

# CHANGING THE WORLD

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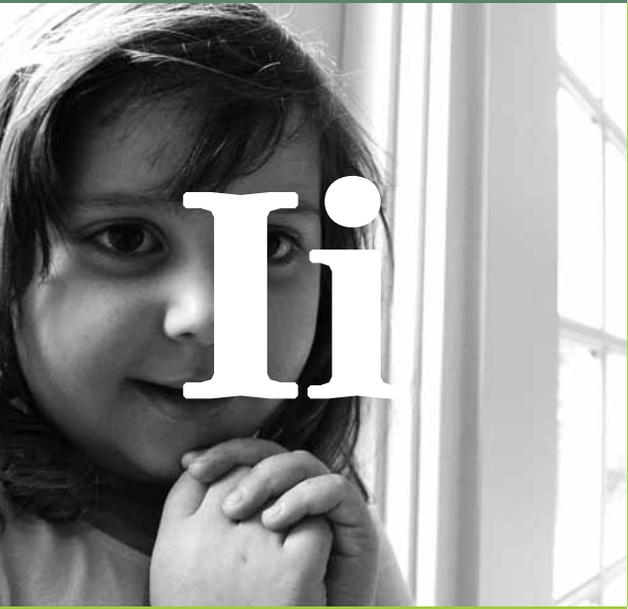
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**Some observations on reality:**

DEVELOPMENTAL  
RELATIONSHIPS



# A little girl is born.

Her father holds her up and in that moment he realizes she is perfect.

She is complete. Whole. She has everything she needs.

And one of those things is holding her right now.

That baby girl can learn to speak.

But she won't without help.

Her ability is innate.

Her development, realized potential,  
and happiness. These do not happen without help.

Nurturing. Talk. Touch.



Guidance.

On this, her birthday, she's perfect. Whole. Complete.

Soon, though, expectations cloud the vision of perfection  
and wholeness.

When will she walk? Why isn't she talking?

Markers are set by everyone but that little girl. And her  
perfection and wholeness are questioned every day.

Those markers become tests. Tests are put against  
averages. Averages turn into percentiles. Scores are kept  
to create perspective.

And that perspective is supposed to help the people  
around that little girl with her development.



But it's not her perspective. It's not her view of the world.

What's not perfect about a little girl who sees the world with herself at the center?

What's not perfect about the fact that to make the world disappear all she has to do is close her eyes?

What's not perfect about her taking the world in through her senses? Her smell, her taste, her touch?

**What happens when—in order to help that girl develop her abilities—we see the world in that same way, through her eyes? And what if we believe that she is as perfect, whole, and complete at 3, 8, 12, and 18 as she was the day her father held her up and gave her a name?**





# The Summa Way



RELATIONSHIPS

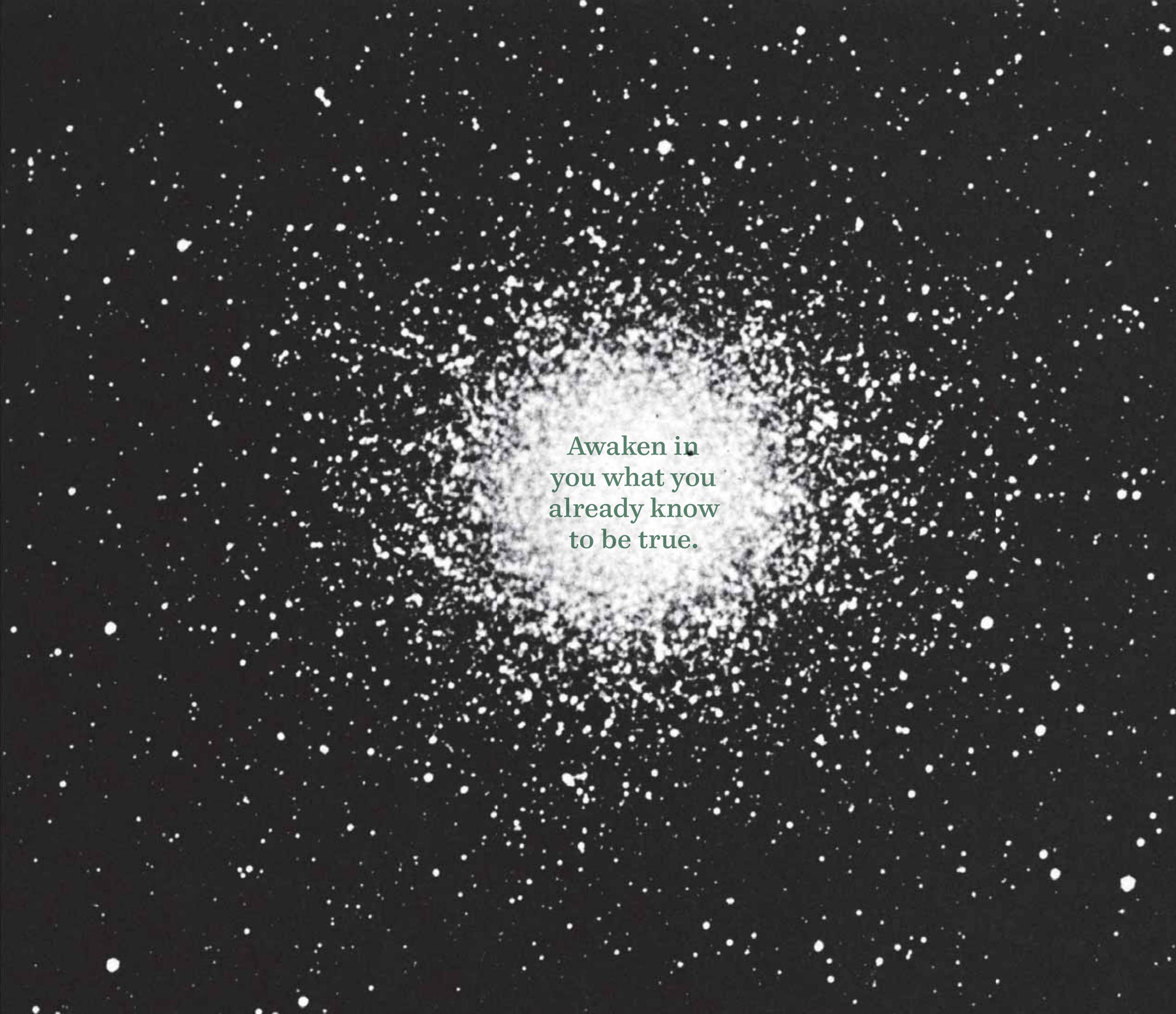


*RELATIONSHIPS AFFECT  
EVERYBODY & EVERYTHING.*

*With the right perspective,  
understanding, and effort that effect  
can be overwhelmingly positive.*

YOU ONLY LEARN FROM  
THOSE YOU LOVE

- GOETHE -

The image features a dense, glowing core of white and light gray particles, resembling a starburst or the center of a galaxy, set against a dark background filled with scattered white specks. The text is centered over the bright core.

