

# The Two-Generation Classroom Approach:

Learning Together in the Gen-Ed Core

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# Learning Outcomes for Today

- ▶ By this end of this workshop you will:
  - ▶ Learn Everyone's Name
  - ▶ Write a Musical Score
  - ▶ Meet an important person
  - ▶ Understand the Two-Generation Classroom Approach & How it Can Contribute to pedagogy within the general education core.
  - ▶ Retain what you did and what you learned for the rest of the day (and probably longer)



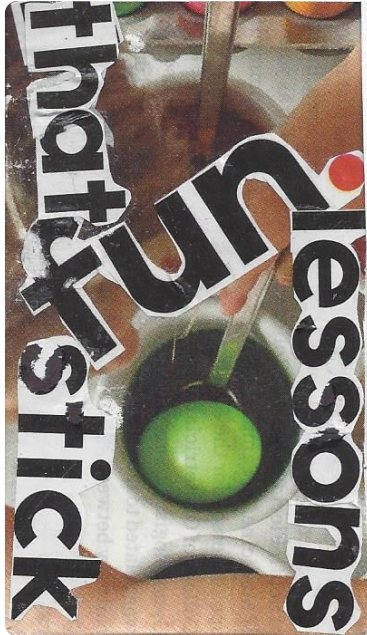
# The Name Game!



Draw a Song



Hot Seating



Let's play together!

"Shhh..." we don't have to remind anyone that we're still at school & learning.

Learning is hard.  
Learning is boring.

We can mix  
and we can measure  
and we can explore  
and share what we've learned (!)  
And suddenly  
maybe  
learning isn't all that hard &  
boring afterall.

Follow



the

Leader

We learn:

10% of what we read  
20% of what we hear  
30% of what we see  
50% of what we see and hear  
70% of what we talk about  
80% of what we experience  
95% of what we teach to others.  
~William Glasser

We learn best when we teach others. Young (and older) parents are natural teachers to their kids. The 2-gen classroom uses this fact as a starting place for learning.

Children also learn a lot from the role modeling of their parents. This is a powerful opportunity for two-generational impact.



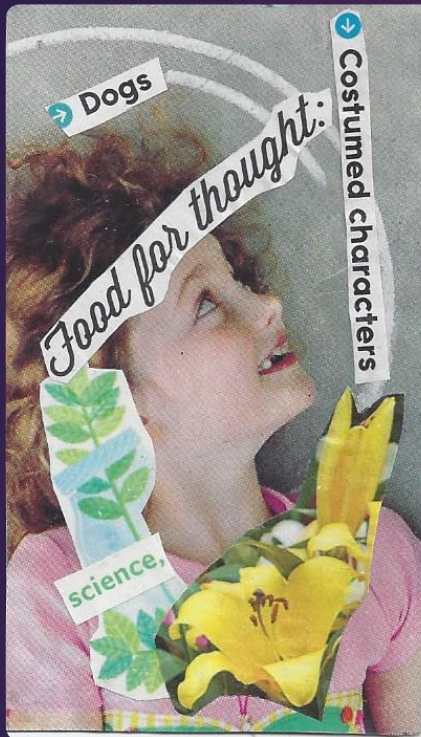
Still Hoping

The images in this card called out to me immediately when I saw them. I was thinking about Saturday afternoons and the guilt and hope and so many of my students and research participants have described in just wanting to have some time carved out within their very busy and overwhelming lives to be with their children in a way that feels engaged and connected—what they would describe as spending “quality time” together. Often using incredibly complex time management systems the moms I interviewed often designated a specific time or ritual each day with their children and a longer block of time (often a Saturday or Sunday afternoon) for spending “quality-time” together. What defines what is, and is not quality time is highly subjective but for many student parents it seems to involve:

- Engaged and fun activities together
- Learning something new
- Creating lasting memories

The words: Still Hoping represent the yearning by low-income parents & children to spend quality time together but also the reality of how difficult it is to find this time within their busy lives!

# Knowledge Trading Cards



### Food for Thoughts...

Getting children (or adults) engaged in literacy begins with engaging their interests!

