

# The Implementation of the Inclusive Early Childhood Foundation Model for Self- Determination Through the Lens of a Parent



Jennifer McCullough  
& Mary McLennan



# Agenda

1. Why one family choose to make self-determination in early childhood important



2. How they used the Foundation Model and the Four- Steps of the Foundations Intervention to identify self-determination goals and to successfully achieve these goals.





Owen :  
Trisomy 21  
(Down  
Syndrome)



Loxton, South  
Australia



Congenital Heart  
& Lung Disease,  
Hypotonia  
+ more!



Macy,-8, Kira-6, Owen-4, Anna-  
10





## Owen's therapist team

# Collaborative Partnerships



Physiotherapist-  
From 4 weeks of age



Occupational therapist-  
From 6 weeks of age



Specialist speech therapist-  
From 6 months of age  
(Travel 6 hours round trip)



Local speech therapist,  
speech focus-  
From 4 years

## Owen's other key supports

Local doctor, Pediatrician, Cardiologist, Neurologist, Respiratory Specialist, Sleep Specialist, ENT, Gastroenterologist, Ophthalmology, Audiology, Respiratory nurse, CHAFS nurse, DSSA Educational Consultant, Kilparrin Educational Consultant

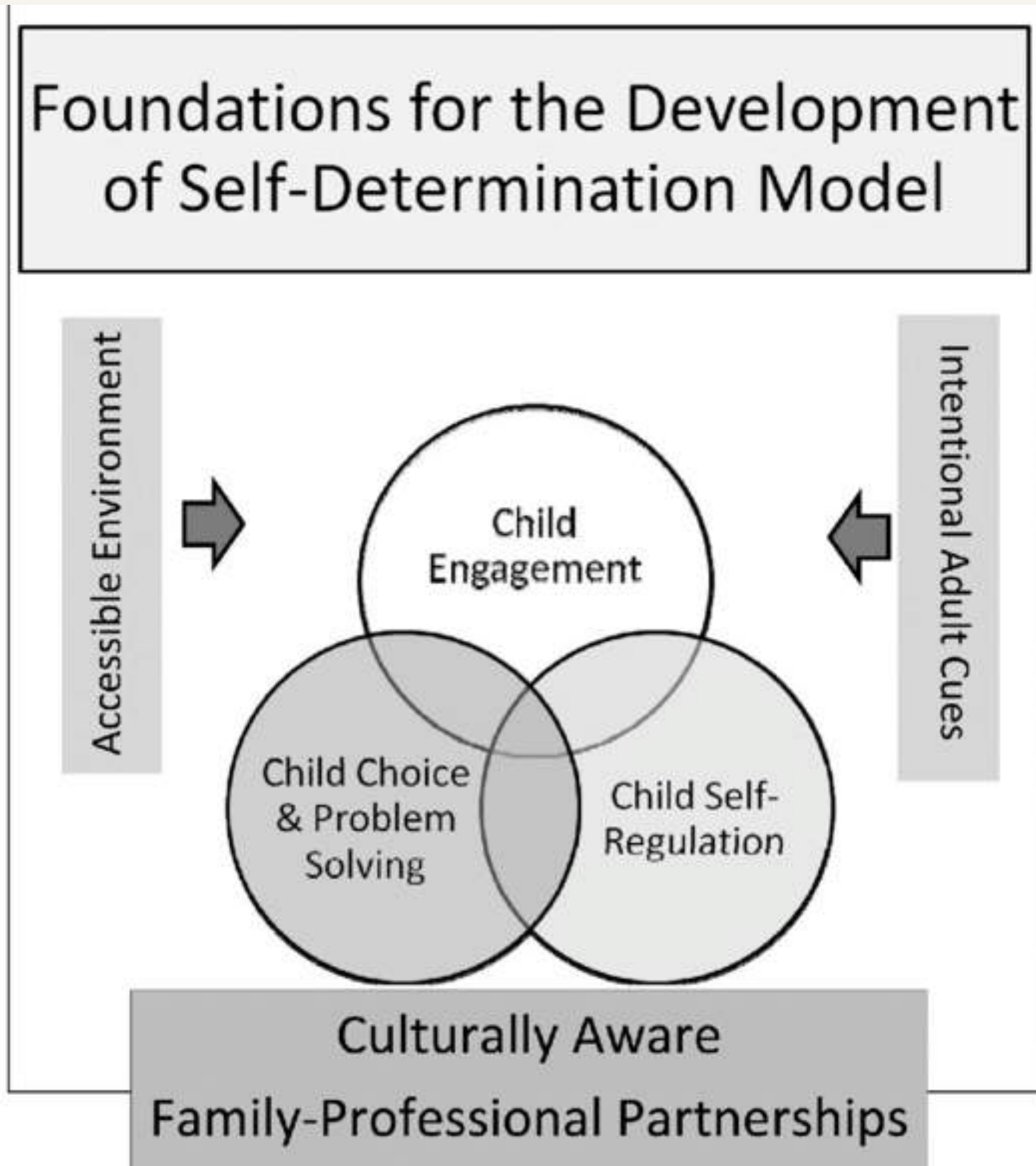


# Determination - Makes the Impossible; Possible



From this ..... to this!!!