Awaken in  
you what you  
already know  
to be true.



Capacities are innate.  
Development occurs  
in relationship.

The best teachers are masters of connection.



A person is captured from the waist down, running on a paved path. They are wearing a white hoodie, light-colored striped pants, and dark sneakers with white soles. The person's arms are slightly out to the sides. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a grassy area and a building in the distance. The entire image has a monochromatic green tint.

We cannot control,  
we must engage.

A black and white photograph of a field of flowers, possibly buttercups, with a dark green diagonal overlay. The text is centered on the overlay.

Map a person's inherent wholeness. Trust that to help guide development.

**THE BIG QUESTION FOR YOUR CHILD,  
YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR COMMUNITY...**

WHAT'S  
POSSIBLE?



**What is a Natural Learning Relationship?**

**Definition:** Learning through relationships.

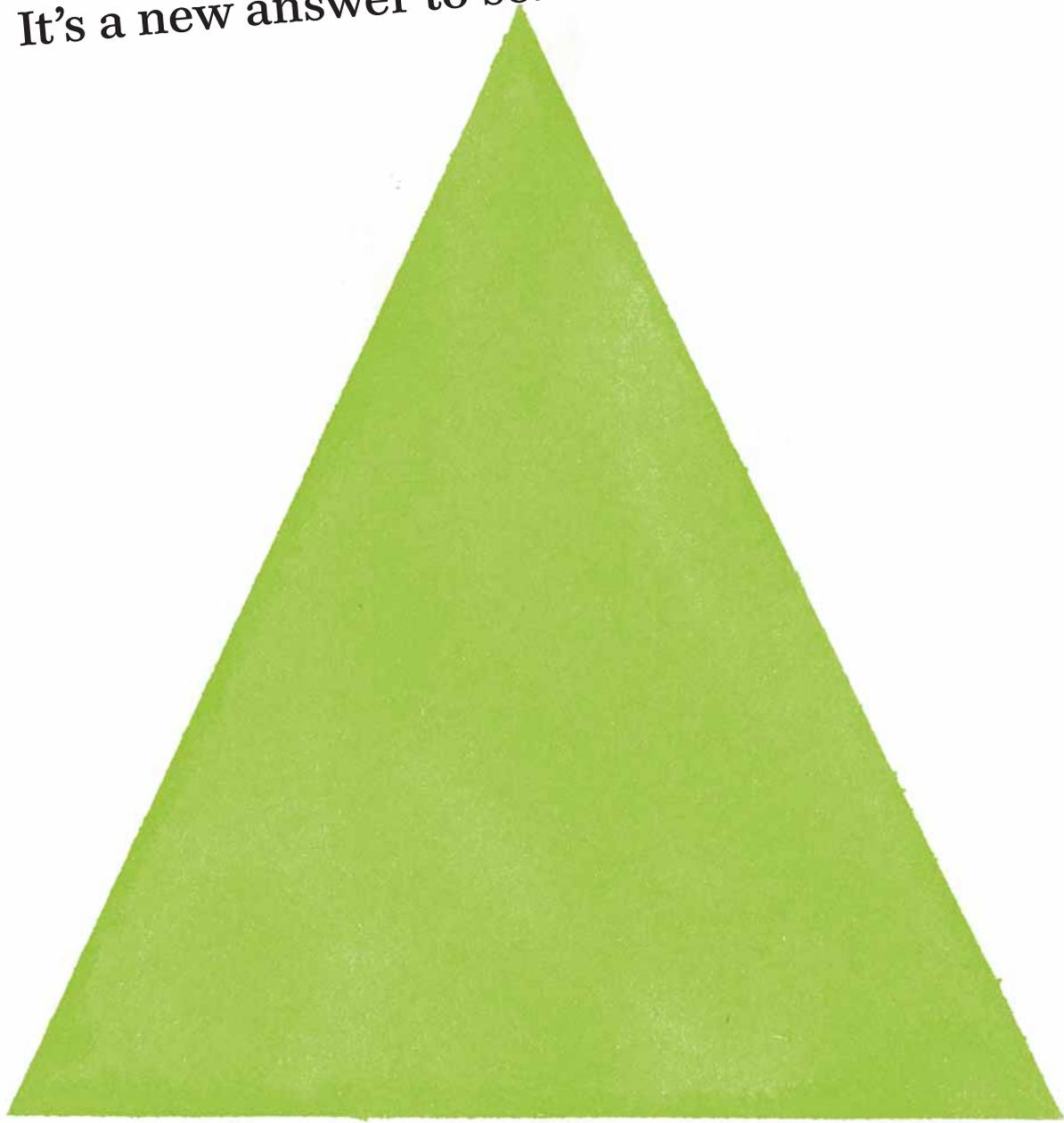


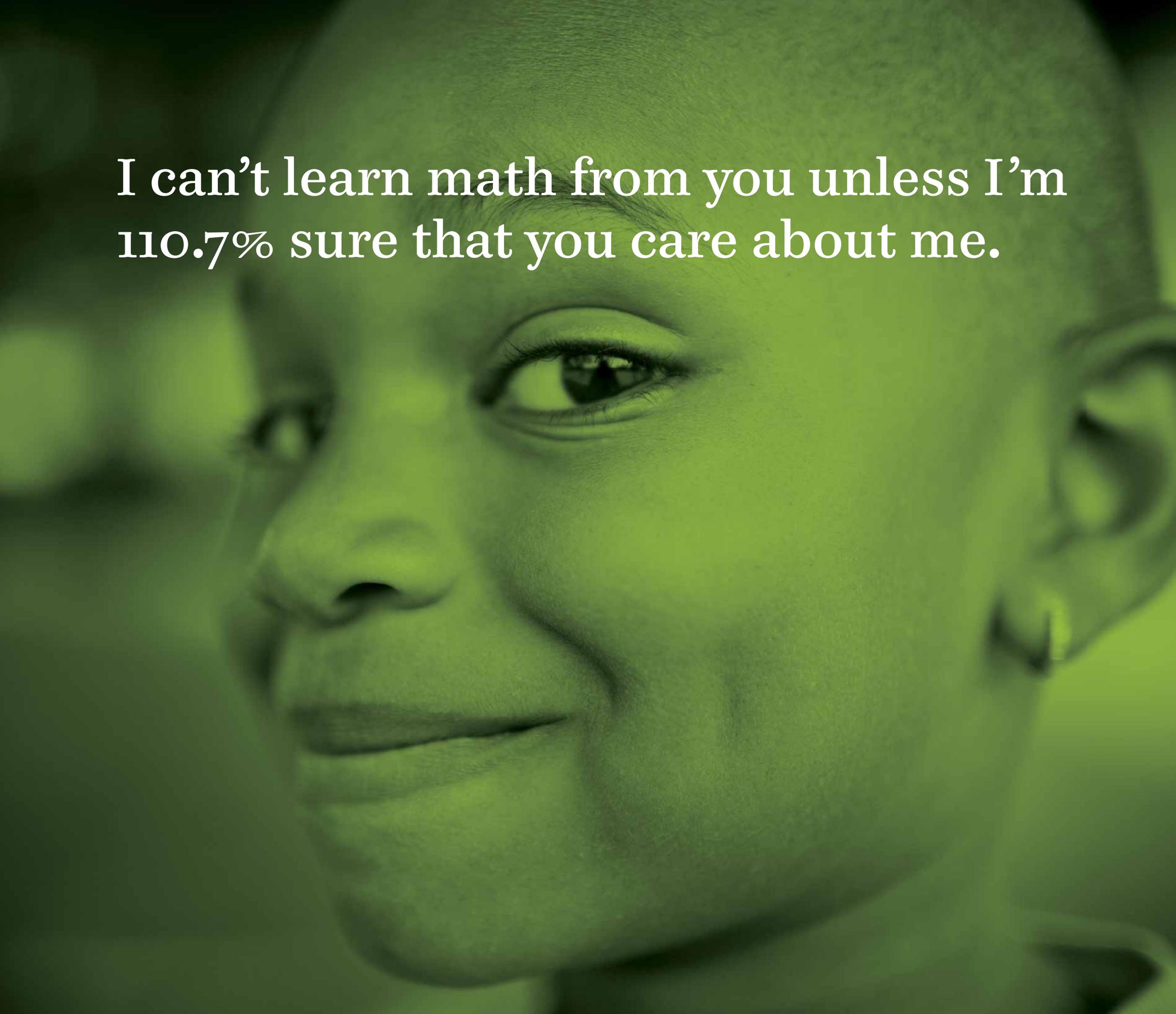
Go through  
the open window.



Natural Learning Relationships isn't a way to get your kids to brush their teeth.

**It's a new answer to some old questions.**





I can't learn math from you unless I'm  
110.7% sure that you care about me.



**It's an experience.**  
A sustained intentional effort.



TRUST & LOVE

