



## HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING FOR A CHANGING WORLD

What Educators Need to Know and Do

**Beverly Falk**

This concise and accessible resource provides an overview of the fundamentals of teaching in early childhood settings (pre-K–2), with a focus on what high-quality practices look like. It details the features of developmentally appropriate, linguistically responsive, culturally relevant/sustaining teaching and how this approach can prepare our youngest citizens for the challenges of our 21st century world. Beginning with what the research tells us about how young children develop and learn, Falk shows how to create learning environments, plan, teach, and assess in ways that support children’s optimal development. Specific strategies are described and explained, such as setting up the classroom environment and schedule, making smooth transitions, using effective communication strategies, and creating home–school partnerships.

Book Features:

- Combines understandings from multiple disciplines: child development, neuroscience and biological sciences, culturally responsive teaching, and language diversity practices.
- Examines how high-quality practices can be attained for all children and families, paying particular attention to traditionally underserved communities.
- Provides concrete examples of what developmentally appropriate curriculum, instruction, and assessment look like in diverse communities, including photos and links to online videos.

**Beverly Falk** is professor and director of the graduate programs in early childhood education at the School of Education, The City College of New York. Her books include *Defending Childhood: Keeping the Promise of Early Education* and *Teaching the Way Children Learn*.

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*Early Childhood Series*

“This text is a portrait of what it means to be an early childhood professional and to take seriously the job of establishing meaningful relationships with children, families, and professional colleagues.”

—From the foreword by **Jacqueline Jones**,  
Foundation for Child Development

“This manual for creating growth-enhancing experiences in early childhood distills years of experience into practical advice and well-researched lessons.”

—**Samuel J. Meisels**, Buffett Early Childhood  
Institute, University of Nebraska

“Brilliantly challenges us to translate what we know into what we do in order to improve school and life outcomes for ALL children.”

—**Maurice Sykes**, Early Childhood  
Leadership Institute

“Falk brings us critical knowledge about early childhood in this superb book.”

—**Ann Lieberman**, Stanford Center for  
Opportunity Policy in Education

“This important and inspirational book articulates the critical role that early learning educators play in facilitating young children’s cognitive, emotional, and physical development.”

—**Vivian L. Gadsden**, professor, Penn  
Graduate School of Education



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