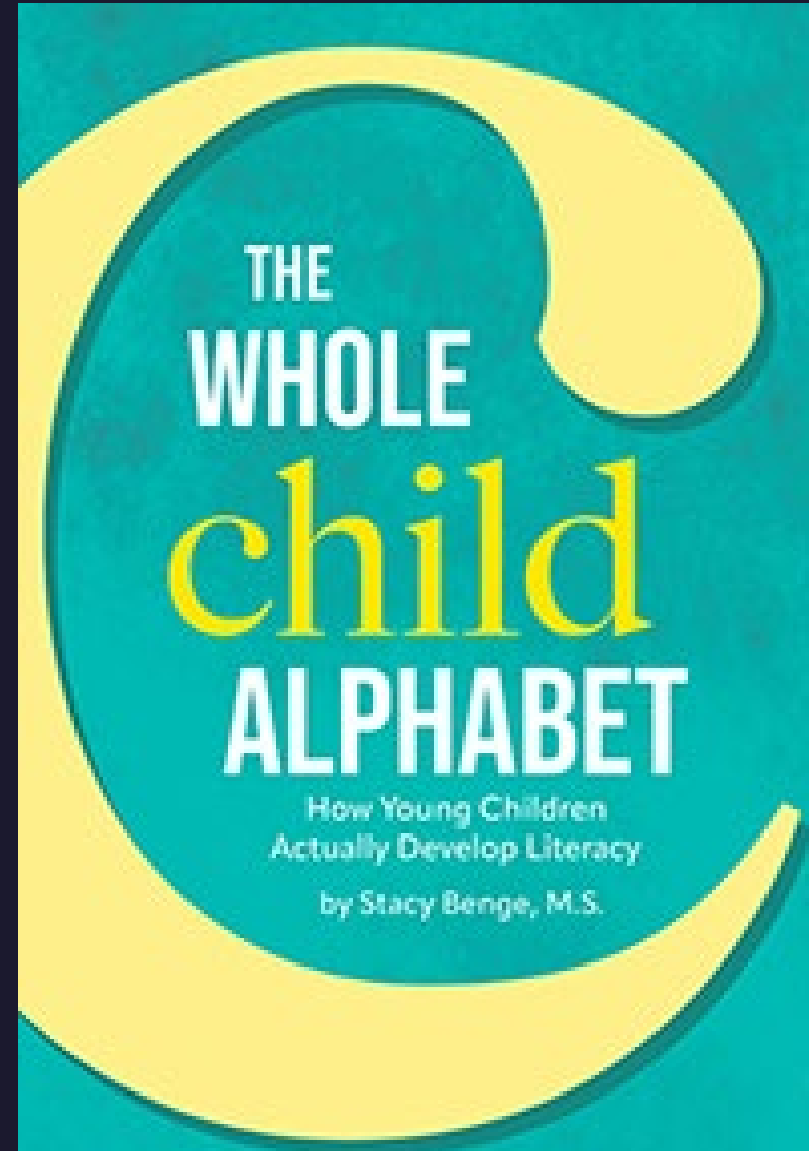
*Believe in
educators*

Exchange *EveryDay*

Your free source of early childhood inspiration and news.



Stacy Bengé
*The Whole Child
Alphabet: How
Young Children
Actually Develop
Literacy*





How can we
help?

Join NAEYC and Texas AEYC
Know better, do better



MORE VIDEOS

Umbra

the fully shaded inner region of a shadow cast by the moon experiencing the total phase of an eclipse.

