

## Jeff's Bio



Jeff A. Johnson opened Explorations Early Learning, a family child care program, in 2003 with his wife, Tasha, after spending 16 years directing a child care center and community center for a large non-profit agency.

Their program focuses on emergent learning in a play-based and child-centered environment. According to Jeff, "The best thing about our program is that our days are full of laughs, conversation, play, exploration, discoveries, and fun. We enjoy creating an environment conducive to 'light bulb moments'—those moments where kids grasp new ideas. Helping kids discover the world is very fulfilling."

Jeff and Tasha keep their program small to accommodate Jeff's writing and speaking schedule. His audience, as a writer and speaker, is the hardworking caregivers dedicated to doing right by children: early care and education professionals, teachers, and parents.



He is the author of eight books:

*Do-It-Yourself Early Learning* (Redleaf Press, 2006)

*Finding Your Smile Again* (Redleaf Press, 2007)

*Everyday Early Learning* (Redleaf Press, 2008)

*Babies in the Rain* (Redleaf Press, 2009)

*Keeping Your Smile* (Redleaf Press, 2010)

*Let Them Play: An Early Learning (Un)Curriculum* (Redleaf Press, 2012)

*The Child Care Alphabet Book of Early Learning* (Explorations Early Learning LLC, 2007)

*The Child Care Alphabet Book of Manipulatives* (Explorations Early Learning LLC, 2008)

Jeff always has a new book in the works and presents keynotes and workshops full of stories and humor at over 30 events a year. His presentations focus on two main themes: caregiver self-care and child-centered early learning. One attendee recently commented, "Excellent, excellent speaker! Very motivating, energized

presentation...I will long remember your fun and touching talk.” In recent years, he has presented to thousands of caregivers in over half the fifty US states and Ireland.

Jeff also blogs, writes and produces video and audio content for his website and social media in an effort to support caregivers in their work with children. His online offerings are most easily accessed at <http://www.facebook.com/ExplorationsEarlyLearning>.

In recent years, he has become a toy maker and focuses on creating simple play materials made from natural materials. You can view these items at [www.explorationsearlylearning.com/shop](http://www.explorationsearlylearning.com/shop)

In his spare time, Jeff practices and teaches yoga, reads, and starts projects around his yard and house that he may or may not finish.

For more information about Jeff, visit [www.explorationsearlylearning.com](http://www.explorationsearlylearning.com) or email him at [jeffajohnson@cableone.net](mailto:jeffajohnson@cableone.net).