

**CP COMICPALOOZA**

## **Rebooting Education:**

**How gaming, social media, and pop culture support the learning process**





John Holt

American author and educator

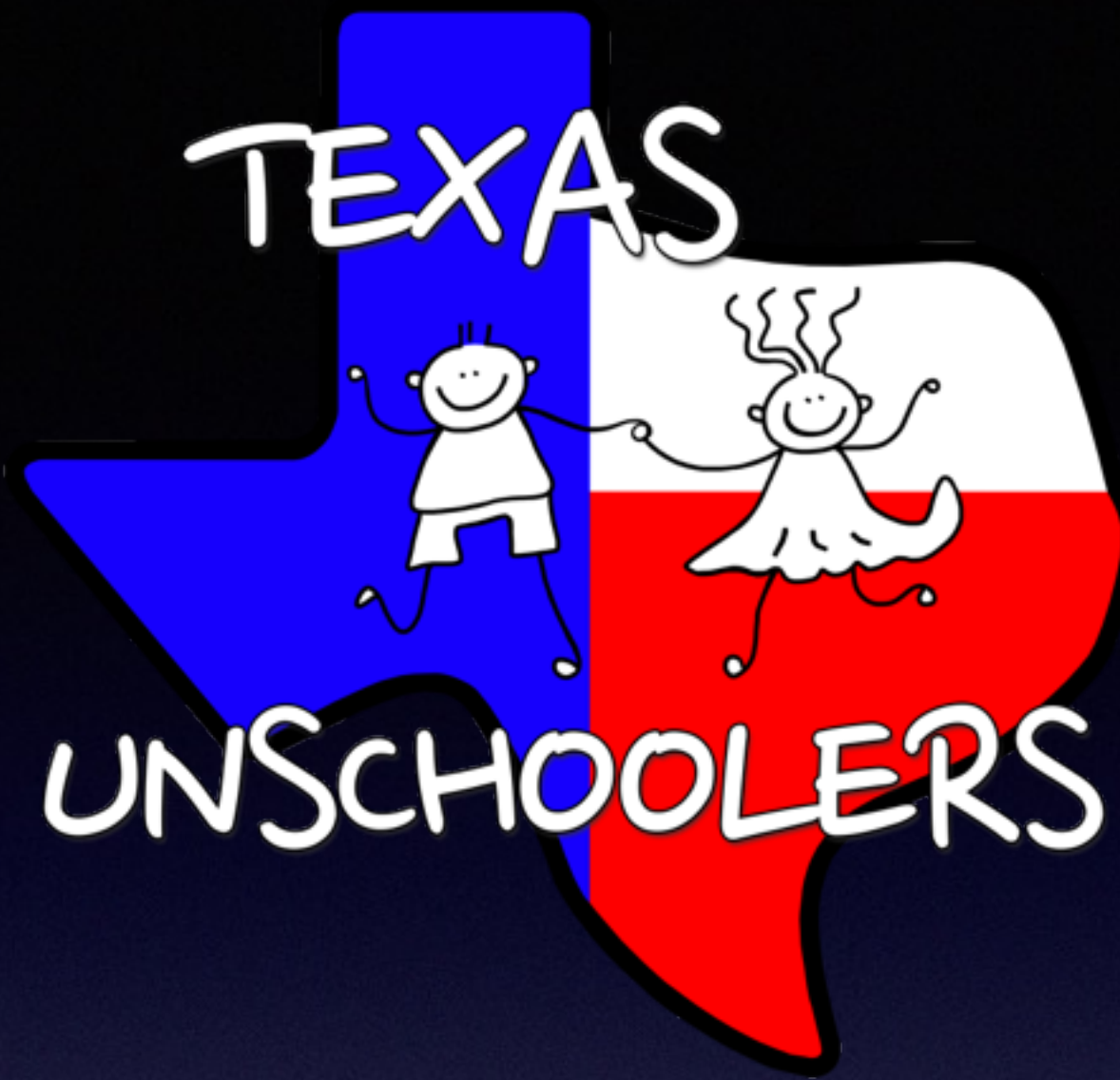
[johnholtgws.com](http://johnholtgws.com)

Unschooling is:

- > Natural learning
- > Experienced-based learning
- > Life learning

*Allowing as much freedom for the children as the parent can comfortably bear.*





TexasUnschoolers.com

Our mission is to educate and support families who are exploring an alternative approach to life and learning.

Resources for this talk are at  
*[TexasUnschoolers.com/comicpalooza](https://TexasUnschoolers.com/comicpalooza)*





Peter Gray, Ph.D.

Research Professor at Boston College

*AlternativesToSchool.com*

Freedom to Learn Blog

*PsychologyToday.com/blog/freedom-learn*

*Children aren't growing up for your world, they are growing up for their world. They know that computers are the primary tool of our culture.*



# Why we are here

- ❑ Explore why kids are drawn to these tools
- ❑ See how they often learn best through play
- ❑ Encourage parents to look beyond the surface to see the learning
- ❑ Share personal experiences about what our kids have learned
- ❑ Help parents feel more confident about the value of these tools





# Look beyond the surface—what are they learning?

- > Reading, writing, spelling, grammar
- > Storytelling
- > Collaboration
- > Strategic thinking / problem solving
- > Understanding of rules / cooperation
- > STEM: science, technology, engineering, math
- > Historical and cultural foundations
- > Relationship building and friendships / dispute resolution
- > Developing leadership qualities



CALL OF DUTY



LEAGUE of LEGENDS



Try joining your kids in the gaming — see it from their perspective.

