



Exploring Education and Childhood: From current certainties to new visions (Understanding Primary Education)

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Education has become dominated by testing, standards, interventions, strategies and political policy. Yet while elements such as these are important, *Exploring Education and Childhood* contends it is childhood - including its sociology and psychology - that is the vital holistic context for teaching and learning.

Written by a team of specialists who bring both experience of classroom teaching, teacher training, and of rigorous research and scholarship, each chapter examines a topic that is of vital importance to teaching and the work of teachers. The book explores examples of educational practice that illuminate contemporary problems and future possibilities for education; develops educational theory to better understand practice and policy; and critically evaluates education policy in the international context. With an emphasis on reflection and deep thinking - something that all the best teachers are able to do - key issues in the book include:

- the voice of the child
- metacognitive strategies
- agency, pedagogy and curriculum
- performativity, standards, and school readiness
- educational settings and new technology
- teacher expertise and agency
- diversity and child agency
- families, society and school choice.

Illustrated with powerful examples of practice, together with key questions for reflection and further reading, *Exploring Education and Childhood* challenges education professionals, policy makers, and all people with an interest in education to envision a new future. It will be essential reading for all student teachers and teachers, and is particular appropriate for Masters-level research, professional studies, Education Studies.

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