So how does a teacher learn about their students' interests? Ask! Notice! Discuss and Share!

Does a student always wear a certain t-shirt to school, bring a certain item, talk about a certain topic? Notice!

Ask them more about this interest. Create spaces and times for sharing personal interests in class.

Literacy Project Idea: Non-Fiction Children's Literature

1. Brainstorm : Help students articulate and brainstorm their interests in various topics using pictures, words and discussion.
2. Help students select 1 topic for their project
3. Go to the library & explore the children's non-fiction section to find books on the topic
4. Allow time throughout the curriculum unit for students to read, learn & share about their individual topic.
5. Hold a learning fair to celebrate this learning & share it with others!



### USE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR TOOLBOX

Young adults today including young parents are technologically engaged both as individuals, and engage in technology with their kids.

#### *Three Ideas for Using Tech in Pedagogy*

1. Use Pinterest as a visual catalog of ideas—similar to KTCs with both images and text.
2. Use the library to help families access free digital books & other technology access.
3. Use tablet technology instead of textbooks!  
Amazon Kindle offers 1-touch definitions and language translations .  
Literacy apps as an opportunity to support parent/child bond.

# More KTCs!

# Origins & Underpinnings of the Two-Generation Classroom



# Student Parents in Context

- ▶ 4.8 Million Undergraduate Students are Parents (26%)
- ▶ Key Barriers: Financial Hardship & Role Strain
  - ▶ Childcare as Critical Challenge
  - ▶ Guilt & Desire for Quality Time with Children
- ▶ Compounding Challenges to College Success
  - ▶ First-Generation College Students
  - ▶ Students of Color
  - ▶ Non-Traditional Students
  - ▶ Students with Disabilities
  - ▶ English Language Learners

