

(Almost) Everything You Need to Know About Early Childhood Education

Judy Fujawa

Gryphon House (May 1998)

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In her first book, Judy Fujawa has taken teachers back to Early Childhood 101. Drawing on her 20 years of experience as an early childhood educator, Fujawa has compiled lists of questions or suggestions for ideas in a classroom. The result is a very quick read, which is useful for reflection. Each page (a list) covers a variety of issues. “How teachers help children grow and learn” list, for example, gives suggestions such as: “Emphasize the good things people do. Set achievable goals. Give them responsibilities. Use positive, encouraging words. Show them you care in what you say and do. Respect their ideas.” Each page also provides a section for the teacher’s own additions and comments.

This book is an excellent tool for early childhood educators starting out in the field, but even experienced teachers might enjoy going back to the basics as a reminder of what’s really important to a child. The book is also useful for parents in terms of helping them understand and appreciate how teachers provide children with a positive early school experience and how they might work with teachers for the benefit of their children.

SUSAN MCQUAID (July / August 1998)

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