



# Joanne Browley

**Joanne Browley** is a lead teacher at the Parent-Infant Center, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**TYC reader since:** 2008

**My teaching style in three words:**

Positive, purposeful, playful

**Favorite book:** *Caps for Sale: A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys and Their Monkey Business*, by Esphyr Slobodkina

**What I'm reading now:** *Infants and Toddlers at Work: Using Reggio-Inspired Materials to Support Brain Development*, by Ann Lewin-Benham

**Words of inspiration:** "The one walking with the wise will become wise."  
—Proverbs of Solomon

**How I take care of myself:** Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables makes me feel connected to my island childhood. I also care for myself by aligning my beliefs with my daily practices.

**Why didn't someone tell me:** That play was such a big deal. As a nanny, I would pinch myself, thinking, "I can't believe I get paid to play." Now, as an early educator, I know that we deserve to be paid to play. I feel very satisfied knowing that each day I can be positive, purposeful, and playful.

**My two cents:** Never stop learning, and try something new every day. Take time to reflect on your experiences and embrace people's differences; in turn, you learn a lot about yourself and about children and their families.

**Proudest accomplishment:** Earning my bachelor's degree in early childhood education—a field that is my passion. It has been extremely fulfilling to see the impact my studies have had on my daily practice and on my ability to care for my own family.

**When I knew I had to teach:** I watched an episode of *Reading Rainbow* in which Lamar Burton read a book

about rain and then conducted a related experiment. When I went to my job caring for children in their home, I decided to do the same activity with them. Later, the feedback I got from their mother was so positive. I realized that I could do so much to teach and support young children just by turning everything into a learning experience.

**Future goal:** I see myself continuing to work with older toddlers but taking a more Reggio-inspired approach to teaching. This is something we are learning more about at the Parent-Infant Center. I plan to continue immersing myself in the book *The Hundred Languages of Children: The Reggio Emilia Approach*. I am striving to create a more natural classroom.