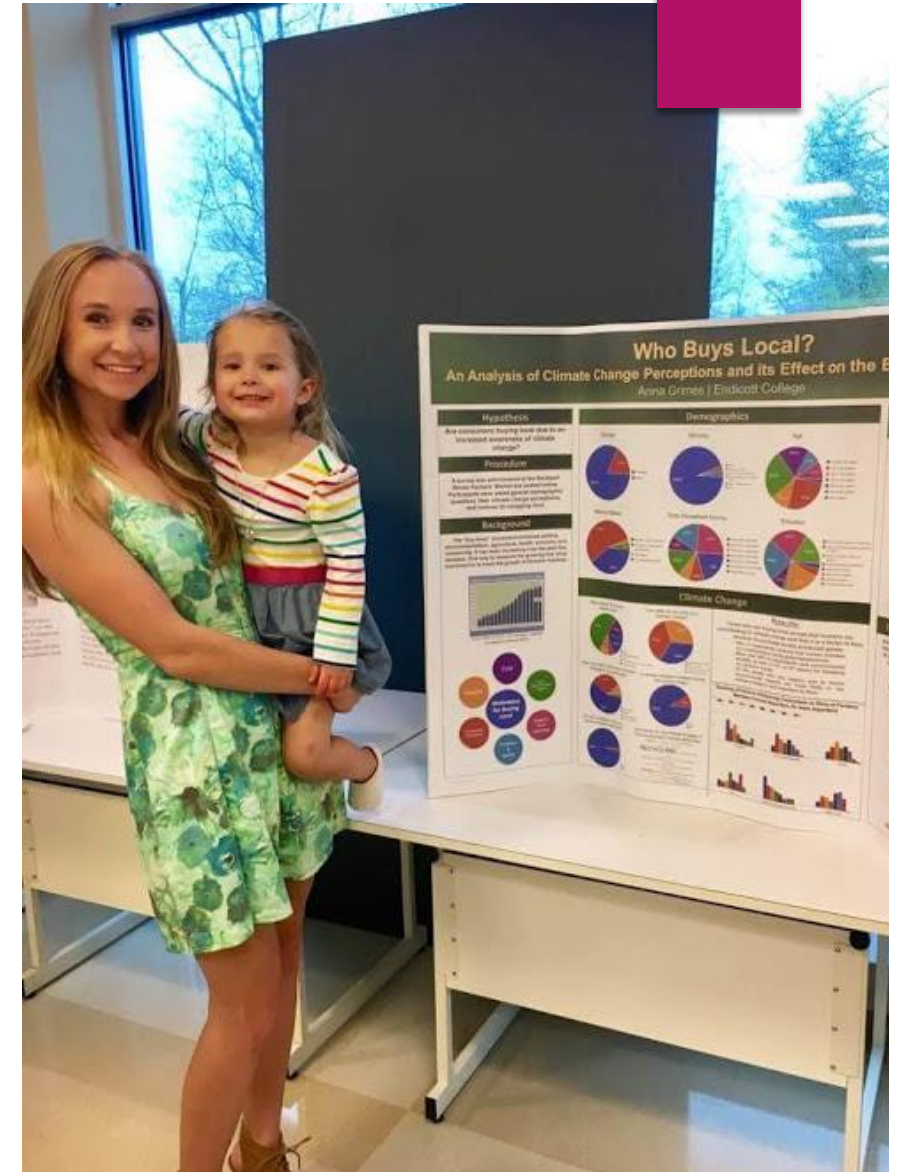


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# Two-Generation Classroom Pedagogy

- ▶ 1:1 Learning Partner Model (Adult & Child): *Teaching to Learn*
- ▶ Leverages Arts Integration
  - ▶ Create a Learning Environment that is Family Friendly
  - ▶ Multi-Level Learning Outcomes (Adult, Child and Two-Generational)
  - ▶ Helps makes learning experiential & fun!
- ▶ Adult is the Primary Student
- ▶ Focus on meeting targeted course outcomes
- ▶ Equitable Outcomes through modified inputs

