Preface

Family, School, and Community Partnerships: Nurturing and Empowering All Young Children is a book about the shared responsibility of caring for children. They say it takes a village to raise a child. In our modern society, that "village" is comprised of people from the three areas of a child's life that most affect their development: their family, their school, and their community.

Almost all living species build some sort of a nest that protects, nurtures, and raises their young ones. For children, their home is the innermost layer of the "nest," followed by the layers of school and then community. In order to best support and empower children, educators must understand each layer, be able to spot strengths and vulnerabilities, and know how and when to offer support, resources, and guidance.

No two children are the same, and no two nests are the same. *Family, School, and Community Partnerships: Nurturing and Empowering All Young Children* encourages educators to learn about and respect the nests from which the children in their care emerge. Partnerships can be found among each child's family members, spiritual leaders, community helpers, and so much more. By taking action and being agents of change, educators can not only help children, but can build systems of equity that benefit the greater community and society. This book will show them how.

Acknowledgments

The author and publisher would like to thank the following for their invaluable contributions of content and images for *Family, School, and Community Partnerships: Nurturing and Empowering All Young Children*.

Elizabeth Argo
Chadwick Boyles
Victoria Winterhalter Brame
Erica Buck
Carmen Cervantes
Keely Cline
Elley Cline
Barbara Doerrer-Peacock
Richard Doerrer-Peacock
Sandra Duncan
Shantel Farnan
Lashawn Green
Shelby Hartman
Cris Lydon Jacobson
Ashley J. May
Shauna Mayo
Kenyada J. McLeod
Kathryn Murray
Ashley Nartey
Mark Okello
Courtney Ravenscraft
Nelly Rodriguez
Rebecca Sapp
Victoria Seeger
Meghan Sheil
Juanita M. Cleaver Simmons
Beth Blue Swadener
Wards Forest Media
Amber Ware
Bhagavathi Yedur

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About the Author

Pradnya Patet is passionate about preparing early care and education professionals to work with young children and their families and currently leads the Early Childhood Development Program at Brightpoint Community College in Chester, Virginia. She earned a B.A. in Psychology and an M.Sc. in Child Development and Family Relations from the University of Mumbai in Mumbai, India, and a Ph.D. in Family and Child Development from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia. She is a proud mother of a teenager who nurtures, challenges, and inspires her to view the world with multiple lenses. The author acknowledges her parents, Ashok and Pratibha Patet, who built the nest that nurtured and empowered her worldview, and whose memories live on through the many stories and experiences narrated in this textbook.

With more than 25 years of experience in the field of early childhood education as a teacher educator, professional development facilitator, and childcare director she has come to appreciate and value relationship-based pedagogy, practice, and leadership. She teaches with the conviction that experiential learning empowers pre-service teachers to discover their potential and make a difference by applying their learning to the real world. With much of her scholarly work focused on teachers' reflective inquiry and the design of early childhood spaces for optimal learning and living, she is dedicated to helping early care and education professionals to engage in practice that creates and sustains a sense of community through responsive interactions, thoughtfully planned environments, and the whole-hearted acceptance of the intricate connection between families, schools, and communities. She is the recipient of the Mortar Board Top Ten Professor's Award; the Dean's Award for Collaboration; the Gauri Char Scholarship for excellence in work from the University of Mumbai; and earned a place in Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

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The author and publisher wish to thank the following industry and teaching professionals for their valuable input into the development of *Family, School, and Community Partnerships: Nurturing and Empowering All Young Children*.

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Features of the Textbook

The instructional design of this textbook includes student-focused learning tools to help you succeed. This visual guide highlights these features.

Unit Opening Materials

Each unit begins with a self-reflection activity, **What's Your Mindset?**, which asks students to read a scenario and answer questions that they will answer again at the end of the unit. This activity raises self-awareness of the attitudes and potential biases that may impact their actions and guides personal and professional growth throughout the course.

