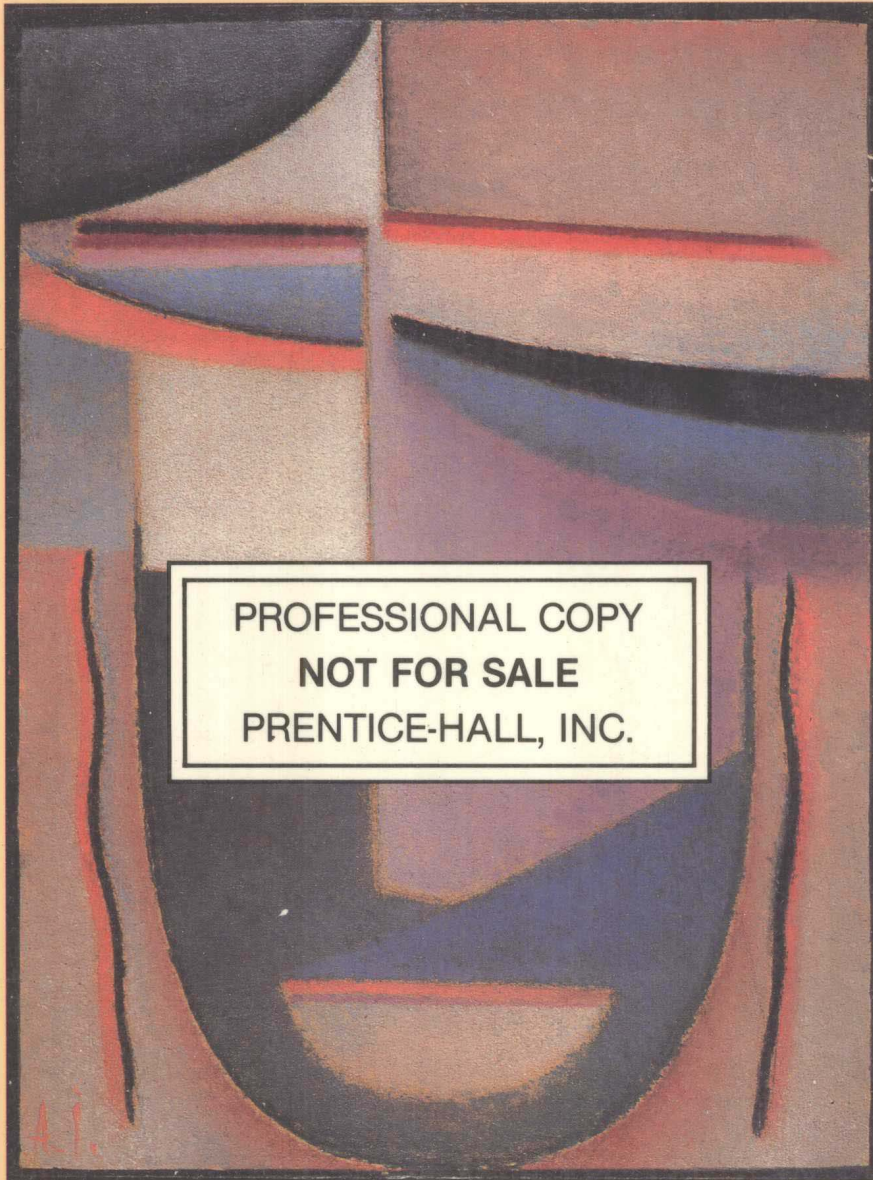

Educational Psychology

Theory into Practice

SECOND EDITION



Robert E. Slavin

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Theory into Practice

SECOND EDITION

Robert E. Slavin

Johns Hopkins University



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(Acknowledgments appear on page 641, which constitutes a continuation of the copyright page.)

Preface

Writing the first edition of *Educational Psychology: Theory into Practice* was the most difficult and time-consuming thing I have ever done. When I finally completed it, I looked forward to a long, relatively restful period in which to return to my research and other activities. However, the field of educational psychology is growing too fast to allow for a leisurely revision schedule. Already, many sections of the first edition have been made out-of-date by exciting new developments. Perhaps the most dramatic change has been the “cognitive revolution;” recent research on how we learn, process, and retain information has substantially changed thinking in this area. As a result, the greatest differences between the first edition and the present one are in Chapters 5 (Information Processing and Memory) and Chapter 6 (Meaningful Learning). Completely new sections have been added on such topics as teaching of thinking and study skills, reciprocal teaching, and new mnemonic strategies. Important advances in research on such topics as ability grouping, computers, mastery learning, lesson presentation, motivation, and classroom management have necessitated major changes throughout the Instruction section (Chapters 7–11). Chapters 2 and 3, the Development section, have been updated to include the recent advances of neo-Piagetian research and critiques of the earlier theorists, particularly Piaget and Kohlberg. Throughout the book, updated references have been added, bringing the total bibliography to more than eleven hundred entries, more than half of which are from 1978 to the present.

However, I have tried to make this edition a more current presentation of the state of knowledge in educational psychology, while not losing sight of the original purpose with which I set out: To give tomorrow's teachers the intellectual grounding and practical strategies needed to be effective as instructors. To this end, I have reviewed the entire book to remove any jargon or confusing material, and have added many more examples of critical concepts. As in the first edition, the words *for example* or their equivalents appear hundreds of times throughout the book. I find it difficult myself to grasp concepts of educational psychology until I am given a compelling classroom example, and it has been my experience that both students and colleagues feel the same way. I have tried to write this book in such a way that the reader will almost hear children's voices and smell the lunch cooking

in the school cafeteria. I believe that if there is any chance that students will transfer what they learn in educational psychology class to their own teaching, texts (and instructors) must make the connection between theory and practice explicit by the use of many realistic examples.

