

Jeff A. Johnson

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explorationsearlylearning.com

eeltoys.com

playvolutionhq.com

Experience

2013-Present 'Retired'

Retired and devoting time to the following hobbies

- In person and online early learning training
- Making and selling early learning toys
- Advocating for play and caregiver self-care
- Producing and hosting early learning podcasts
- Consulting on early learning projects
- Creating and curating early learning content at www.playvolutionhq.com
- Working with fun and interesting people on fun and interesting projects

2003-2013 Self-Employed

Founder, Explorations Early Learning

- Operated a successful family child care program focusing on emergent learning in a play based environment that is registered with the State of Iowa as a Category C Child Development Home.
- Provided keynotes and training for early childhood professionals, teachers, parents, and foster parents in a variety of settings at the local, state, and national level.
- Offered caregiver resources online through www.explorationsearlylearning.com, www.jeffajohnson.com, and the Explorations Early Learning Facebook page.
- Designed, built, and sold simple, open-ended toys.
- Wrote 8 early learning books (6 published by Redleaf Press and 2 self-published).
- Past board member of the Siouxland Professional Family Child Care Association and the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Served in the positions of Regional Representative and Treasurer for the National Association for Family Child Care.

1989-2003 The Salvation Army

Youth Services Director

- Oversaw staff of 15-25 direct care providers.
- Worked with multiple agencies to improve resources for early care and education in the Siouxland community.
- Built a child care center that opened in a basement with one child into a program housed in a state-of-the-art facility serving over 100 children.
- Managed programs with an annual budget of \$400,000.
- Wrote grants and organized fundraisers to sustain and grow programs.
- Developed program materials and publications, tracked finances, raised funds, marketed programs and worked cooperatively with other agencies.
- Spoke to local groups about agency programs and early care and education in general as an advocate for children and families.
- Conducted training on local, state and regional levels including PITC, IA AEYC and Midwest AEYC.

2001-2002 Parenting Partners

Consultant

- Published and distributed a monthly newsletter to families in over 60 area child care centers.
- Collected data for and published a regional center based care directory.
- Worked as an advocate for the needs of center-based care providers.
- Conducted numerous surveys of center staff, directors and parents in an effort to improve knowledge of the quality, availability and needs of local center based care.
- Worked with a variety of agencies to market quality center based care in our area.

Publications 2006

Do-It-Yourself Early Learning (Redleaf Press)

2007

Finding Your Smile Again (Redleaf Press)

The Child Care Alphabet Book of Early Learning (Explorations Early Learning)

2008

Everyday Early Learning (Redleaf Press)

The Child Care Alphabet Book of Manipulatives (Explorations Early Learning)

2009

Babies In The Rain (Redleaf Press)

2010

Keeping Your Smile (Redleaf Press)

2012

Let Them Play (Redleaf Press)

2013

Let's Play (Redleaf Press)

2015

Let's All Play (Redleaf Press)

**College
Education**

1988-1994

WITCC/Briar Cliff

Completed 130 credit hours (most in Education, Philosophy and English Literature)

Changed majors a lot and decided not to complete a degree. Second best choice I've ever made.

**Life
Education**

January 30, 1969 to Present **Life**

I've been learning new things every day since birth and do not plan to stop any time soon.

**Other
Interests**

Woodworking, chickens, tomato plants, and restoring our 115-year-old house.