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Global Village

Including the Young Child in the World

Second Edition

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To Andrew, Max, and Peter, my hope for the world's future is with you — L.B.S.

To Reuben, Micah, and Jonas, with pride and gratitude for who you are, and with my love — M.B.

Preface

Since the publication of the first edition of *Educating the Global Village*, world events have called for the book's revision. Today, the realities of the global village are more evident to all of us in our daily lives. The challenge of today's schools is to define and implement new directions that address global concerns, issues, and needs that face educators and parents in this 21st century. The intent of this edition is the same as that of the first, to help children live effectively in the global village. To that end, we have revised the text with up-to-date information, learning theories, teaching practices, and home/school/community partnerships that protect, promote, and provide for all of the world's children.

Children's attitudes are formed in the beginning years of life. Many texts ignore the early years in the teaching of global or international education. We feel that young children should be included in the discussion and decisions about their world; thus, another goal of this text is to approach global education with a background and strategy that educators and families can use for effecting a proactive and positive influence on young children. The text intends to help those working with children from their earliest social interactions through their elementary school years.

New to This Edition

We have made many changes to this new edition.

- We reorganized the book into 10 chapters that integrate teaching exceptional children in an international context throughout the text to reflect the inclusion philosophy of special education.
- We expanded on teaching practices for global education to include several innovative approaches and international models such as multiple intelligence schools, Reggio Emilia schools, the Montessori method, standards-based schools, and full service schools.
- We considered the roles that distance learning, the Internet, and web designs play in outreach, collaboration, and conferencing in a global community. Readers also are directed to pertinent references and websites at the end of chapters for greater depth and breadth of information.

- We added the importance of a sustainable environment for the future needs of children and the new imperatives to support the spiritual side of teaching and learning.
- We extended the definition of global education from 10 to 12 principles.
- The appendixes are updated and revised as resources for further study and implementation by teachers, families, and children.
- Finally, we have revisited the state of childhood and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in context of the new directives the United Nations is taking in its campaign to better the lives of all children around the globe.

Organization

A major theme of this text is unity in diversity. The theme expands the usual definitions of global education and multicultural education. It perceives the world as community while recognizing the world in the local community. With that dual purpose, the book is organized into three parts:

- Part I: The Need for Global Education Continues
- Part II: Including Diverse Learners
- Part III: Implementing a Global Education Curriculum

Topics covered include the ever-changing definition of global education, the state of the world's children, UN mandates, comparative education practices, the importance of culture, multicultural America, creating community, placing the world in the curriculum, teaching themes, and the role of the globally literate educator.

In conclusion, we wrote this book to serve families, educators, and children as a text that puts theory into practice. We hope to provide our readers with a knowledge base for understanding the issues and concerns of global education. We offer teaching-learning strategies that are inclusive of all children in a diverse array of learning styles, that infuse global education into the child care center, school, home, and community, and that help children solve today's problems so they can face the challenges of tomorrow.

Acknowledgments

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colleagues who loved, listened to, and lived with us throughout the revision of the book. Dr. Swiniarski wishes to acknowledge the memory of her parents, Bernice and Charles Boyle, for encouraging her to be a lifelong learner, and her husband, Joe, for his constant help and encouragement. Dr. Breitborde would like to acknowledge the memory of her mother and father, who gave her a sense of her own history and of her responsibility as a citizen of the world, and extend a special thanks to sustaining friends and the three sons who have blessed her life.

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- Topic Overviews—outline key concepts in topic areas
- Web Links—general websites related to topic areas as well as associations and professional organizations.
- Read About It—timely articles that enable you to become more aware of important issues in early childhood education.
- **Learn by Doing**—put concepts into action, participate in activities, complete lesson plans, examine strategies, and more.
- For Teachers—access information that you will need to know as an in-service teacher, including information on materials, activities, lessons, curriculum, and state standards.
- Visit a School—visit a school's website to see concepts, theories, and strategies in action.
- **Electronic Bluebook**—send homework or essays directly to your instructor's email with this paperless form.
- Message Board—serves as a virtual bulletin board to post—or respond to—questions or comments to/from a national audience.
- **Chat**—real-time chat with anyone who is using the text anywhere in the country—ideal for discussion and study groups, class projects, etc.

