
Early Childhood Programs as the Doorway to Social Cohesion:

Application of Vygotsky's Ideas from an East-West Perspective

Edited by Aija Tuna and Jacqueline Hayden



While scientific research constantly brings new insights into brain development and the enormous importance of the first years of a child's life, the early 20th century theories of one Russian psychologist, Lev S. Vygotsky (1896–1934), have had profound and diverse impacts upon the early childhood education traditions in both the East and the West and remain highly relevant today.

Recently, more than 750 early childhood education researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and NGO activists from around the world met in Prague at “Exploring Vygotsky's Ideas: Crossing Borders,” the 17th Annual Conference of the European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA), hosted by the International Step by Step Association (ISSA). The result of ISSA's initiative is this volume of papers which examine Vygotsky's legacy on early childhood education systems in both the East and the West, offering ideas which can be used to work for the benefit of children and societies across the globe.

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Aija Tuna is a Program Specialist for the International Step by Step Association and an independent consultant through her company Knowledge Creation Lab.

Jacqueline Hayden, BA, MEd, PhD is Professor of Early Childhood and Social Inclusion at Macquarie University, Australia.

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ISSA is an innovative network of early childhood development professionals and organizations primarily in Central Eastern Europe and Central Asia, working to make quality early childhood education accessible to all children. For more information, visit www.issa.nl.

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orders@c-s-p.org · admin@c-s-p.org · fax: +44 191 265 2056
CSP, PO Box 302, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 1WR, United Kingdom