

Episode 3:

Show Notes - Toni

- **The Origins of FFN Care Research:** Toni Porter shares how her work began in the 1990s following the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, observing how parents—especially mothers entering the workforce—relied on family, friends, and neighbors (FFN) for child care. [Learn more about the Welfare Reform Act.](#)
- **Understanding FFN Caregivers:** Through studies in New York City and across four states, Porter highlights that FFN caregivers—often grandmothers, aunts, or neighbors—provide care out of love and commitment, not just for pay. He emphasizes the need to recognize their practices, like engaging children in cognitive, language, and social skill development. [FFN Caregiver Studies](#) ([My Child Care Plan](#) can help FFN providers connect to their local R&R in California who can assist with the subsidy process).
- **Sources of Support:** Research shows FFN caregivers primarily rely on relatives for emotional support, early education professionals for guidance and resources, and limited financial or material support. Agencies can play a critical role by [providing training, materials, incentives, and connections](#).
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** FFN caregivers face isolation, long hours, and distrust of formal institutions. Successful support programs prioritize relationship-building, [accessible resources](#), peer connection, and instrumental supports like transportation or materials.
- **Policy and Advocacy Needs:** Porter calls for policies that include wellness support, retirement and health benefits, [pathways to licensing](#), leadership development, and [recognition of FFN care](#) as a vital part of the early childhood ecosystem.

Show Notes - Soyla Madrigal

- **Understanding FFN Care in California:** Soyla Madrigal explains Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) care—child care provided by relatives, neighbors, or friends who are not licensed but step in to support working parents. [Learn more about FFN Care in California and opportunities to connect.](#)
- **The Parent Perspective:** FFN caregivers provide flexibility and peace of mind for parents, including support during nontraditional work hours or when children are sick. This care alleviates stress, prevents missed work, and supports family stability.
- **FFN Care Quality and Misconceptions:** Madrigal emphasizes that [FFN care is high quality](#), focusing on safety, nurturing, interaction, and developmental support—even incorporating bilingual learning and early social-emotional activities.
- **Training and Support for FFN Caregivers:** Research and Referral agencies offer trainings in health and safety, emergency preparedness, and caring for children with special needs, helping FFN caregivers enhance their skills and confidence.
- **Building Community and Connections:** Playgroups and peer networks provide emotional support, practical strategies, and opportunities for FFN caregivers to connect, share knowledge, and reduce isolation—enhancing both caregiver and child well-being.