How can we protect children’s innate love of learning? This session will engage participants in learning activities that use evidence-based strategies to foster independence and internal motivation.

Despite different positions on when and how children should be introduced to academic topics, there is no denying that as they age, students tend to lose their motivation for learning in formal schooling. Most second graders are likely to shoot their hands in the air, desperate for the teacher to call on them. This behavior is virtually non-existent in eighth grade classrooms. The reasons this happens are complex. But common schooling habits do much to harm a natural love of learning – and we can do more to protect it.

The following ideas will be explored:
• Forces That Erode Curiosity and Risk-Taking
• Using Conceptual Understanding to Build Social and Emotional Intelligence
• Fostering Independence and Internal Motivation
• Discovering Students’ Passions

Presenter: Julie Stern