# Self-Determination Model



Palmer et al (2013)



# Foundation Intervention Model



Erwin et al (2015)

# Developing Foundations



Implementing this problem solving procedure  
in our everyday lives





Step 1.  
Assess

Step 2.  
Select

Step 3.  
Try It!

Step 4.  
Reflect



# Early Years Implementation



Implementation in the early years



By 2 years of age Owen still wasn't crawling and had no mobility. He was a long way off crawling and walking but ready to explore his world and would get frustrated being stuck in one place.

# Assess





Many different walkers and mobility devices were trialled

# Select





# Try it!





# Reflect

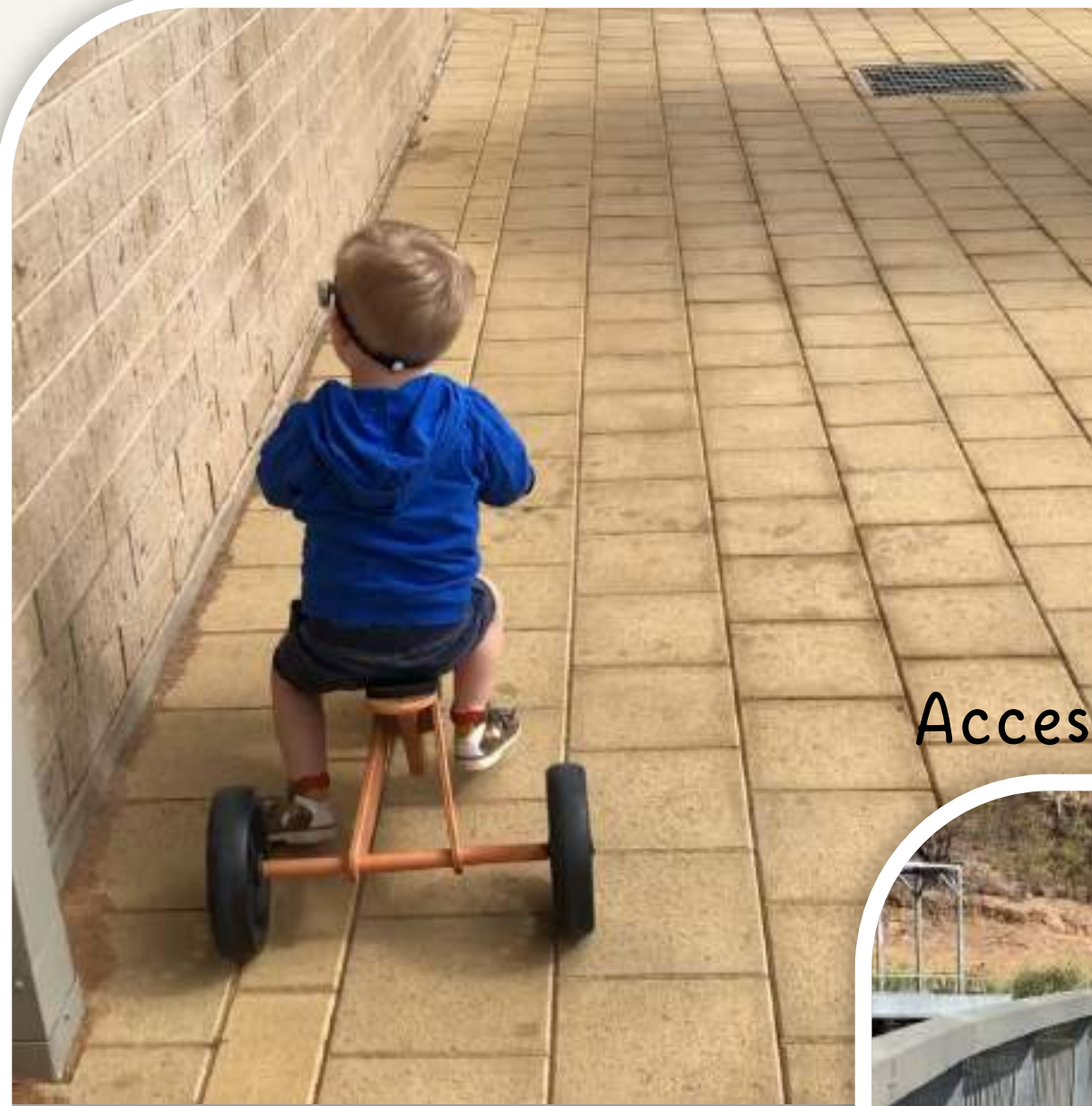
Where we started



Accessing the world around him



Where  
we're  
at now



Where we started



# Current Implementation



What implementation currently looks like