To take advantage of these and other resources, please visit the Educating the Global Village: Including the Young Child in the World, Second Edition, Companion Website at www.prenhall.com/swiniarski

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Note: Every effort has been made to provide accurate and current Internet information in this book. However, the Internet and information posted on it are constantly changing, so it is inevitable that some of the Internet addresses listed in this textbook will change.

Part 1

The Need for Global Education Continues

Chapter 1

What Is Global Education?

Chapter 2

Who Are the World's Children?

Chapter 3

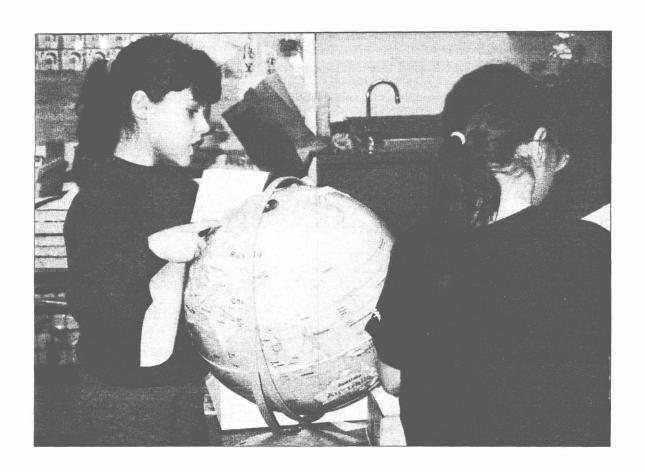
The International Rights of the Child







What Is Global Education?



Introduction: Defining Global Education

Global education involves teaching perceptions of the world in terms of unity within diversity. The goal of this type of education is to promote the knowledge base, skills, and attitudes that permit young children to see the world as a community while appreciating the mosaic of cultures in their immediate neighborhood, town, or city. Children need to feel that they are part of the world community and to be able to accept differences among cultures. The connections that children make with other peoples and the appreciation that they have for other cultures will stem from an activity-based curriculum of hands-on experience with the universals of childhood and a study of the "interconnectedness of systems . . . ecological, cultural, economic, political and technological" (Tye, 1990, p. 5).

Global education is multifaceted and embraces a broad scope. It has been defined as "seeing things through the eyes and minds of others and it means the realization that while individuals and groups may view life differently, they also have common needs and wants" (Tye, 1990, p. 5). It can also be defined in further contexts concerning global issues, world cultures, and world systems that are interconnected and interdependent.

Global education promotes basic skills for living and interacting in today's world. It is for people of all ages, starting with the early childhood years. Its scope includes all people as it calls for a moral commitment to responsible social behavior.

Interdependency is a key concept of global education (Ellis, 1995, p. 298; Fortson & Reiff, 1995, p. 276). Fortson and Reiff maintain that "the interdependency of people immediately highlights the urgent need for better understanding among persons and nations" (1995, p. 276). This interdependency exists worldwide and, if understood, can lead to constructive relationships (Fortson & Reiff, 1995, p. 276), such as that among educators collaborating across national boundaries to develop effective schools. The purpose of studying comparative education systems is not to rank schools and place them in competition with each other. Rather, global educators must join in alliances to study the different models the world community offers, to share effective measures for reaching children, and to reform schools with approaches that are appropriate, tested, and feasible. Access to equal and equitable education extends beyond national considerations as a right of all children.

The Twelve Principles of Global Education

Global education is based on 12 principles that guide educators to develop a comprehensive view of a global education program:

- 1. Global education is basic education.
- 2. Global education is lifelong learning.
- 3. Global education is cooperative learning.
- 4. Global education is inclusive of all.