Given the developments of the past decade, no one can deny that teachers matter, that their behaviors have a profound impact on student achievement. To have a positive impact, teachers must have both a deep understanding of the powerful principles of psychology as they apply to education and a clear sense of how these principles can be applied. Effective teaching is neither a bag of tricks nor a set of abstract principles; rather, it is intelligent application of well-understood principles to solve practical problems. I hope this volume will help give teachers the intellectual and practical skills needed to do the most important job in the world.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is divided into five principal sections—Development, Learning, Instruction, Individual Differences, and Measurement and Evaluation. Each section has several chapters. Within each chapter is a discussion of important theories, with many examples of how these theories apply to classroom teaching.

This book emphasizes the intelligent use of theory and research to improve instruction. The Instruction section, though only one of the five sections, occupies about one-third of the total pages in the book, and the other chapters all contain references to the meaning of theories and research findings for practice. Whenever possible, the guides for practice in this book are specific programs or strategies that have been evaluated and found to be effective, not just suggestions for things to try. Surgeons are not just given an anatomy course, a scalpel, and some hints for practice; rather, they are given specific procedures that are known to work. This book takes a similar approach to teaching.

Features

The goal of giving teachers the tools they need to do their job better is addressed by this book's major feature, the **Theory into Practice** sections that are presented throughout the text. All chapters but the first have at least one Theory into Practice section and many have two, three, or four such sections. These sections present strategies for instructional activities ranging from planning courses to presenting lessons to adapting instruction to meet the needs of students with academic handicaps.

The book's **Teachers on Teaching** sections, presented in all chapters, also contribute to the goal of making this a practical, useful book. In these sections, over 75 teachers offer their ideas on topics such as how to rein-

force the desirable behavior of students, how to help students transfer school learning to situations outside the classroom, and how to present instructional objectives to students.

Other features in *Educational Psychology: Theory into Practice* are designed to help the reader grasp the book's content. It is only fitting that a book that describes effective methods of teaching should itself put these principles to work. This book tries to do just that.

For example, research on how people learn suggests that students should be introduced to a topic before studying it in depth. Two features at the beginning of each chapter serve this purpose. They are

- A **chapter outline** that acquaints the reader with the organization and content of each chapter
- Chapter **learning objectives** that state what the reader should be able to do after reading the chapter

Features at the end of each chapter are designed to encourage readers to think about and remember the chapter's content. These features are

- A **summary** that recaps main points
- **Study questions** that focus on important facts and concepts
- **Suggested readings** that direct the student to important supplementary materials

In addition, within each chapter important **glossary terms** are printed in boldface type the first time they are used in a significant way. Definitions of each terms are given in the margin of the page. An end-of-book glossary provides an additional reference tool for students and teachers, as do the book's name index, subject index, and list of references.

Supplements

The following supplements have been developed in conjunction with this text:

- The **study guide**, which includes chapter outlines, objectives, key terms, study questions, and essay and discussion questions. The guide was written by Steven M. Ross of Memphis State University.
- An **interactive study guide**, which allows students who have access to a computer to quiz themselves on material from each chapter.
- An **instructor's manual**, which includes chapter overviews and objectives, lecture outlines, activities, essay and discussion questions, and other resources for teaching this course. This manual was written by Suzanne P. Waller of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.
- A **test item file**, with 1,000 multiple-choice, true-false, and essay questions. These questions were written by Paul Kaplan of Suffolk Community College.

Acknowledgments

The field of educational psychology is so large, and is growing so rapidly, that no one person can possibly know everything about it. For this reason, I have relied on other colleagues for draft material that provided background and references relating to specific topics outside my own areas of expertise. These colleagues and the chapters (or sections of chapters) of the book to which they contributed are: Jeffrey W. Fagen of St. John's University, Chapter 2, Theories of Development; Stacie G. Goffin of the University of Missouri—Kansas City, Chapter 3, Development During Early Childhood; Gerald W. Green and Craig Jones of the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies, Chapter 3, Development During Middle Childhood; Larry Shelton of the University of Vermont, Chapter 3, Development During Adolescence; William M. Zangwill, New York City, Chapter 4, Behavioral Theories of Learning; Thomas Andre of Iowa State University, Chapter 5, Information Processing and Memory, and Chapter 6, Meaningful Learning; Ralph E. Reynolds of the University of Utah, Chapter 6, Meaningful Learning; Ronald L. Taylor of Florida Atlantic University and Frances L. Clark of the University of Louisville, Chapter 12, Exceptional Students; Sandra B. Damico of the University of Florida, Chapter 13, Social Class, Ethnicity and Gender; Thom B. Clark of the University of North Carolina, Chapter 14, Student Evaluation: Tests and Grades; and Philip L. Smith of the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, Chapter 15, Using and Interpreting Standardized Tests. Douglas H. Clements, Kent State University, contributed information on the use of computers in education.

I also wish to thank my many colleagues who served as reviewers for various sections of the book. Their comments provided valuable information that helped me present a more accurate and useful account of the principles and research in the field of educational psychology. These reviewers include

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Finally, it is customary to acknowledge the long-suffering patience of one's spouse and children. In my case, this acknowledgment is especially appropriate. My wife, Nancy Madden, not only read and commented on every word, but also as my co-worker kept our classroom research going while I was in the throes of writing. Our two preschool children, Jacob and Benjamin (who were not particularly patient or long-suffering) did, however, contribute to this work by providing cute examples for the preschool section of Chapter 3. They also provided me with a sense of purpose for writing; I had to keep thinking about the kind of school experience I want for them, as a way of making concrete my concern for the school experiences for all children.

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R.E.S.

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