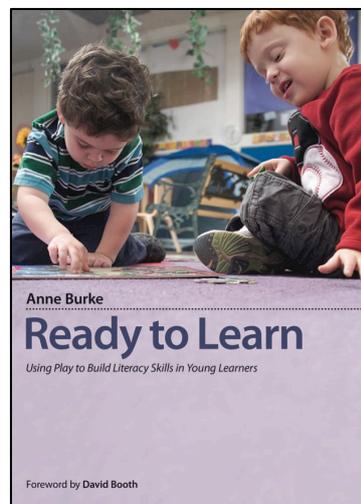


Ready to Learn: Using Play to Build Literacy Skills in Young Learners

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Key Learning Area: Cross-Curricular



Summary

This timely book explores innovative ways teachers can use play-based activities to build a strong literacy foundation for young learners. It shows teachers how to reconcile the early childhood knowledge that children bring to school with the needs of a more formal education experience.

Ready to Learn is committed to creating classrooms that feature collaborative learning spaces where children work with their peers, assume roles and viewpoints, and communicate naturally with each other. Based on the premise that children succeed when their social interactions are valued, this practical book supports powerful learning strategies that

- use play-based exercises to encourages learning through speaking, listening, creative thinking and moving
- recognise the power of maths, science, technology and computers in early learning
- encourage hands-on experiences that are driven by children's own desire to learn
- respect children's unique home backgrounds and the important role of family
- accommodate the different ways that children develop and learn.

This comprehensive approach to learning looks at functional and constructive play as well as more structured dramatic play and games with rules. Socio-dramatic play, where children assume roles to negotiate the choices they make in real life, are an important part of the book. Classroom observations of children's play moments and activities directed by children themselves are shared, with practical suggestions for how adults can guide students in planned and informal activities to enrich their early literacy skills.

The social and shard interaction of learning through play is what informs the literate lives of children. *Ready to Learn* shows new and experienced teachers how play-based problem solving can give children the best start possible in their school lives.

Other Resources

- *Don't Leave the Story in the Book: Using Literature to Guide Inquiry in Early Childhood Classrooms* (TCP3276)
- *Creative Ways to Teach Literacy* (SA1304)

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