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Plank's "Discovering the culture of childhood" (Book Review)

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and strategies for both beginning and advanced educators to utilize. *Cultivating the Genius of Black Children* is an excellent book that challenges educators to explore the vast abilities and cultures of students to improve curriculum and pedagogy.

Reviewer

Cari Ryan, Pacific Rim Christian University

Plank, E. (2016). *Discovering the culture of childhood*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press. 196 pp. \$24.95. ISBN 9781605544625

The author of *Discovering the Culture of Childhood*, Emily Plank, has spent over a decade working in and researching the field of early education. Her roles in early childhood education include family child care provider, mentor, writer and consultant. Plank wrote this professional development book for those who work in the field of early childhood education, however the book is easily accessible to anyone with an interest in childhood development. Plank writes that in her experience, adults too often lack an understanding of children's behavior and warn how adults too often impose "grownup" expectations on children's actions and behavior. This misunderstanding of children's culture can create damaging situations that may impede children's learning development. Plank utilizes childhood development theories and the experiences of other early childhood educators to reveal how educators can appreciate and advocate for the unique culture of children. Each chapter of the book explores an aspect of children's culture, such as language and socialization through play. At the end of every chapter is a helpful section titled "Stories from the Field" that provides insight into how early educators have applied the knowledge of children's culture in ways that resulted in the educators no longer being what Plank describes as a tourist in a foreign land but transformed into "culturally aware outsiders." Plank's well-researched and perceptive book will be greatly appreciated by those who work in early childhood education as well as those with an interest in respecting and fostering the unique culture of children.

Reviewer

Cari Ryan, Pacific Rim Christian University