



Child Care = Early Learning

The way we care for children builds their self work, their ability for perspective taking, and their capacity for empathy. These are not soft skills - these are the vital building blocks of a strong human

MYTH

Care involves basic bodily functions while education involves the mind

TRUTH

The false dualism of mind and body and the historic divide between care and education does not lend itself to an accurate understanding of early childhood development. Care rituals are critical natural learning opportunities that integrate mind-body learning, prepare the child for future academic success and set the foundation for a sense of worthiness and agency in the world.

Caring for children is the most important and honorable responsibility of every community

MYTH

Child care is babysitting and caring for children is not an educational encounter. Child care centers provide the kind of custodial care that anyone can do.

TRUTH

Early childhood teachers have chosen to work with young children as a vocation and career. They have a professional body of knowledge and a teaching practice to support early human development and care as a pedagogy. People who care for young children with out knowledge of child development and without an understanding of care ethics can do harm. Caring for young children requires us to know many things.

NOT A BABYSITTER

We have had to defend the caring profession with the valid message that we are not babysitters, but that doesn't mean we disparage caring. Babysitters may be loving trusted family members, neighbors, and friends who watch over children and support family life. Instead of contributing to the view that caring for children is subordinate to education, we need to lift up care and unite with everyone who plays a significant role in the life of the child – the teacher, the parent, the grandparent, the aunt, the babysitter. We need to acknowledge that caring matters. Caring is an art, a science, a pedagogy, and caring for children is the most important and honorable responsibility of every community.

ILLUMINATING CARE by CAROL GARBODEN MURRAY