# Assess



Owen is about to begin his formal schooling years



We would like Owen to develop his writing skills to be able to write his name

The ultimate long term goal is for him to be able to write independently



hand-over-hand



free experimentation



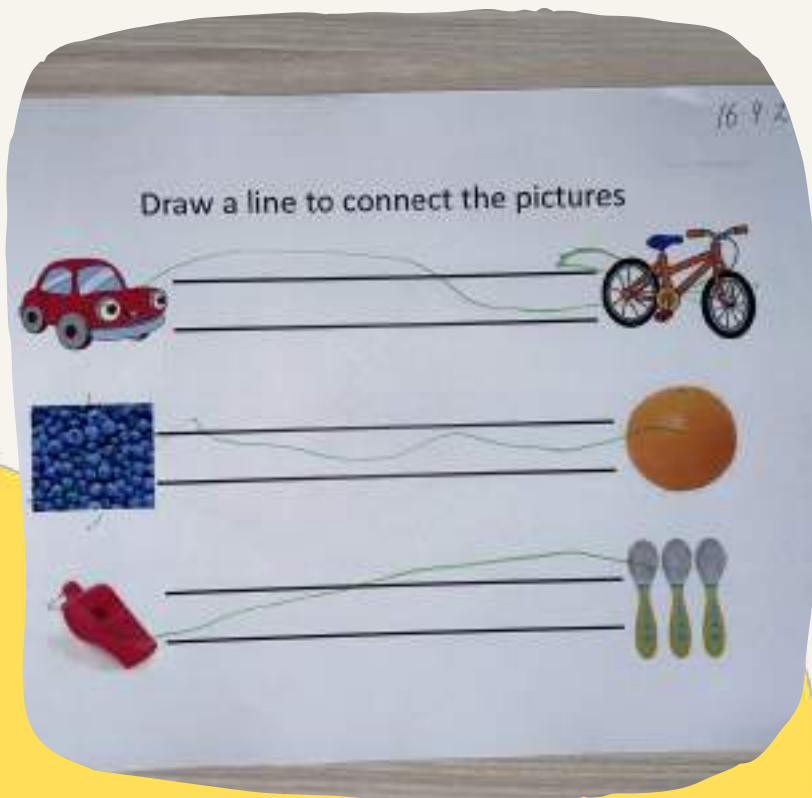
# Select

Main Goal: writing his name

Minor goals: drawing circles

- How are we going to achieve the minor goal?
- Who will support Owen to do this in what way?
- What success or competency in the skill will look like?

high interest task sheets



tracing





Current Goal:  
Drawing Circles. 'O' for Owen.

# Try it!



At home, at ELC, at OT, with his therapy assistant, on the walls, the floor, whiteboards, with paint, with chalk, paintbrush on the shower screen, with different textures, crayons and pencils etc, etc, etc!!!





