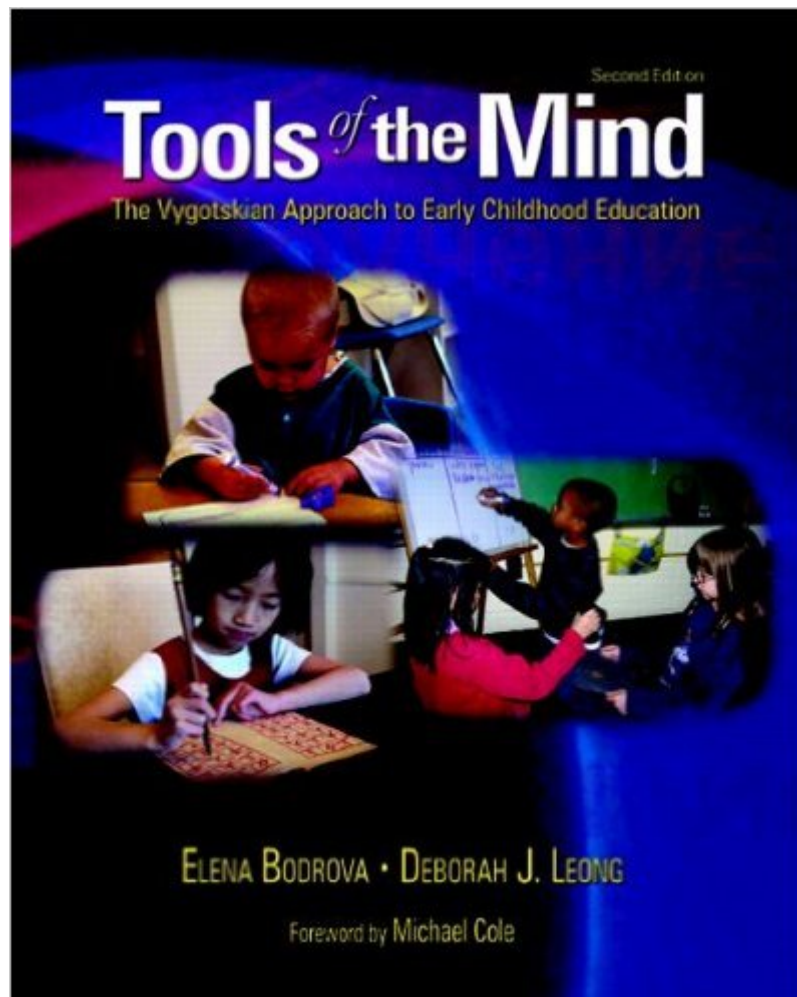


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Tools Of The Mind: The Vygotskian Approach To Early Childhood Education (2nd Edition)



Synopsis

As the only text of its kind, this book provides in-depth information about Vygotsky's theories, neo-Vygotskians' findings, and concrete explanations and strategies that instruct teachers how to influence student learning and development. Key changes to this edition include a new chapter on dynamic assessment, separate and expanded chapters on developmental accomplishments of infants and toddlers, preschool/kindergarten, and primary grades and on supporting those accomplishments, and elaborations of Vygotsky's ideas from neo-Vygotskians from Russia.

FEATURES: Written for the beginning student, the book provides a clear discussion of Vygotskian principles including...a historical overview and a complete chapter on the "Zone of Proximal Development" (ZPD). Each section of the book builds on the other...framework, strategies, and applications of the Vygotskian approach. The work of Vygotsky is compared in a fair and balanced way with the work of Piaget. Examples and activities have been class-tested in a variety of classroom environments including a Head Start program, private preschool, and in the Denver Public Schools.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent resource. I think it is a tragedy that Vygotsky's educational and developmental philosophies have taken this long to be distributed in America and taken seriously. We would have a completely different educational system and level of achievement in our public schools were the teachings in this book made the norm and mastery of it was required before anyone got ahold of our

young children in schools (or in the home in the role of parents generally or homeschooling parents). There is nothing I would have wanted to know before purchasing the product because I was familiar with Vygotsky theories from graduate studies in clinical psychology. Again, an excellent book. So much more relevant and quite frankly, accurate and helpful than any methods based solely on child-led learning and/or Piaget.

...look no further than this book. Even though reading Lev Vygotsky's own words in *MIND IN SOCIETY* is irreplaceable, most of us teachers have little time or patience to wade through that theoretical complexity. Thus, Bordrova and Leong give us an excellent way to both understand V's theory and how it applies to each set of early childhood age ranges. Personally, I the infant and toddler sections are the most valuable because embellishing intersubjectivity at the earliest possible point of development will increase the child's ability to navigate and learn within an increasingly complex social setting. Glorious text.

I used this book as part of my professional development for the past school year. As an educator of young special needs children, I found activities based in theory which I've already implemented successfully in my classroom. It's not an easy read and will not give you "10 Easy Ways to Implement Vygotsky Into Your Classroom"; you'll need to dig a little, but it will be worth your while!

As a student studying pre-school programs I've written a couple papers based on Tools of the Mind and really enjoyed this book. I am kind of unable to give a good review for laypersons however, and I am uncertain how it reads without a good background in child development. Ideally, I would have enjoyed more "how to" materials (what Tools of the Mind really looks like) and some information on how the system has worked in studies. I have read a couple such studies which showed that children exposed to a TotM curriculum at an early age showed better self-regulation and less negative behaviors than controls, and statistically insignificant (but present) improved cognitive abilities and literacy. I would not recommend this book for a parent, but certainly for someone interested in child development and educational philosophies and systems. See this New York Times article on the system here: nytimes.com/2009/09/27/magazine/27tools-t.html?pagewanted=1

Childhood development can be a very fuzzy concept. The authors go deep into the theory, but come back with specific pieces of advice. Why is play important for children? First you get the theory, then how it compares to others (say Piaget) and lastly how to encourage the right kind of play for social

development. The book is great for parents as well as teachers.

I bought this because of an introduction I received via one of HH the Dalai Lama's Mind and Life conferences where this approach was mentioned. As a parent there are keys here that can help, but it is clearly aimed at a more professional audience. I've gotten some good and useful nuggets, but it's slow going for me. Well worth the time spent - just a little above my level.

This book explains Vygotsky's approach to child development! It is easy to read and easy to understand! While Vygotsky is not my favorite child development theorist, this book does a wonderful job at making everything come together and make sense! Highly recommend to anyone working with children!

As a parent of an 11 month old, I found this book to be very insightful, and helpful for thinking of activities and interactions with my daughter. I appreciated the comparison with other approaches, including Montessori. The last chapters had some practical ideas that I could apply. By understanding the concepts, even though there are no Tools of the Mind schools in my area, I could make a more informed evaluation as to whether a preschool was taking a Vygotskian-like approach. I am attracted to this approach because it is child-centered, and tries to find the best way that an adult can support the child's learning. It focuses on enhancing a child's focus and thinking processes rather than just getting results.

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