**4+4 = 2+6**

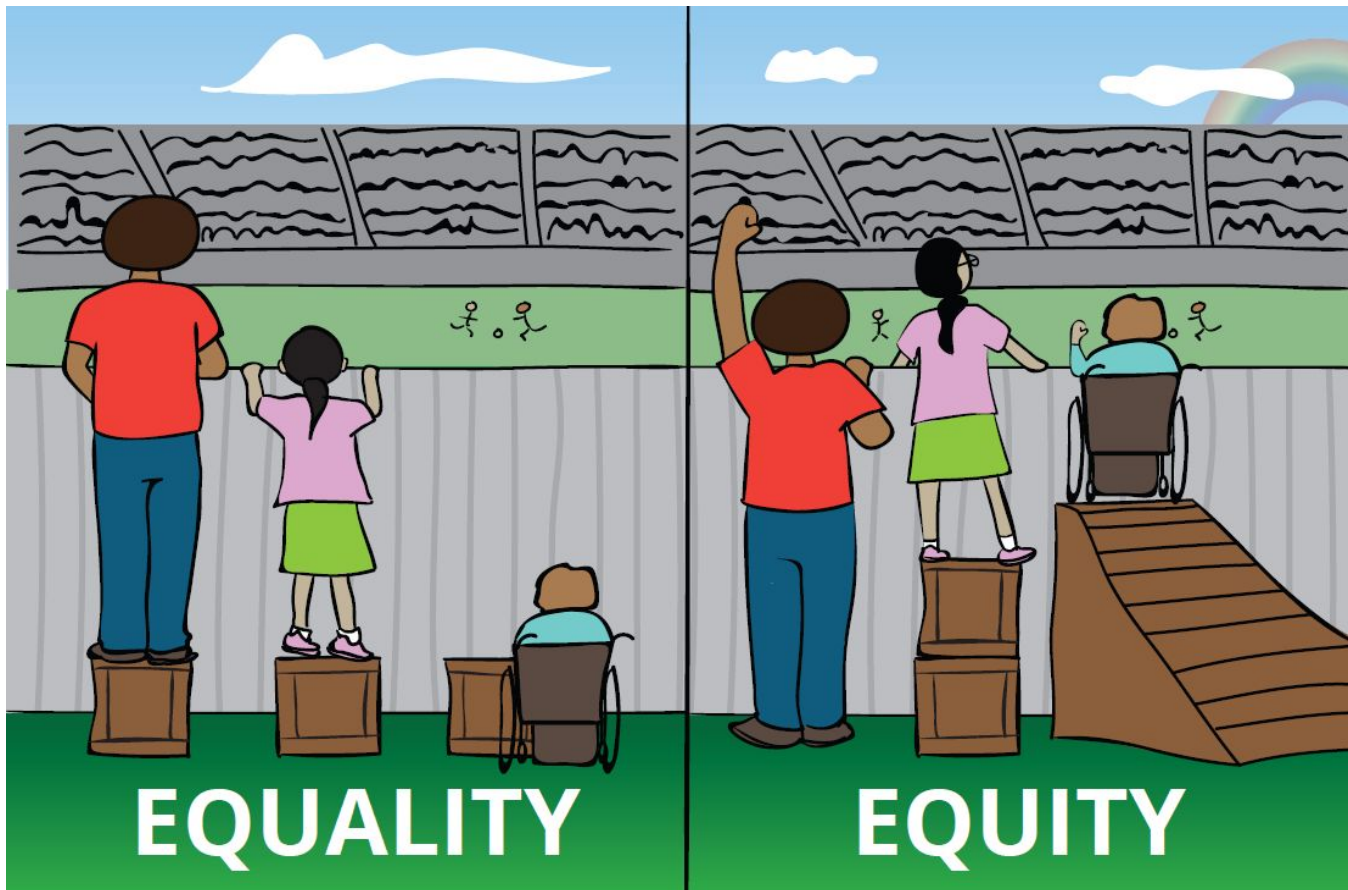


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# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

- ▶ 4 C's
  - ▶ Communication
  - ▶ Collaboration
  - ▶ Creativity
  - ▶ Critical Thinking
  - ▶ 5<sup>th</sup> C: College & Career Readiness
- ▶ Information, Digital & Media Technology
- ▶ Focus on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills within the Gen-Ed Core





Equity  
vs.  
Equality

# But what about academic rigor? We can't just sit around playing all day! This is college!

- ▶ Learning Outcomes, Course Description and other course components remain fixed.
- ▶ Students are still responsible for learning and retaining the material regardless of whether they enroll in a traditional or 2-Gen format course.
- ▶ Assessment rubrics provide clear expectations and grading standards which can be compared to the assessment rubrics of traditional format courses.
- ▶ Changing the modality of classroom learning will help more students reach intended learning outcomes and demonstrate their learning in assessment of graded assignments.
- ▶ Students who experience barriers to academic success see these barriers reduced, thus improving their academic engagement and retention of learned material.