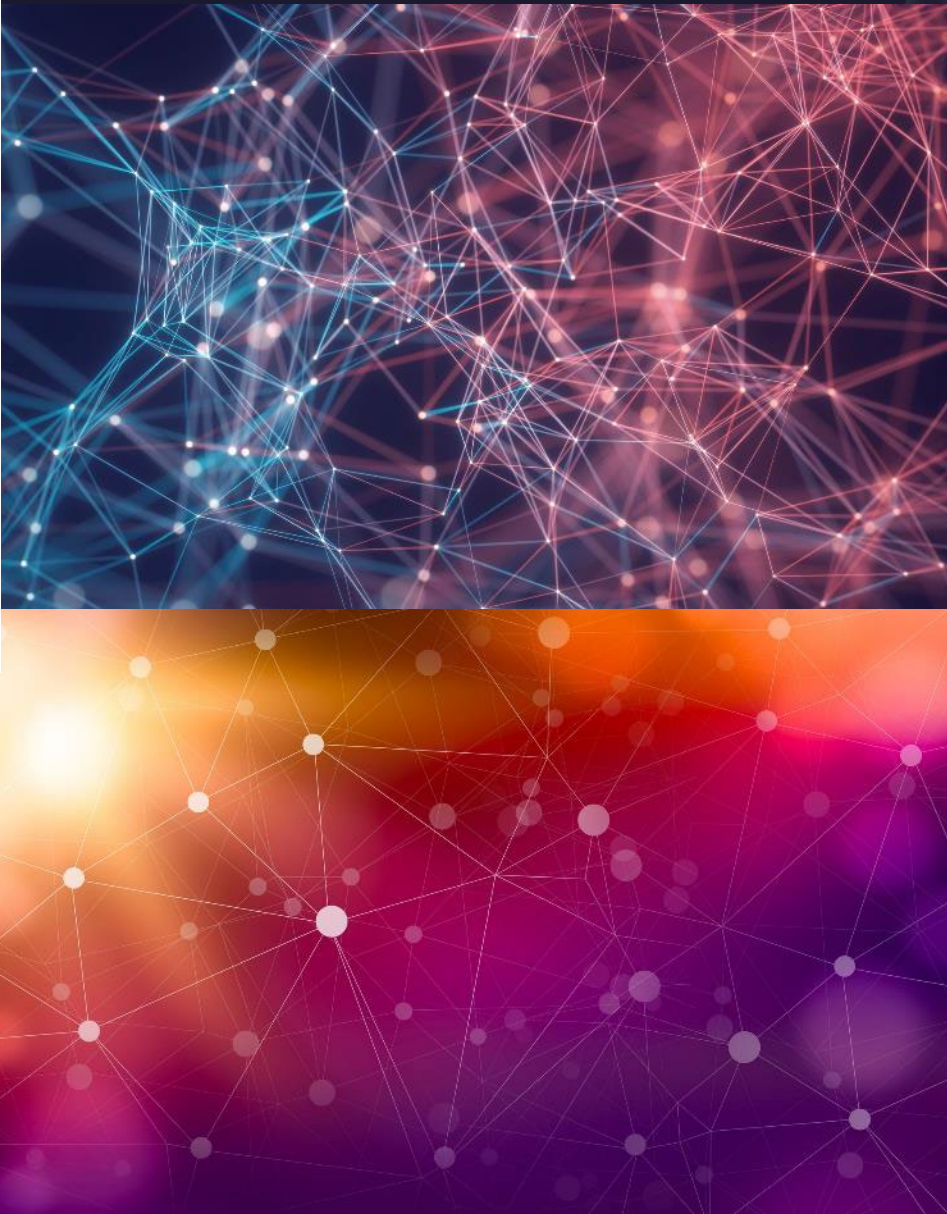
Penumbra

the shadow cast by the earth or moon over an area experiencing a partial eclipse.



