Today, I hope that you feel cared for and that you will join me in inventing a new way to describe CARE as EDUCATION.

What is care?

“Most people agree that the world would be a better place if we all cared more for one another, but despite that initial agreement we find it is hard to say exactly what we mean by caring.”

Nel Noddings, Starting at Home: Caring and Social Policy
The 7 lamps of care

Care is Education
Care is a Right
Care is a Partnership
Care is Bodily
Care is an Art
Care is a Science
Care is what makes us Human

Care = education
The pedagogy of care dissolves the false dichotomy that there is a split between early education and care. In the past, caring may have been viewed as a minimum standard of keeping a child safe and clean, or as something anyone could do. In the emerging future, caring is viewed as an intentional teaching practice that connects us to one another, and requires specialized knowledge about children, about learning, growth, and human development.
What are the Myths?

**Care is Education**

**MYTH**
- Early care and education programs are important because they prepare young children for school.

**TRUTH**
- Early care and education programs are important for young children because they contribute to their overall development and well-being.

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The inseparability of early education and care

**False Dualism**

John Dewey described false dualism as the split between intellect and emotions. He examined that life is a true education and good schools should provide elements of home, democracy, community, and experiential learning in the wide wonderful world.

**MIND & BODY**
- Emotion & Logic
- Work & Play
- Thinking & Feeling
- Education & Care

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Is it DANGEROUS to talk about care?

Some have said it is risky to talk about the work of teaching young children through the lens of feminist care ethics. They have said that talking about the labor of the body is dangerous to our profession, or to put it bluntly, no one wants to hear about preparing meals, wiping noses and changing diapers. But I say, I want to rescue care. I don't want to disguise care. I believe we must name it, and it is time to shape a new honest narrative about the strength of care.
Rescuing CARE is a social justice issue

Alicia Garza in her Ted Talk, Care Givers are the Backbone of Society describes the inclusiveness of care as she explains that the care movement has the power to connect us all to one another. She says that taking steps to solve the care crisis in our country links us directly to the movement to end sexism, homophobia, ableism and racism. Care is not only about gender equity, but care is also about class and race. As we illuminate care, we seek inclusion, unity and healing.

Care is NOT subordinate to Education.

Care is FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING.

A hierarchy of needs

Can care be uncaring?

Is caring natural?

Early childhood teachers may have inclinations towards caring, but it is not accurate to believe that caring is natural. Caring can be learned, analyzed and improved. When we practice the pedagogy of care, we treat care as an art, and a science, and an educational encounter. As professionals who care, we must grapple with the meaning of human growth, empathy, attentiveness and trust. Caring with this attitude makes care an honorable intellectual exchange.
BUT, I DIDN'T GET A DEGREE TO CHANGE DIAPERS!

AS AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR, I DIDN'T FORESEE THE AMOUNT OF TIME I WOULD SPEND IN CARING RITUALS. IT TOOK ME YEARS TO SEE CARING AS THE CORE OF THE CURRICULUM, AND TO UNDERSTAND THAT A PEDAGOGY AND PRACTICE OF CARING FOR CHILDREN DURING TOILETING AND DRESSING ROUTINES IS CENTRAL TO EXCELLENT EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.

Care is strength - and naming care can be a REVOLUTIONARY ACT.
Care for the sake of care
When we practice care as a relational ethic, we recognize the inherent worthiness of the person. We treat care as a way of teaching trust, respect, and the value of human relationships. Appreciating care for the sake of care is about understanding that caring for the child’s body is the same as caring for the child’s mind and spirit.

(page 26, Illuminating Care)

How is the theme of care embedded naturally in the habitat of childhood?
THANK YOU FOR CARING!
Look for ILLUMINATING CARE at EXCHANGE
Childcareexchange.com
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