



What If Everybody Understood Child Development?: Straight Talk About Bettering Education and Children's Lives

By Rae Pica



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Understand the connection between how kids grow and how they learn

After 35 years as an education consultant, Rae Pica knows the importance of understanding the natural course of child development. In this collection, she keeps kids front and center as she provides thought-provoking commentary and actionable insights on topics such as the Common Core, the self-esteem movement, and standardized testing. Sure to inspire discussion, this pocket-size powerhouse of educational philosophy includes

- 29 short essays on topics critical to best practice in child development and education
- Opinions of experts supported by research and anecdotal evidence
- Real-life stories shared by teachers and parents
- References to related articles and interviews with experts

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Review

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"Provocative ideas for the new educator, the experienced teacher, and administrators alike. Let's use what we know of child development to start remaking our schools to meet the needs of all students. This book gives us a starting point." --Katrina L. Ladopoulos, Teacher

This book is a must read for anyone who is part of the current education system. It is time to think about what we are doing to the youth who are the new digital generation era and to ensure we are teaching them in ways that are the most developmentally appropriate."--Lyneille Meza, Coordinator of Data and Assessment

Rae Pica has a deep understanding of childhood development and she has delved into every facet of childhood development so educators, parents, and policymakers will come to that understanding, too. What If Everybody Understood Childhood Development? includes 29 critically important chapters that focus on every single important issue we don't always take enough time to talk about. This book needs to not just be on everyone's shelves, but open in everyone's hands.--Peter DeWitt, Author/Consultant

This is an amazing book. It does far more than chase down the myths about how to ensure that children are successful. It offers real, research-backed practical strategies every teacher and parent can use quickly and easily. This belongs on every desk for quick and handy use!--Eric Jensen, Director

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Our understanding of young children has become quite distorted, as have our policies and practices. It's time to reorient our views and Rae Pica's What If Everybody Understood Child Development? gives clear examples of the problems and of the solutions. To her children are remarkable human beings -- active, caring, and creative. They are more than an investment in the future. They are of immense value here and

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Pica's folksy, straight talk about the big and small, but still contentious, issues in education today couldn't be more refreshing. Some of the subjects are among the most vexing of our time, but they're served up with a wicked wit, not to mention a deep respect for developmental science, that makes them easily digestible.-- Susan Ochshorn, Founder and Principal

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About the Author

Rae Pica has been an education consultant (www.raepica.com) specializing in the education of the whole child, children's physical activity, and developmentally appropriate practice since 1980. A former adjunct instructor with the University of New Hampshire, she is the author of 19 books, including the text *Experiences in Movement and Music*, in its 5th edition; the award-winning *Great Games for Young Children* and *Jump into Literacy*; and the parenting book, *A Running Start: How Play, Physical Activity and Free Time Create a Successful Child*. Rae is known for her lively and informative keynotes and trainings and has shared her expertise with such groups as the *Sesame Street* Research Department, the Head Start Bureau, Centers for Disease Control, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, Nickelodeon's *Blue's Clues*, Gymboree, Nike, and state health departments throughout the country. Rae also blogs for *Huffington Post*, is a member of the executive committee of the Academy of Education Arts and Sciences, and is cofounder of the BAM Radio Network (www.bamradionetwork.com), the world's largest online education radio network, where she currently hosts *Teacher's Aid*, interviewing experts in education, child development, play research, the neurosciences, and more.

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