Letter O for his name



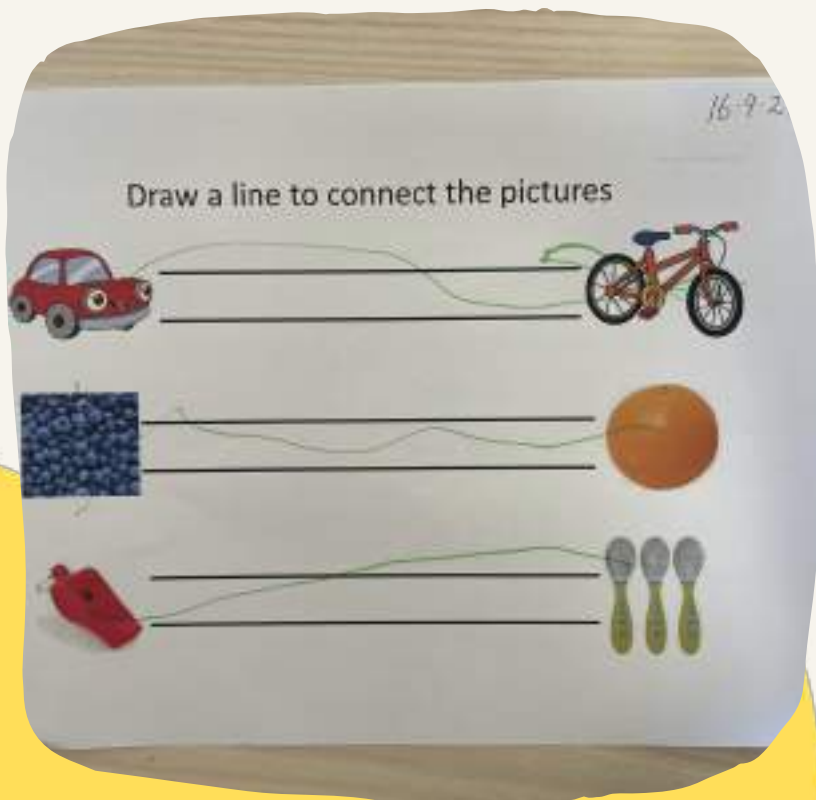
Pencil grip



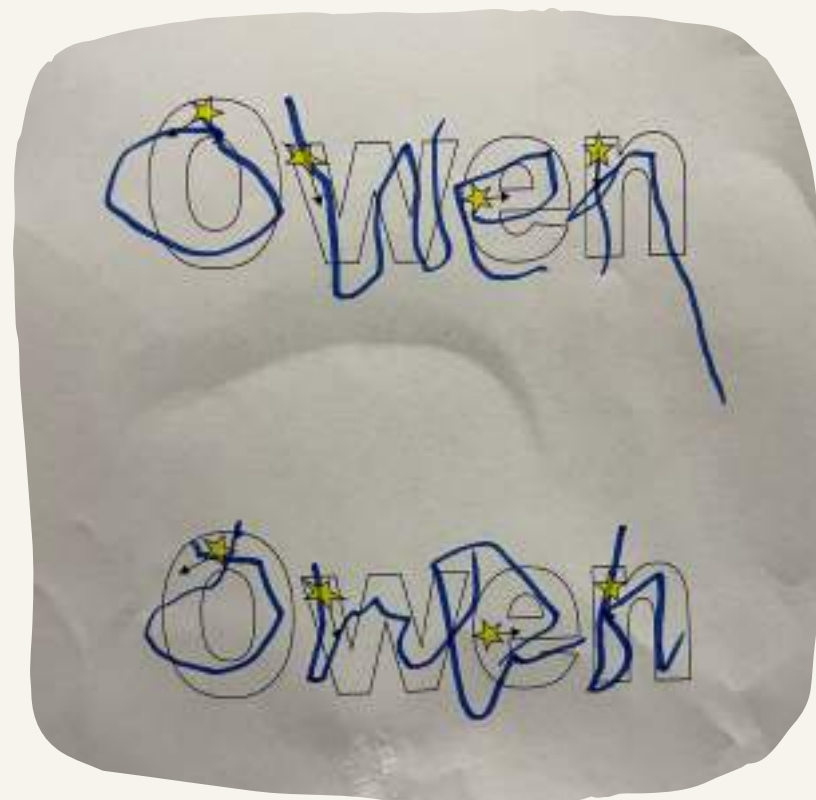
# Reflect

Once we've ticked off one of the minor goals, we go back to the beginning and re-access where we were at.

We then select the next goal and find ways to work towards achieving it.



drawing lines



Tracing



WINTER

MARCH



# Our message to you...



- Determination is EVERYTHING!
- Trust in the process
- Follow your instincts
- Do what works for you
- Find those key people to support and encourage you along the way
- You can do it to
- Go for it! You have nothing to lose!





Erwin, E.J., Maude, S.P., Palmer, S.B. et al. Fostering the Foundations of Self-Determination in Early Childhood: A Process for Enhancing Child Outcomes Across Home and School. *Early Childhood Educ J* 44, 325-333 (2016).  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-015-0710-9>

Palmer, S. B., Summers, J. A., Brotherson, M. J., Erwin, E. J., Maude, S. P., Stroup-Rentier, V., Wu, H.-Y., Peck, N. F., Zheng, Y., Weigel, C. J., Chu, S.-Y., McGrath, G. S., & Haines, S. J. (2012). Foundations for Self-Determination in Early Childhood. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, 33(1), 38-47. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121412445288>

Summers, J.A., Brotherson, M.J., Erwin, E.J., Maude, S.P., Palmer, S.B., Haines, S.J., Stroup-Rentier, V., Wu, H., Peck, N.F., & Zheng, Y.Z. (2014). Family Reflections on the Foundations of Self-Determination in Early Childhood.

Summers, J.A., Palmer, S. B., Erwin, E.J., Brotherson, M.J., & Maude S. P. (2010, unpublished). Family wisdom. Lawrence, KS: Foundations for Early Self-Determination Project, Beach Center, University of Kansas





# Thank You

Please feel free to ask questions-  
none are ever too impolite or silly.  
I'm only too happy to answer them.



owenmccullough@hotmail.com  
mmclennan@oranda.asn.au



facebook.com/OwenT21



instagram.com/owenmct21