

Understanding Literacy Development *A Global View*

"... an up-to-date, significant contribution to the field of literacy [that] focuses on important issues from research-based instructional practices to social and cultural environments that influence learners, to professional development to improve literacy development."

—Sarah McCarthey,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

"... a unique and significant contribution.... As a collection of some of the literacy field's most eminent scholars, this volume provides a good introduction to current variations in the field."

The acquisition and maintenance of literacy is of pressing interest and concern to educators and educational policy makers worldwide. What are the common themes, the common questions, and the unique circumstances and initiatives that spring from this interest and concern? To address these questions, *Understanding Literacy Development: A Global View* brings together leading experts from around the world to explore ways to best provide teaching and learning opportunities, tailored to specific educational needs, to help all children become better readers.

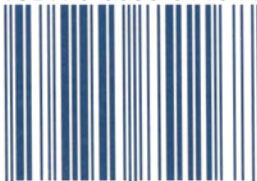
The premise is that current generic "one-size-fits-all" approaches are inappropriate for many children and can lead to underachievement and failure. The contributors write from a stance that reflects not only their own particular expertise and experience, but also sheds light on literacy development across cultures, countries, and circumstances. Taken together, chapters in this volume target a wide and comprehensive set of literacy issues, and offer an extensive exploration of the complexities of literacy development, including issues related to early literacy, school instruction, family literacy, adolescent and adult literacy, and teacher development.

At a time when education is burdened by increasing economic pressure to do more with less, it is imperative that educators and decision makers at all levels have access to current, broad-ranging, and in-depth information and evidence to inform their choices. This volume, compiling critical research on a wide spectrum of literacy concerns, is an invaluable tool for scholars, teacher educators, professionals, and graduate students in the fields of literacy education, early childhood education, educational psychology, educational policy, and related areas.

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