

Peace Education: A Personal bibliography

There have been many organizations, websites, and books working on peace education in the U.S.A. and around the world. Many are new and many have been around for a long time. People have been thinking about peace education since the 1890s and in the early 1900s groups formed around educating for peace. A small percentage of these are focusing on educating young children in peace. Since the 1970s I have been collecting books and pamphlets around children and nonviolence. There have been books for families thinking about social justice, books on how families can end nuclear war, books on how to help children becoming empathic and more books on bullying and bully prevention. The P.E.A.C.E. website has a list of some books available, but here are five authors whom I trust writing about young children and peace. I am somewhat biased here, some are friends and I appreciate their work.

- 1) Susan Hopkins- Susan is a member of P.E.A.C.E. (formerly CEASE). She has an incredible background as a teacher, and activist, and a Quaker. Her whole life has been centered on peace issues. She has written widely, but I think her best work is Hearing Everyone's Voice: Educating Young Children for Peace and Democratic Community, Child Care Information Exchange, (1999). This anthology includes the writings of teachers and educators who have dealt with circle times, conflict resolution, rule making and more. She even includes songs and creative activities children have been involved in for peace.
- 2) Dan Gartrell wrote Education for a Civil Society: How Guidance Teaches Young Children Democratic Life Skills, NAEYC, (2012). We used this as a discussion starter for a panel on young children learning democracy. It is a wonderful look at how to build understanding of democracy and the skills needed to participate in it. There is a lot of information and hands on ways to get children involved as a group in class meeting and activities. It has especially important insights about working with young boys in our care.
- 3) No list is complete without mentioning the work of Diane Levin and Nancy Carlsson-Paige, also, long-time members of P.E.A.C.E.. Both together and on their own they have produced some of the best guides for building a peaceful community among young children. Together they wrote The War Play Dilemma, Teachers College Press, first published in 1987, then revised and expanded in 2005. It examines the realities and concerns about war play and superhero play which confront teachers and parents offering practical and positive responses. They acknowledge the on-going tensions between developmental and political perspectives.
- 4) In Before Push Comes to Shove: Building Conflict Resolution Skills, 1998, they use a realistic story of children experiencing conflict to illustrate positive guidance for peace building skills in the classroom.
- 5) Diane Levin revised Teaching Young Children in Violent Times: Building a Peaceable Classroom (ESR) in 2003 after 9/11. It includes focus on how to help children with the news of violence in their world.
- 6) I love the book From Conflict to Peace Building: the Power of Early Childhood Initiatives- Lesson from around the world. Diane worked with Paul Connolly and Jacqueline Hayden, editing and contributing to this wide ranging book. Diane's work has been in Northern Ireland where she has worked for many years building bridges with several communities in Belfast. But this book also includes stories from Albania, Chad, Nepal and other countries where violent conflicts have emerged.
- 7) Louise Derman-Sparks is interviewed in this newsletter by Amber Wallick. Her monumental work, Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves (NAEYC) was revised in 2010 with Julie Olsen Edwards. P.E.A.C.E. member Ana Page and others have explored with Louise the overlap of peace education and the anti-bias curriculum. Both go hand and hand. One could not exist without the other. Louise explores all aspects of this in her books on the subject.

These are five authors that have contributed to our understanding of peace education for young children. Please send P.E.A.C.E. the books you value and how they have worked for you. There is plenty of information out there. Let's share our ideas.

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