

Contexts for young child flourishing: evolution, family, and society

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Abstrak

The book presents an interdisciplinary approach to the study of young childrens flourishing. Scholars from anthropology, education, intervention, and clinical and developmental psychology discuss child well-being. Like research within psychology generally, developmental psychology has spent more of its attention on pathology and on environments that challenge development. With the help of anthropological description, we hope to add to the movement to shift perspectives toward flourishing-describing its characteristics and varied approaches to supporting it. The book uses an evolutionary framing and provides cutting-edge knowledge about specific parenting practices and their relation to thriving. The book examines initial foundations for the broad landscape of young child flourishing, addresses parenting and family cultural contexts, which includes the attitudes and expectations that surround the child from conception and beyond. Contributors address contexts of conflict, community contexts beyond the family such as group care settings and early schooling, and the broader contexts for young child flourishing, suggesting policies, programs, and practices that enable thriving. Only by understanding the practices and contexts for optimal child development can comparative guidelines for prevention and interventions be established, problems be accurately analyzed, and effective solutions be tested.