You and the child

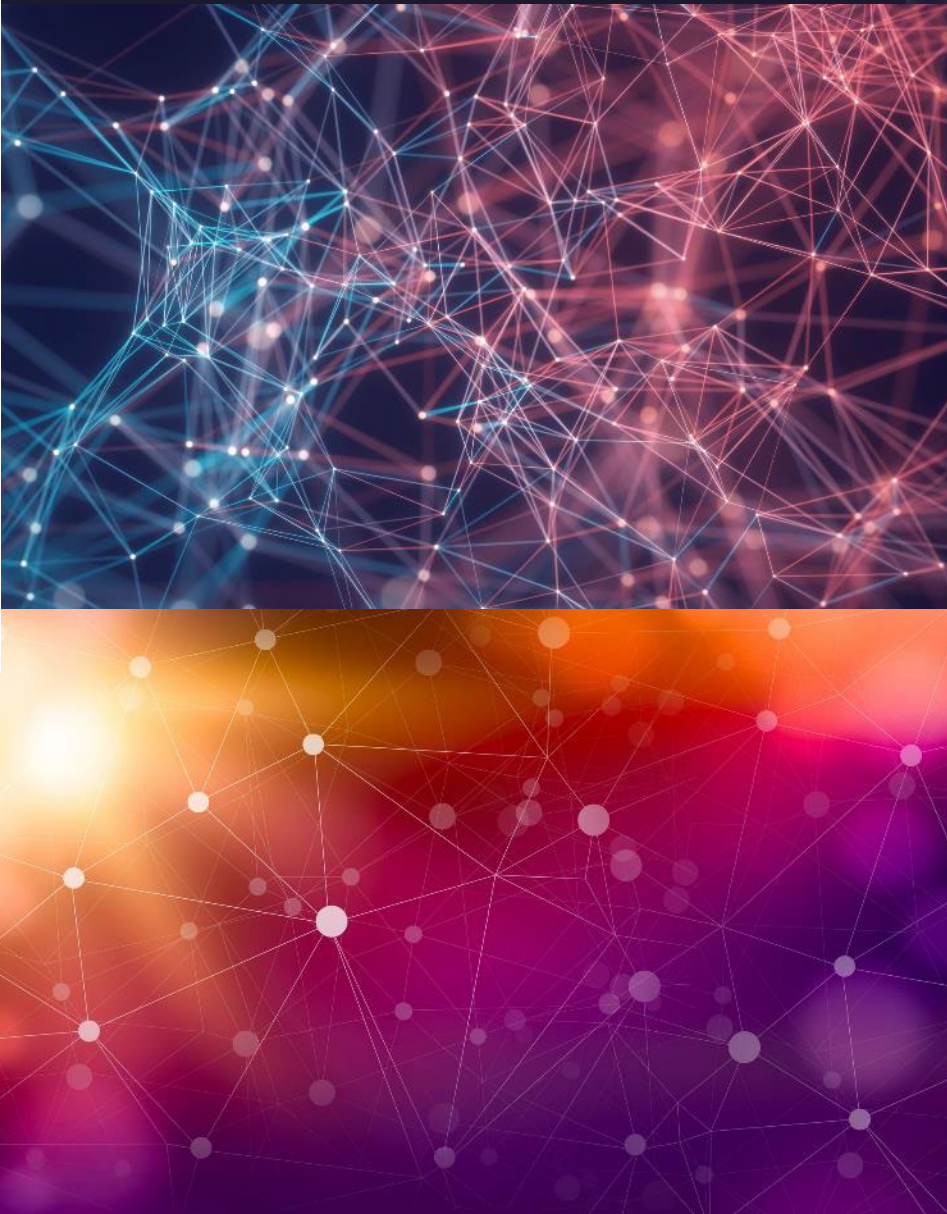
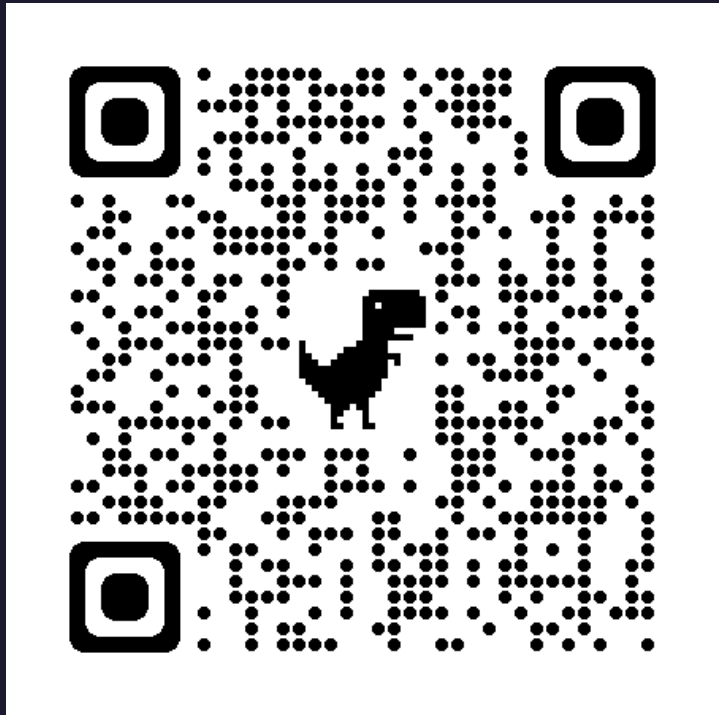
“Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire 'to make him learn things', but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence.” Montessori



Thank You

“Billy” – Dr. Josh Thompson

My passion is to promote and protect
childlike wonder and love of learning
through play.



Thank You

“Billy” – Dr. Josh Thompson

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[http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson/play/
keynote](http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jthompson/play/keynote)