Identifying and acting on moments to relate.



**TRUE LOVE** IS SEEING THE POTENTIAL IN SOMEONE.





Be.

NLR is not a technique and it is not a manipulation.

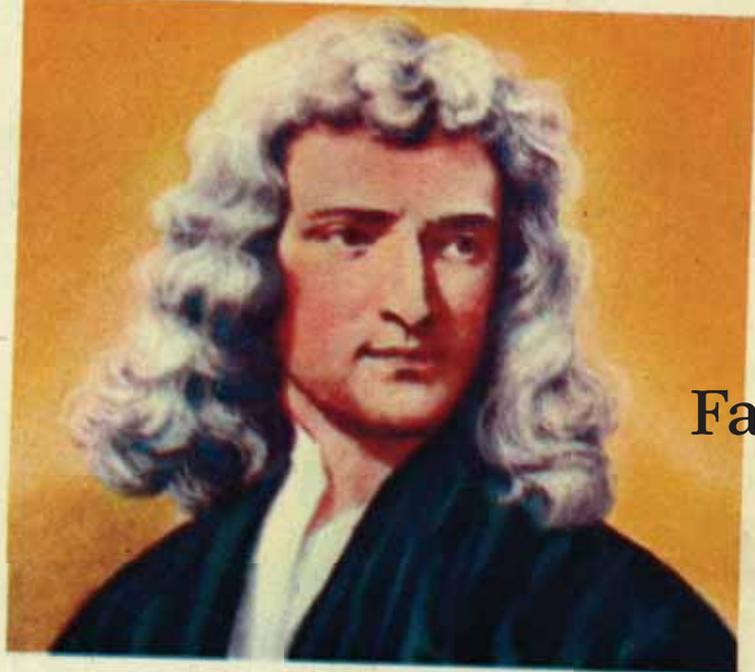
Natural Learning Relationships  
is like good jazz.

The RIGHT NOTE at the RIGHT TIME.



ble with the naked eye.

Sir Isaac Newton, born in 1642, was one of the greatest men of science. His discovery of the laws of gravitation explained the physical nature of the universe.



8. SIR ISAAC NEWTON

Fast Forward 200 years >>

“The whole development of our ideas concerning natural phenomena may be conceived as an organic development of Newton’s thought.”

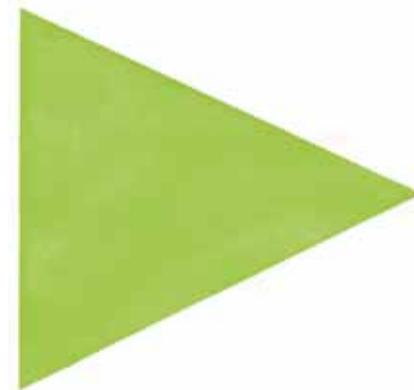
— **Albert Einstein**

**“I knew it, I  
just didn’t put  
it together.”**

In the same way that Einstein’s thinking and ideas built upon—but surpassed—those of Newton, Natural Learning Relationships is built on the foundation of some very important child development theories.

As a result, it feels both familiar and new at the same time.

**Piaget  
Vygotsky  
Erikson  
Montessori  
Rogers  
Steiner  
Aurobindo  
Bateson**



A landscape photograph featuring a prominent green hill in the middle ground. A white path or road winds across the foreground, leading towards the base of the hill. The sky is a clear, bright white. The overall scene is simple and naturalistic.

# Natural Learning Relationships



What do you want  
your child to learn?