Chapter Opening Materials

Each chapter opener contains learning outcomes, key terms, an introduction, and a list of standards covered in the chapter. **Learning Outcomes** clearly identify the knowledge and skills to be gained when the chapter is completed. These outcomes are labeled and correlated to related assessment elements to facilitate reporting and remediation. **Key Terms** list the key words to be learned in the chapter. **Introduction** provides an opening for the chapter's content that is correlated to the nesting habits of a particular animal species. **Standards** are an important part of preparing for a career. This feature provides students with an understanding of what key standards are covered in the chapter.

Additional Features

Additional features are used throughout the body of each chapter to further learning and knowledge. **Checkpoints** support reflection and knowledge after major chapter sections. **Invitation to Act** provides suggestions for ways students can get involved or advocate for children and families in ways that are meaningful and doable for college students. **Trending Topics** present issues of current interest in the field, explore their historical, cultural, or political roots, and help students generate solutions grounded in family, school, and community relationships. **Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors** are reflective narratives that offer readers windows to peek into someone else's experiences, hold up mirrors so they can identify with the described experiences, or nudge them to step into someone else's perspective through a sliding glass door. **Nesting Tips** showcase practical ideas from teachers, parents, project leaders, and other relevant practitioners who are



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committed to, and have been successful in, building strong family, school, and community partnerships. **What's Your Personal Theory of Practice?** features provide students with a chance to discover their personal theory that will guide their interactions with children and their families and reconstruct it with an expert theory from the field.

Illustrations

Illustrations have been designed to clearly and simply communicate family, school, and community partnerships. Photos are diverse, colorful, and helpful. Charts and tables communicate additional useful information for future educators to understand the chapter concepts.

End-of-Chapter Content

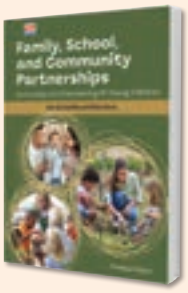
End-of-chapter material provides an opportunity for review and application of concepts. A concise **Summary** provides an additional review tool and reinforces key learning objectives. An expanded summary matches the content to the learning outcomes for section-by-section review. This helps students focus on important concepts presented in the text. **Reflection** questions are critical-thinking questions that enable students to demonstrate knowledge, identification, and comprehension of chapter material. **Recall and Application** questions extend learning and develop students' abilities to break down material into its component parts.

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TOOLS FOR STUDENT AND INSTRUCTOR SUCCESS

Student Tools

Student Text



- *Family, School, and Community Partnerships: Nurturing and Empowering All Young Children* addresses challenges in today's early childhood classrooms by focusing on the interwoven relationships in a child's life.

G-W Digital Companion

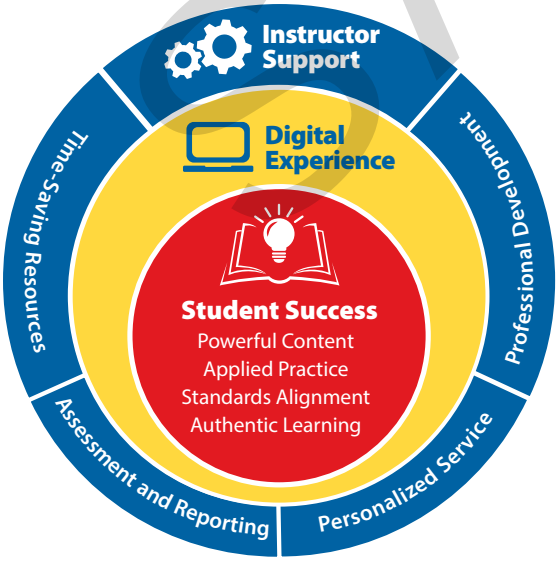
- For digital users, e-flash cards and vocabulary exercises allow interaction with content to create opportunities to increase achievement.

Video Library

- Video assets enrich learning by capturing authentic examples of classroom interactions between children and instructors. The videos were created in developmentally appropriate learning environments and are rich in examples of childcare best practices and effective classroom design. Videos are accompanied by worksheets that challenge students to think critically about the content.