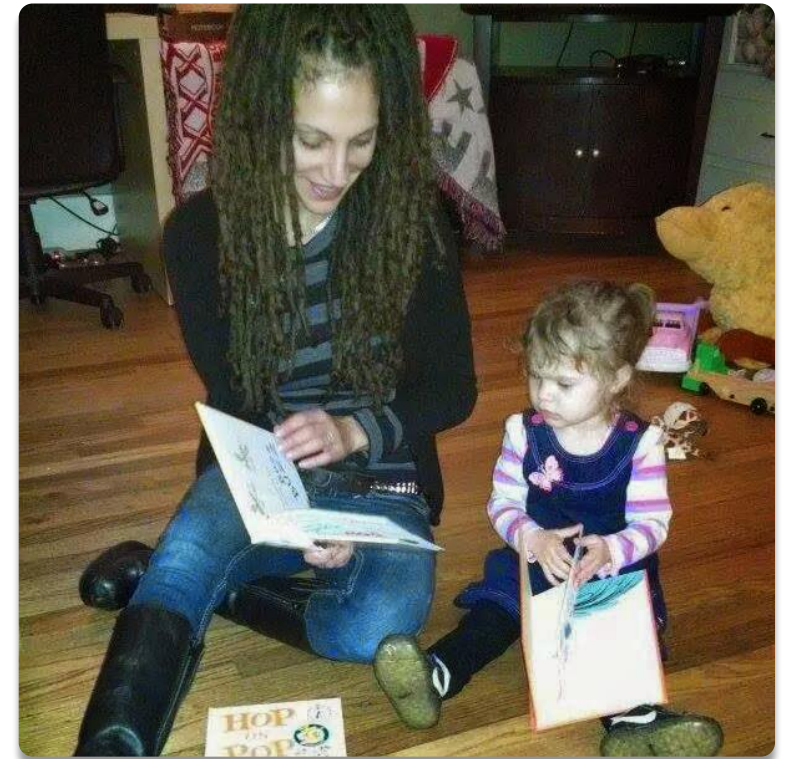


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# Diversity & Inclusion

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  - ▶ Disproportionate representation of Low-Income/Working-Class Student Parents
  - ▶ First-Generation College Students
  - ▶ First and Second Generation Americans
  - ▶ English Language Learners

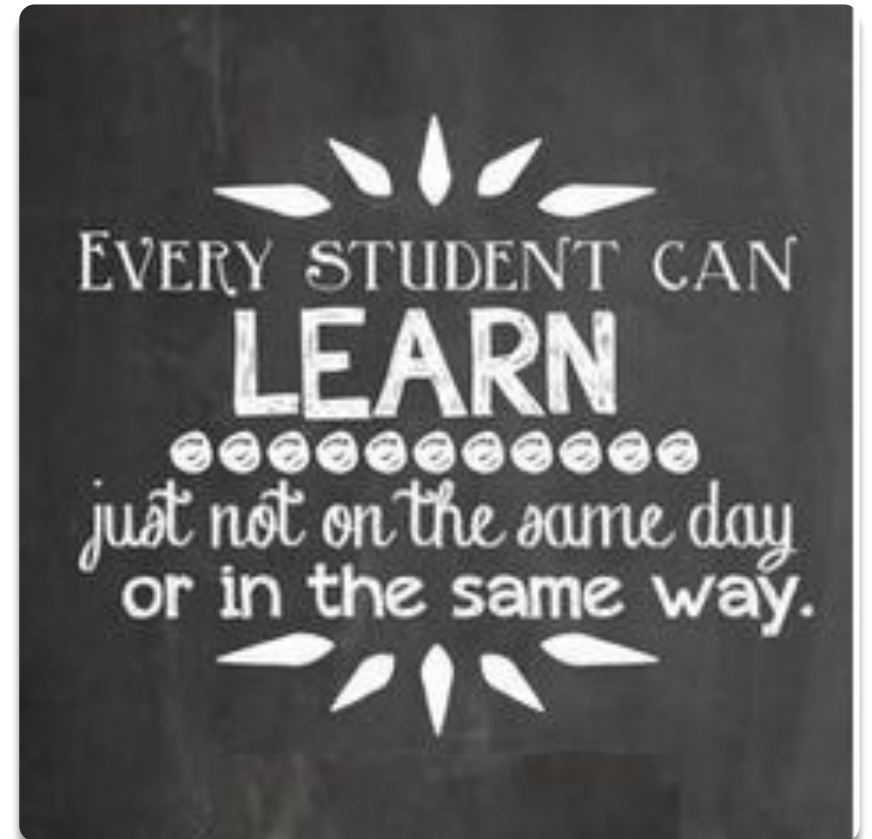
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  - ▶ First-Generation College Students
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  - ▶ English Language Learners
- ▶ Learning Styles & Strengths
  - ▶ Inclusive of Students with learning disabilities and those whose strengths are within non-dominant intelligences



# Multiple Intelligences

- ▶ Howard Gardener's Theory of Multiple Intelligences
  - ▶ Verbal/Linguistic
  - ▶ Logical/Mathematical
  - ▶ Visual/Spatial
  - ▶ Bodily/Kinesthetic
  - ▶ Musical/Rhythmic
  - ▶ Naturalistic
  - ▶ Interpersonal
  - ▶ Intrapersonal
  - ▶ New Intelligences: Existential/Spiritual, Moral, Pedagogical