What conversations are generated from game play?





# What activity, outside of gaming, is sparked from game play?

- ✓ Programming / coding — HTML, Java, PHP, etc
- ✓ Graphic design, photo, video — Photoshop, iMovie
- ✓ Storytelling / puppet shows
- ✓ Sports
- ✓ Art, music, poetry
- ✓ In person meetups / gaming clubs
- ✓ Research — YouTube, Wikipedia, Google



**HTML**



**WIKIPEDIA**  
The Free Encyclopedia





# Social Media — A New Playground



- > Not limited to geography / demographics
- > Ability to connect with like-minded kids / shared interests
- > Promotes diverse friendships w/ kids from other cultures
- > Builds confidence / share work, critique, improve
- > Vehicle for collaboration



WORDPRESS



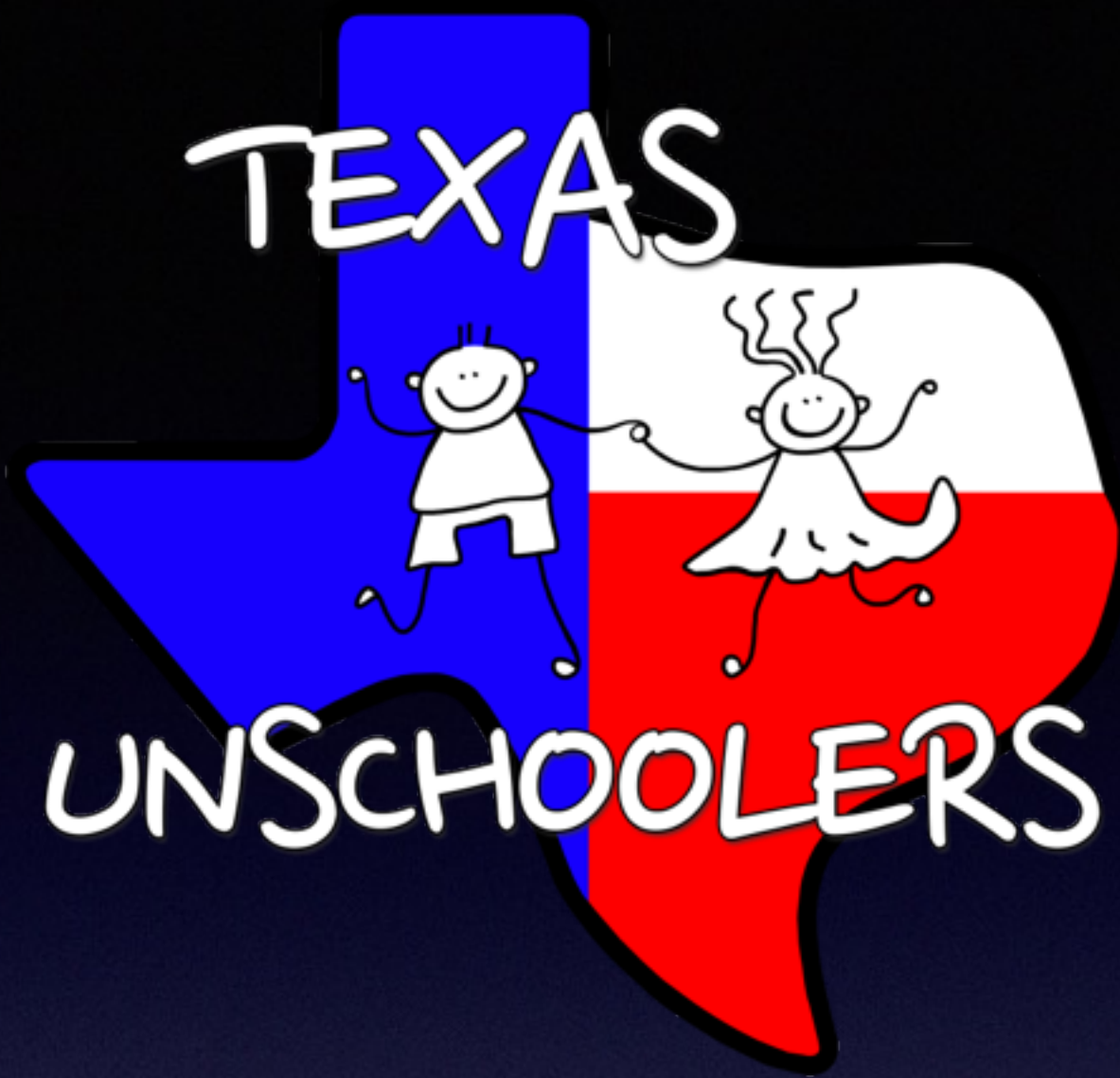


# Pop Culture

- ✓ Music, TV, movies, technology, comics, books, cosplay
- ✓ Meet kids where their interests are
- ✓ Listening & involvement fosters parent-child relationship & trust
- ✓ Encourage conversation: politics, sports, beliefs, work, economics, business, science, religion, art, philosophy
- ✓ Makes ideas more relatable in context of world events
- ✓ Far more interesting than a textbook or worksheet







TexasUnschoolers.com

Learning happens everywhere, all the time

Visit our booth — Hall C, M10

Resources for this talk are at

*[TexasUnschoolers.com/comicpalooza](https://TexasUnschoolers.com/comicpalooza)*

Join our Alternative Living & Learning Forums at

*[TexasUnschoolers.com/community](https://TexasUnschoolers.com/community)*