SUMMA  
ACADEMY

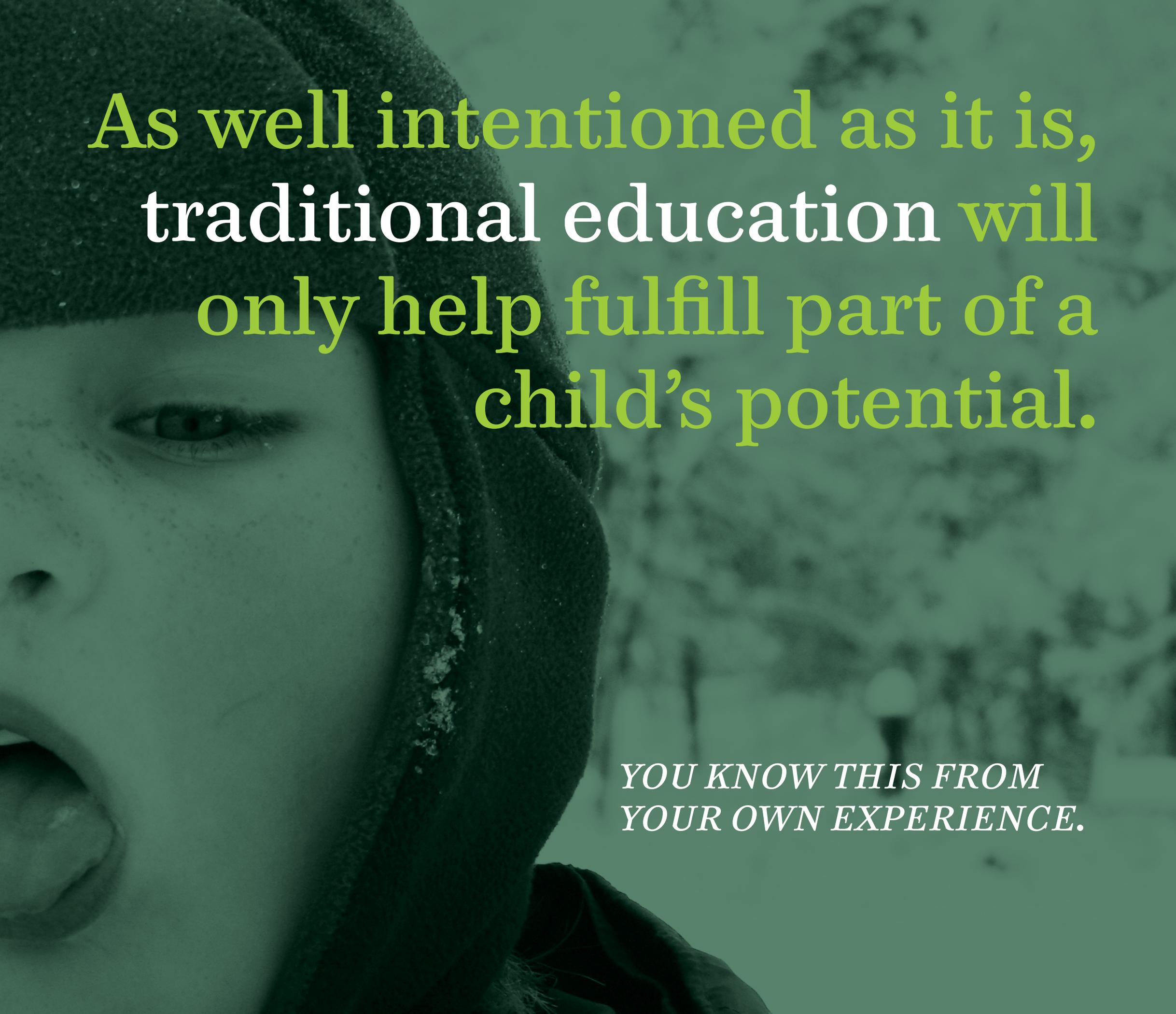
grow together™



Now we have choices.  
And when it comes to  
education, we feel the  
pressure to make the  
best decision we can.

*IT'S NOT A TIME FOR COMPROMISE. WHEN YOU PICK A SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD, YOU ARE TAKING THE FIRST STEP OF AN EIGHT-YEAR JOURNEY OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT.*

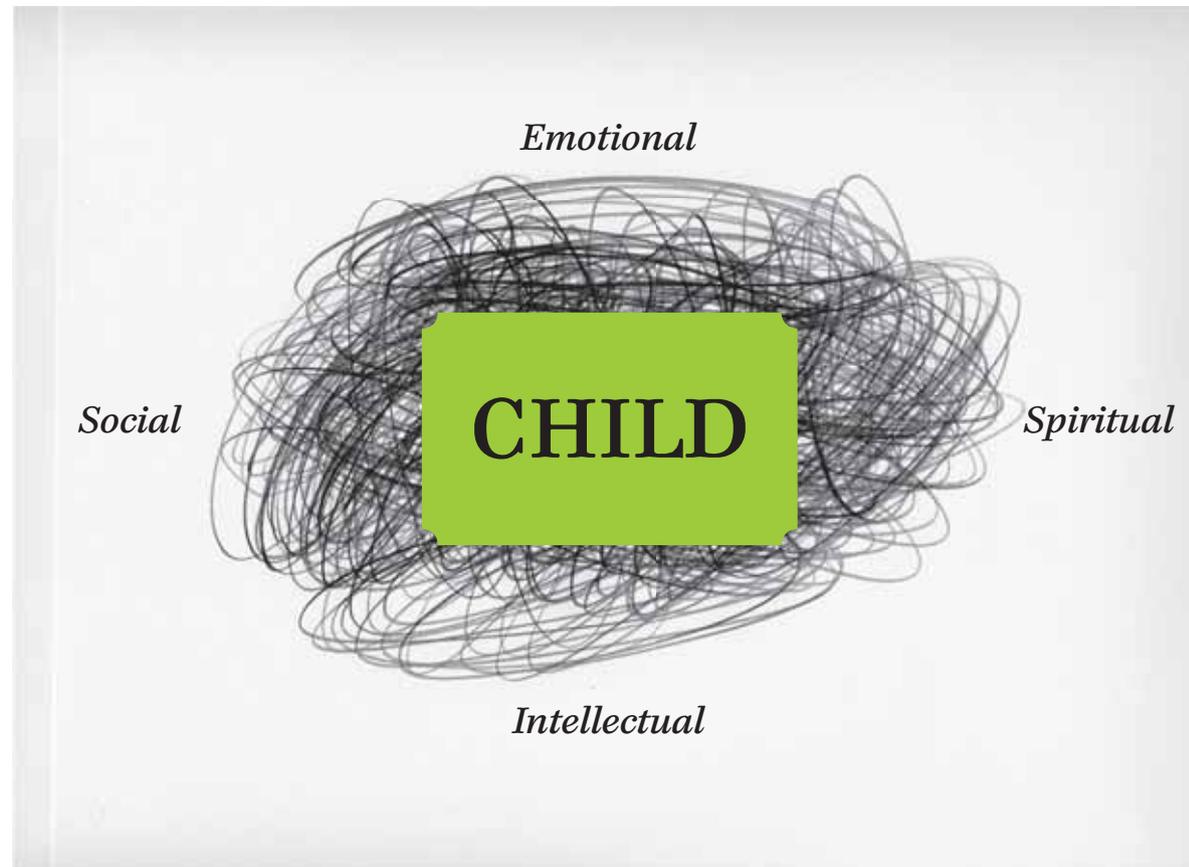
*IT'S TIME TO CONSIDER THINGS BEYOND CONVENIENCE OF LOCATION, TEST SCORES OR EVEN THE PRESSURE YOU FEEL FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. AS A PARENT, THIS IS YOUR MOMENT TO MAKE THE BEST CHOICE FOR YOUR CHILD AND YOUR FAMILY.*



As well intentioned as it is,  
traditional education will  
only help fulfill part of a  
child's potential.

