

BIOGRAPHY | Jeff A Johnson

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OVERVIEW

After 16+ years, in a moment of frustration and exhaustion, Jeff quit a job he loved with a large non-profit agency. He walked in the door as a volunteer and end up directing a child care program and community center that served hundreds of children a day. Twenty minutes after quitting, he realized he was burnt out and unemployed. His wife, Tasha, assistant director of the child care center, quit the next day--she had been burnt out for years.

They quickly resolved to start a family child care program that focused on child-led play and learning. They ran that program for 10+ years. During that time, Jeff had the opportunity to write some books for Redleaf Press that focused on play, relationships, and caregiver self-care. He also began to spend a lot of time traveling as an early learning speaker. In 2013, they closed their program to focus full-time on providing early learning trainings as well as creating and curating digital content promoting play, child-led learning, and caregiver self-care.

TRAINING

Jeff did his first presentation in the fall of 2000. Since then, he's presented across the United States, Canada, and Australia. He's also done online trainings for over 15 years. Attendees have described his sessions as heartfelt, inspirational, high-energy, and humorous.

Exhausted and homesick from spending up to six months a year on the road, in late 2017 He decided to cut back on in-person events and focus on online trainings. Now he offers regular live and on-demand sessions via his website and is available for hire for private or open-to-the public training events. He only accepts a handful of in-person events each year.

PODCASTING

Jeff began podcasting in 2013. Episodes of *The Child Care Bar And Grill*, his original show have been downloaded over 3 million times. That show will release its 1000th episode in 2023. He's also produced early learning focused shows featuring popular early learning authors like Lisa Murphy, Heather Shumaker, Angela Hanscom, Mike Huber, and Dan Hodgins. There are currently over 1800 episodes--totaling over 900 hours of content—available at playvolutionhq.com.

PLAYVOLUTION HQ

In 2016, Jeff founded Playvolution HQ (playvolutionhq.com) as a home for original and curated early learning content. The site now houses all those podcast episodes as well as thousands of early learning quotes, do-it-yourself projects, article, book suggestions, and more. New content is added daily.