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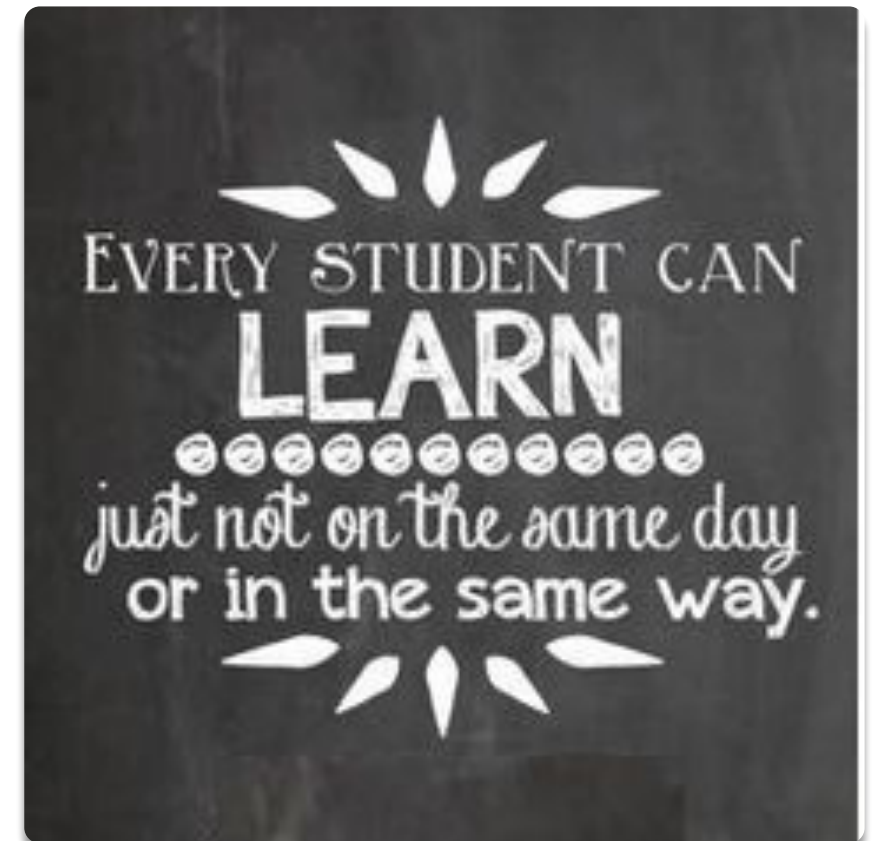
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# Teaching to Learn

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- 10% of what we read
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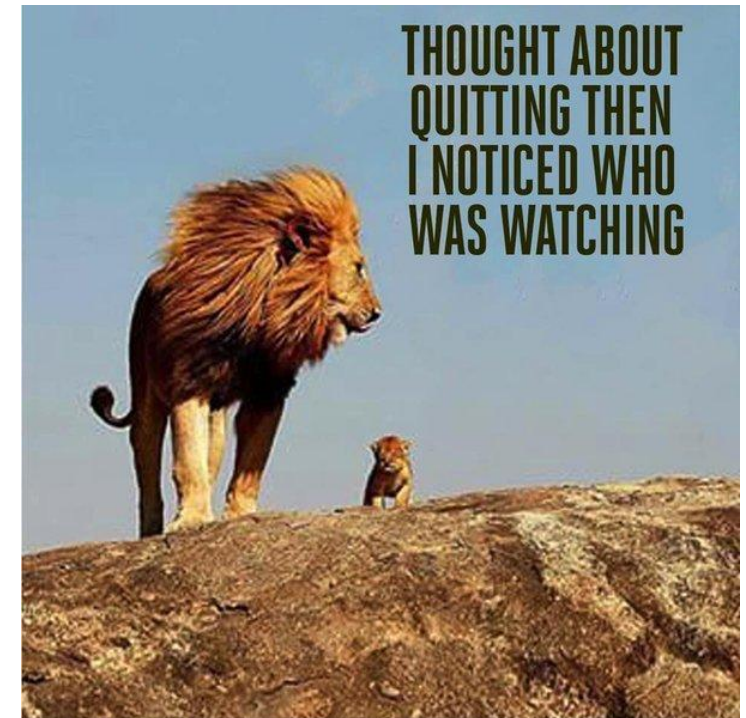
# Eliminating Practical Barriers & Promoting Parent/Child Bonding

