

Biography: Linda Booth Sweeney, Ed.D.

Dr. Linda Booth Sweeney is a writer, educator, and systems-thinking pioneer whose work bridges children's literature, leadership development, and sustainability education. She founded Toggle Labs Kids to nurture the natural "systems spark" she saw in children and teens, an instinctive ability to notice patterns, feedback, and interdependence that too often fades in a world focused on parts and separate subjects.

As a mother of three (now grown), Linda saw firsthand that her children were wired to connect. Even before they had words for it, they understood their family as a living system, one part affecting another within some boundary. Encouraging that curiosity became her life's work. Returning to Harvard for a doctorate, she studied how children (and adults) understand systems and confirmed what she had long suspected: kids get systems; what they need are stories, language, and visuals to nurture that intuitive understanding. Through her books, interactive workshops, and games, she provides tools and experiences that help young people make sense of complexity and use that insight to design positive change.

Her picture books include *Apart, Together* (Balzer + Bray), *The Noisy Puddle* (Owlkids), *Monument Maker* (Tilbury House), *When the Snow Falls* and *When the Wind Blows* (G.P. Putnam's Sons), and the forthcoming *Do Bees Pee?* (HarperCollins, 2026). Her talks and "systems labs" for teens extend those ideas to leadership, sustainability, and social innovation, helping young people connect the dots between ecology, economy, and community.

Linda lives outside Boston, where she swims at Walden Pond, tends an unruly garden, and continues to create stories and learning experiences that remind us, in her words, "people who understand how systems work can do very fortunate things."