*YOU KNOW THIS FROM  
YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE.*

*AT SUMMA ACADEMY, WE TEACH  
AND NURTURE EVERYTHING.*



*SUMMA def: the highest peak, whole, sum*

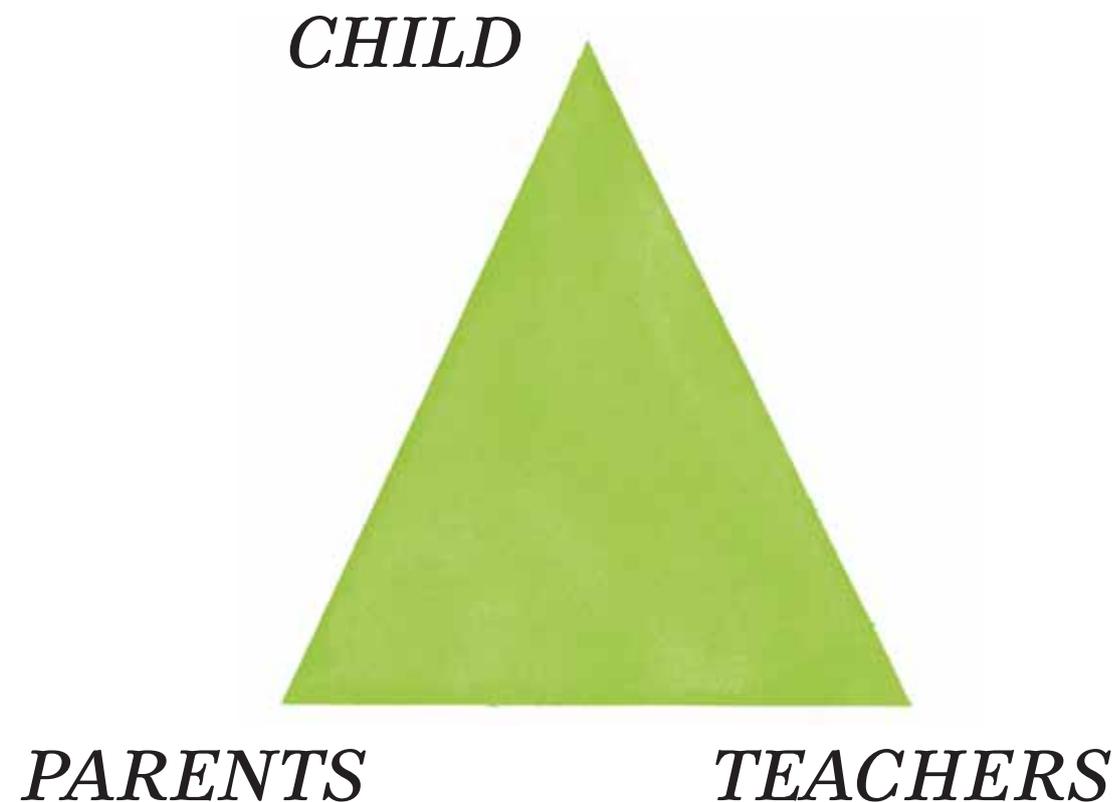
Well-being demands recognition of the whole child.

Traditional education focuses almost exclusively on the cognitive/intellectual development of children, yet we intuitively know that a person is so much more than their book smarts.

Summa Academy is where a child's whole being is nurtured to help them more completely realize their potential, not just as a student but as a human being.

*WE INCLUDE AND ENGAGE  
EVERYBODY.*

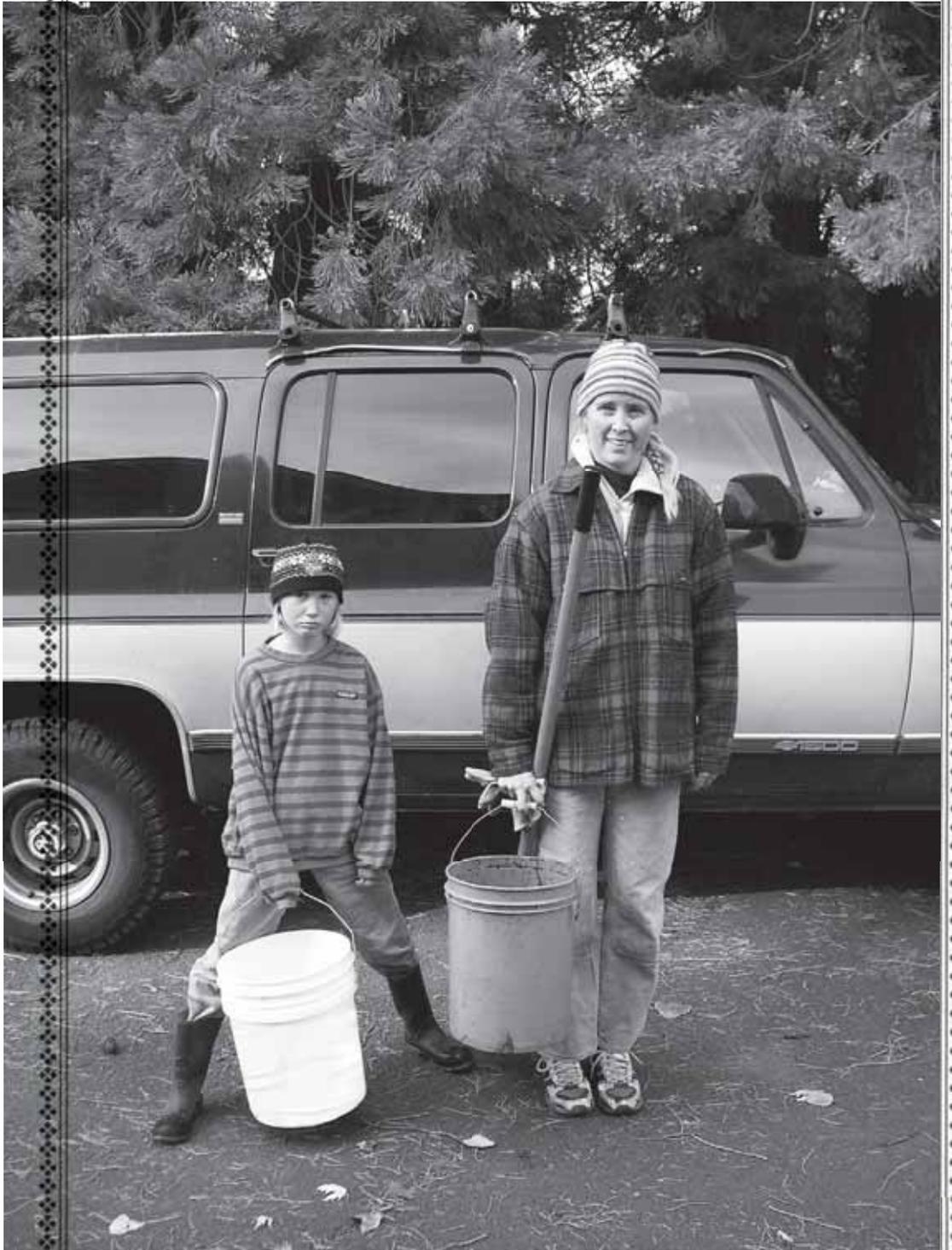
“Commitment to the values of knowledge, relationship, family, and child provides the medium in which parents and teachers can communicate clearly and effectively about children. Parents and teachers now have a common vocabulary that is respectful of their concerns and of the child’s needs. Consider the academic benefits: teacher and parent in alignment, curriculum supportive of the child’s development and learning style, coherent values between home and school, relevance, consistency. This is not an unattainable utopia. It is realizable here and now and is, in my opinion, an unalienable right of children.” —Ba Luvmour



*IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE.  
IT'S NATURAL.*







We welcome the uniqueness  
that every family brings  
to the Academy. We bring  
those families and their  
values together to create  
something amazing

*PARENTS*

©



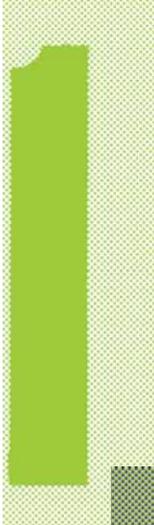
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# TEACHERS

*get to work together and focus on  
the child's needs.*

*Summa Academy  
has four simple goals  
for your child:*



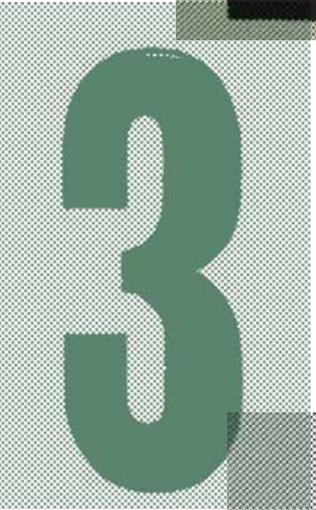


*Academic excellence and a mastery of all the important skills needed to maximize their educational potential.*



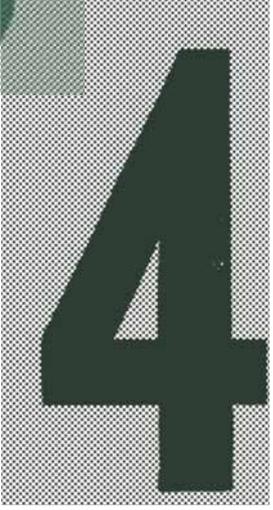
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*The social ability to bring greater perspective, understanding, compassion, and problem solving to the world we live in.*



3

*The ability to self-reflect in a way that builds confidence and helps the child know their place in the world.*



4

*An enriched—never diminished—ability to find joy and wonder in themselves, the world, and people around them.*



OUR TEACHERS

Start with connection  
and learning quickly follows.

# ***CONNECT***

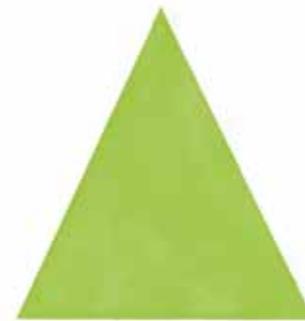
*Create the connection, consistency, love, and trust that make learning natural.*

# ***INSPIRE***

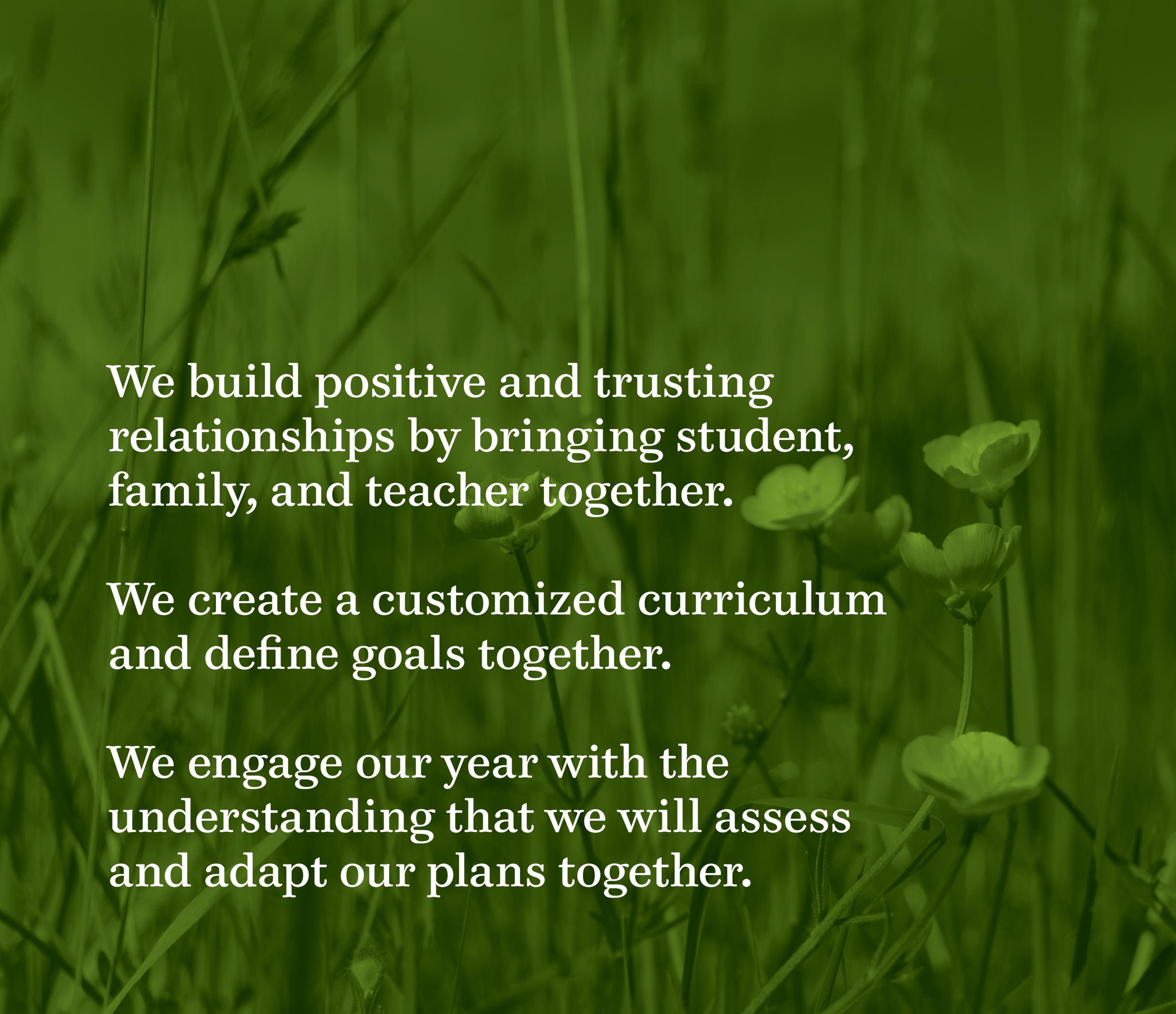
*Discover how to best engage and inspire the child.*