## Practical Barriers

- Childcare
- Time
- Cost
- Guilt

## Motivations

- Being a good parent
  - Role Modeling
- Exposing Children to College
  - Ability to offer a better life to children with a degree
- Promoting Two-Generational Educational Engagement
- Quality Educational Enrichment & Activities for Children



# Other Examples of Intergenerational Learning Models

- ▶ Ad-Hoc Strategies
  - ▶ Online Courses
  - ▶ Parent-Initiated Two-Generation Homework
- ▶ Museum Settings
  - ▶ Classroom Settings
  - ▶ Exhibit Settings
  - ▶ Blended
- ▶ Education Lab Programs
  - ▶ Laboratory Schools
  - ▶ Laboratory Courses
- ▶ Children's Enrichment Programs, Parenting Classes & Playgroups
- ▶ Parallel Programming Models



Photo Credit: The Chronicle of Higher Education, 2017.  
With Permission from Anna Grimes

# What does a Two-Generation Classroom Look Like?

- ▶ Adult/Child Classroom Learning (In-Class)
- ▶ Adult Only Discussion Group or Forum (Online)

## Homework

- ▶ Adult-Only Readings & Homework Assignments
- ▶ Two-Generation/Family Homework Assignments



Photo by Autumn Green at UMASS Amherst's *Dinner on Us*

# Sample Courses

- ▶ Children's Literature (English or Literature Core)
- ▶ Introduction to Music (Artistic Appreciation Core)
- ▶ The Harlem Renaissance (Multiple Areas:
  - ▶ Interdisciplinary Arts
  - ▶ History
  - ▶ Literature
  - ▶ Values & Ethics
  - ▶ Multicultural Perspectives Core)



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# Additional Potential Subject Areas

- ▶ History
- ▶ Visual & Performing Arts
- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ Environmental Studies
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Humanities
- ▶ Engineering
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Ethnic & Cultural Studies
  
- ▶ And More!



Photos (clockwise) Audrey Grimes investigating science. Anna & Audrey Grimes exploring nature. Sarah & Saffron Galison learning about food & agriculture at the pumpkin patch, Autumn & Braedon Green watching whales in oceanography class (all photos used with permission)



# Implications & Next Steps

- ▶ Pilot & Demonstration Project
  - ▶ Four Institution Pilot & Demonstration Project
  - ▶ 2-3 courses per institution
  - ▶ Control group receiving baseline services
- ▶ Planting the Seed
  - ▶ Recruiting Co-Conspirators
  - ▶ Teacher Training Program
  - ▶ Continuing to develop & refine new curricula
  - ▶ Ongoing evaluation for each course
  - ▶ Ongoing opportunities for collaboration & sharing



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# Anticipated Outcomes

Parent Outcomes	Child Outcomes	Two-Generational /Family Outcomes
<p>Students who enroll in two-gen courses will learn subject-based material with comparable or better academic comprehension and retention than students who enroll in traditional courses.</p>	<p>Children will become familiar with the college environment, and envision college within their own futures.</p>	<p>Parent/child will engage in learning together in a way that promotes role modeling, whole family enrichment, and reduces parental guilt about lost bonding time due to other obligations.</p>
<p>Students will engage in learning modalities that are fun and emphasize 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills.</p>	<p>Children will engage in subject-based learning that is fun, enriching &amp; educational.</p>	<p>Parent &amp; child will engage in learning together at home through fun educational activities &amp; assignments.</p>
<p>Students will experience reduced barriers to academic success &amp; have higher grades and course completion rates than student parent peers.</p>	<p>Children will receive support in reaching educational &amp; developmental milestones, such as learning to read, with parental support.</p>	<p>Parents &amp; children will gain increasing ease &amp; comfort with coming to campus together for other activities and opportunities.</p>



Questions?  
Comments?  
Inspirations?  
Discussion?