

Episode 2: Show Notes

Anna Powell - Show Notes

- **Research on FFN Care in California** – [Anna Powell](#), Associate Director at the [Center for the Study of Child Care Employment \(CSCCE\)](#) at the [University of California, Berkeley](#), discusses a two-year study exploring how [Family, Friend, and Neighbor \(FFN\) care](#) supports families with young children.
 - **Parents' Perspectives** – The study revealed that FFN care is often parents' *ideal choice*, not just a last resort, with Black and Latino families especially valuing its cultural, familial, and emotional strengths.
 - **Caregivers' Experiences** – FFN caregivers, often grandparents, see their role as central to children's development. They provide meals, transportation, and enrichment, but frequently feel isolated and undervalued despite making financial and personal sacrifices.
 - **Policy Challenges** – Current [child care subsidies](#) don't adequately support FFN caregivers, who report low compensation and little recognition. Policymaking often overlooks FFN care because it doesn't fit into traditional, regulated models of California's early care and education system.
 - **Call for Change** – Powell emphasizes the need for political will to respect FFN care as essential, flexible, and deeply valued by families, rather than treating it only as a pathway to licensed care.
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Kim Nall - Show Notes

- **A Lifetime in Early Care** – [Kim Nall](#), Executive Director of the [Tribal Childcare Association of California \(TCCAC\)](#), shares her decades-long journey in early care and education, from preschool co-owner to tribal childcare leader.
- **Founding TCCAC** – Created in 2006 after tribal leaders saw that [Race to the Top](#) funding overlooked tribes, the association works to establish tribal childcare standards

and secure direct support for programs through [CCDBG](#) and [Quality Counts California](#).

- **Role of Relative Care** – Across California’s [109 federally recognized tribes](#), family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care—often described as “trusted relative providers”—remains the most used form of childcare, reflecting families’ desire for culturally grounded, language-rich, and trusted caregiving.
- **Building Trust and Partnerships** – Kim Nall highlights the importance of culturally sensitive collaboration with Resource & Referral (R&R) agencies, noting that trust-building with tribal communities takes time, respect, and acknowledgment of cultural practices.
- **Centering Culture in Quality** – [TCCAC](#) promotes culturally defined quality standards in early care, supports workforce development and training, and advocates for relative caregivers to be recognized, compensated, and valued as experts in children’s early development.