# ***NURTURE***

*Nurture the whole child.*



*THE RIGHT MATERIAL → AT THE RIGHT TIME → IN THE RIGHT WAY*



We build positive and trusting relationships by bringing student, family, and teacher together.

We create a customized curriculum and define goals together.

We engage our year with the understanding that we will assess and adapt our plans together.

# A student's (a)typical day.

## 5-6 year olds:

Block I - 8:30 - 8:45am - Circle time/Interpersonal curriculum

Block II - 8:45 - 9:45am - Exploratory block 1

Snack - 9:45 - 10:15am - Snack - Make it and eat it

Block III - 10:15 - 11:15am - Exploratory block 2

Block IV - 11:15am - 12:00pm - Physical play

Block V - 12:00 - 12:30pm - Circle time/Interpersonal curriculum

## 7-12 year olds:

Block I - 8:30 - 9:00am - Homeroom/Interpersonal curriculum

Block II - 9:00 - 10:00am - Physical curriculum (dance, martial arts, sports, etc.)

Block III - 10:00 - 12:15pm - Subject-based learning (math, science, social studies, language arts, etc.)

Lunch - 12:15 - 12:45pm (numerous breaks built into all learning blocks)

Block IV - 12:45 - 2:45pm - Project-based learning (students in one or two groups doing project based learning, e.g., building a canoe, creating a school play, service-based learning, etc.)

Block V - 2:45 - 3:30pm - Homeroom/Interpersonal curriculum

The family's year at Summa

Every parent with a child enrolled in Summa Academy is integrated through whole-family learning during the academic year:

Parent Orientation night – a 2-hour introductory evening held before school starts

Whole-Family Orientation – 4-hour community building for the families of each class held during the school day in the first week of school

Intro to Natural Learning Relationships for Parents – 2-hour evening classes held every other week from mid-September through mid-November (total 6 evenings)

Experiential project-based learning for parents – between December and April, every parent must participate in two afternoon project-based learning components (1-3pm) during the school day

In-depth Natural Learning Relationships for parents – 2 hour evening classes held every other week from January through the end of April (total 8 evenings)

Family Celebration – 4-hour acknowledgment and celebration of learning for the families of each class

Growing teachers & professionals

The Professional Development Center provides educators with a working understanding of Natural Learning Relationships. Social services providers, teachers, therapists, and counselors are taught the breadth and scope of each developmental stage, and how to recognize those moments where trust, love, developmental timing, and new concepts align to create powerful learning experiences. The Professional Development Center offers direct, applicable responses to challenges in all areas of relationships with children.

Creating relationships that express and support positive development.

How to involve children of all ages and backgrounds to optimize academic achievement.

How to recognize and support relationships that lead to mutual respect between adult and child and among the children.

Evidence-based responses to challenges such as ADD/ADHD, SI disorder, bullying, sibling rivalry, defiance, peer group choices, and others.





Standardized tests  
are for standard children—  
and those don't exist.

Love the teacher.



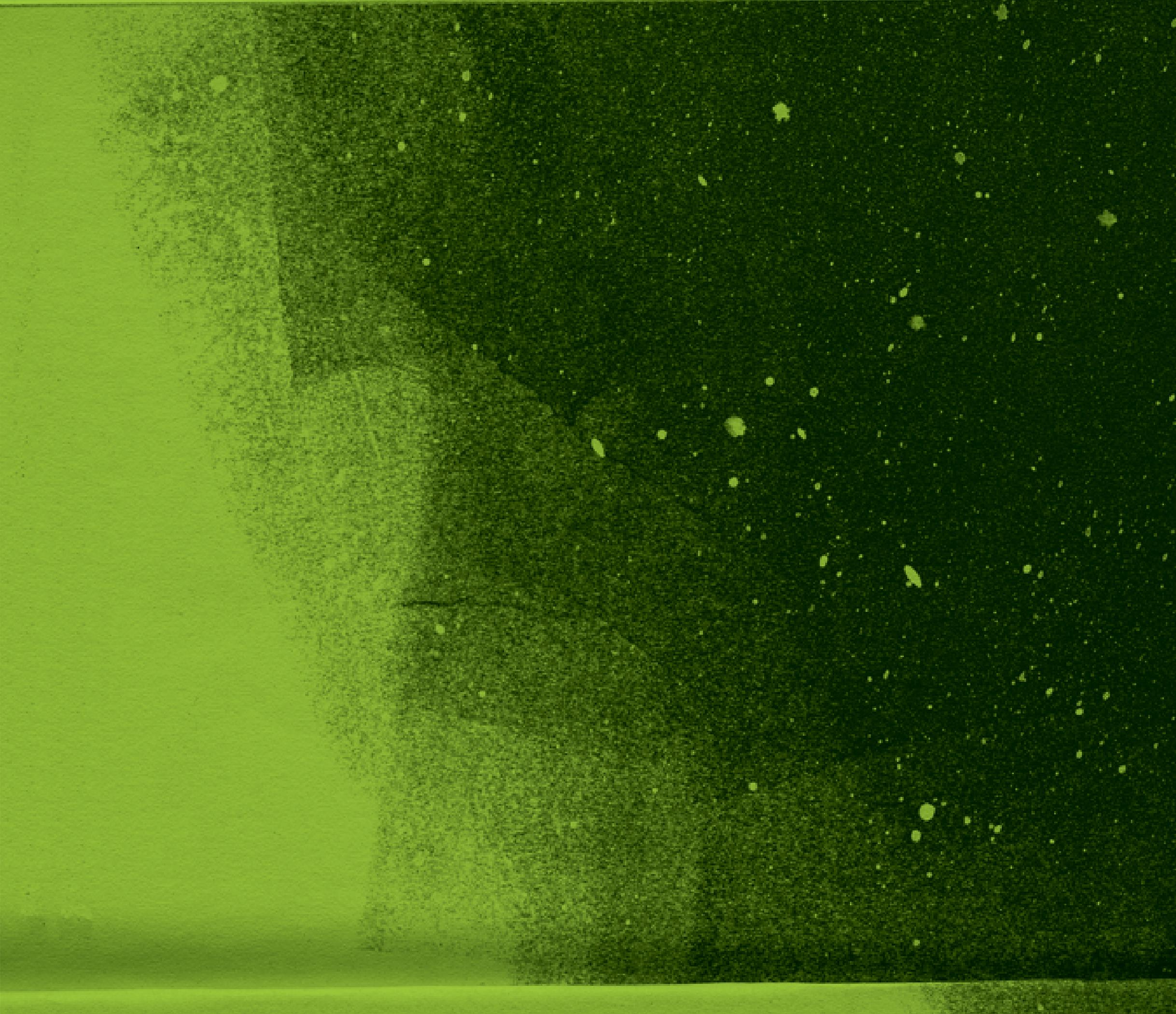
Love the subject.