Online Learning Suite

- Provides easy-to-use access and navigation
- Includes accessible resources for all learners
- Encourages exploration and discovery (or practice and repetition)



Instructor Tools

LMS Integration

Integrate Goodheart-Willcox content within your Learning Management System for a seamless user experience for both you and your students. LMS-Ready Content in Common Cartridge® format facilitates single sign-on integration and gives you control of student enrollment and data. With a Common Cartridge integration, you can access the LMS features and tools you are accustomed to using and G-W course resources in one convenient location—your LMS.

G-W Common Cartridge provides a complete learning package for you and your students. The included digital resources help your students remain engaged and learn effectively:

- **Digital Textbook**
- **Videos**
- **Drill and Practice** vocabulary activities

When you incorporate G-W content into your courses via Common Cartridge, you have the flexibility to customize and structure the content to meet the educational needs of your students. You may also choose to add your own content to the course.

For instructors, the Common Cartridge includes the Online Instructor Resources, which link directly to a cloud-based assessment platform that works alongside your LMS. Create, customize, edit, and print prebuilt questions and tests to meet your needs.

Online Instructor Resources

- **Instructor Resources** provide instructors with time-saving preparation tools such as answer keys, editable lesson plans, and other teaching aids.
- **Instructor's Presentations for PowerPoint®** are fully customizable, richly illustrated slides that help you teach and visually reinforce the key concepts from each chapter.
- Easily create, customize, edit, and print assessments to meet your classroom needs using a cloud-based platform with hundreds of questions that assess student knowledge of the content in each chapter.

See www.g-w.com/family-school-community-partnerships-2026 for a list of all available formats.

Professional Development

- Expert content specialists
- Research-based pedagogy and instructional practices
- Options for virtual and in-person Professional Development

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Introduction

When I stepped into the classroom as a lead teacher, I realized that I was least prepared to work with families of the young children I cared for. As efficient and confident as I was in my abilities to lead a child-centered classroom of young children, I felt anxious and incompetent in building relationships with the family, especially when I anticipated conflict and disagreement. Now, after being a teacher educator for more than 25 years, I find that many of my students express similar concerns. As a future early care and education professional, do you feel prepared to work with families of the children under your care? If you want to learn how to build strong relationships with parents and guardians to nurture their child's success, support families in their journey to raise resilient children, advocate for children and families facing adversity, and leverage community resources to empower children to survive and thrive, then this book is for you.

The content of this book is based on three premises: (1) Every child has the right to not just survive but thrive as a member of the community. (2) The family, school, and community share the responsibility for nurturing and empowering all children to survive and thrive in their environment. (3) True partnership between the family, school, and community is achieved when the wellbeing of the child is prioritized and barriers are seen as opportunities for innovation, creative problem-solving, and new perspectives.

It is my hope that the following unique elements of the book provide you with the inspiration and encouragement to be an educator who serves as the link between the family and community.

- The analogy of a 'nest' is used to organize the content of this book. The nest is a powerful symbol of protection, nurturance, and empowerment. There is much that humankind can learn from the nests and nesting practices of birds, social insects, and ocean animals about raising resilient children who will create the world that they live in. Be sure to read the introduction to each chapter and embrace the lessons drawn from these parallels.
- Each unit begins and ends with a self-assessment of the 'mindset.' Mindset is a cluster of attitudes that influence our thoughts and actions. No matter how well you know your content, you can only make a difference with the right mindset. Take time to complete the assessments and critically reflect on your own biases, because they will impact your work considerably.
- Experience is the best teacher. In this book I gather stories, reflections, innovative ideas, and successful practices from my own experience as well as those of my colleagues, students, and friends. I trust that these experiences—included as features in each chapter—leave you with a little voice within that says, "I can do this too!"
- This book is not a manual or a prescribed series of steps to follow. Use it as a tool to develop a set of skills and mindsets that will help you create a nest with three layers: the family, the school, and the community to nurture and empower all the children you work with.

Pradnya

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