Natural Learning Relationships recognizes the rhythms of development and we teach in time with your child.

Teaching in time means being developmentally in tune with a child.

Teaching in time means being close enough to a child to see the light go on.

Teaching in time brings the child's social structure, home life, and curriculum into harmony.



**We have a big vision.**

SUMMA  
INSTITUTE

grow together™

# With everything working together, we grow together.

## The Institute synergistic vision:

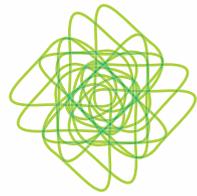
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SUMMA ACADEMY is where Natural Learning Relationships is brought directly to a diverse student body (age 5-12) and their families in an educational environment. The academy provides learning that nurtures the physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual development of its students with active participation from their families. Our teaching staff continually hone their practice through ongoing research while teaching in multi-age classrooms that have a low teacher-to-student ratios.

SUMMA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT is a rich resource that allows professionals to learn the developmental theories and information to nurture children for optimal well-being. The center offers seminars, workshops, retreats, and material support for these educators and other professionals. Our center focuses on continuing education for teachers and counselors, internships, and staff training.

SUMMA RESEARCH CORE provides a formal research framework for the ongoing analysis, evaluation, and improvement of our Natural Learning Relationships pedagogy and family programs. Ongoing research ensures the continual refinement, innovation, and direction for replicating the Summa Institute learning model. The Research Core shares results and findings with families, scholars, policymakers, and the public.

SUMMA  
ACADEMY



SUMMA  
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grow together

SUMMA  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

SUMMA  
RESEARCH CORE



## Ba Luvmour, MA

Ask Ba how he became the fortunate man he is today, surrounded by an amazing family, partnered with a loving and inspiring woman, in active pursuit of his dream, and he'll tell the truth: Self-reflection, spiritual inquiry, voracious reading, and a fair bit of luck. When you hear the whole story, it is clear that he is on a journey. Today Ba is 3,000 miles from his New York up-bringing, but like every active and engaged life-traveler he remains connected to each place, experience, and friend made along the way. Ba stays on his journey because he is an observer and reflective man, but to the benefit of everyone around him, he's become a skilled guide for others on their own journeys. Ba has both huge vision and the tenacity to build towards that vision one step at a time.

Co-Founder of Summa and co-creator of Natural Learning Relationships, Ba has published five books, taught hundreds of parents and children, and led countless programs for families since 1985. Ba is also adjunct faculty at Portland State University.



## Josette Luvmour, PhD

Josette will walk in your shoes. She'll do this without question or reservation, because she is a person who believes that your perspective is not only unique—but uniquely valuable. There is a story in the book *Optimal Parenting* where Josette describes climbing a tree to talk with a child. She did this for many reasons but the big one is this: The world looks different from up in a tree. It looks different to the child in that tree. She climbed that tree because she believes in seeing through the eyes and feeling through the hearts of others. Now, imagine how comfortable that makes people feel—how much more open it might make them feel—and then consider the positive effect that Josette is able to have on people's lives.

Co-founder of Summa and co-creator of Natural Learning Relationships, Josette has published five books and developed hundreds of experiential learning programs for families and children since 1985. Josette also teaches undergraduate and continuing education courses as an adjunct faculty member.



## Amber Kara, BS (with daughter, Ruby)

Amber is both an observer and practitioner of interconnectedness. She sees how small things are connected to bigger things, how no action or interaction happens without reaction. As a marine biologist in a small Zodiac floating among a pod of Pilot whales, she realized you cannot study something and not influence it in some way. As a quilter, she can focus intensely on a single piece of fabric for hours—all the while knowing how it affects the larger design. Talk with Amber and she looks you in the eye in a way that makes you feel like she hears and feels every word. When you're done, she'll connect what you just said to something that magnifies the power of your own words and feelings in an enlightening way. Like her father, she is a guide. Like herself, she guides by connecting people, things, events, action and reaction.

During her 17 years with Summa, co-founder Amber has taught Natural Learning Relationships to hundreds of parents, led dozens of school groups in ropes course experiences, brought children from the inner-city to the outdoors, and planned and executed Summa's programs for families, teachers, and children alike.



## Albee Kara, BA (with daughter, Naomi)

Albee is a seeker. As a younger man, he'd been filled with the notion that there were specific answers, and specific outcomes, to specific questions and problems: Things could be neat, sums could be figured, the order of things stacked together, answers revealed. He dove into physics in college and worked through the material: quantum mechanics, relativity, duality. At the end of his sophomore year, he realized that in physics, depending on how you thought about it, everything is either a particle or a wave. An epiphany, perhaps, but not the real one for Albee. Like all true seekers, Albee examined the original questions he'd been asking himself—and discovered that he cared more about the meaning of existence than he did about figuring out its mechanics.

And so, with a new question, renewed focus, but fewer expectations about outcomes, Albee began to study, self-reflect, and to seek again. And then he discovered NLR, and a brand-new journey began. Ironically, Albee's studies and self-reflection have made him a trove of potential answers. But he knows how important the questions are. Work with him, and he will help you to start there.

A co-founder, Albee has worked at Summa for 15 years as a program co-designer and facilitator, leading groups of families, children, and professionals through experiential learning programming.

Humans make decisions.

Healthy humans

make healthy decisions.

# Summa & Social Justice

There is no more important and powerful way to create social justice in our community than by helping our children to become healthy, engaged, compassionate, and fulfilled adults.





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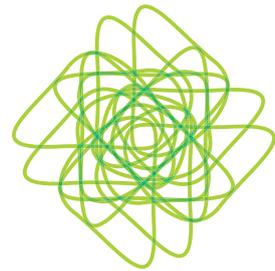
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