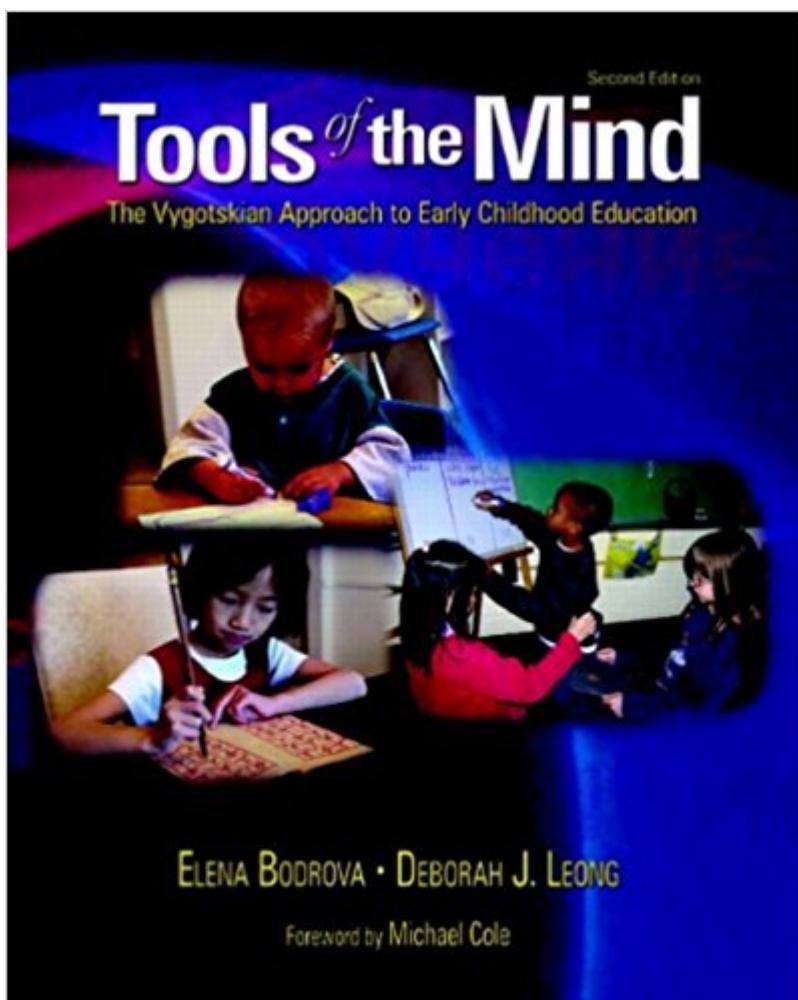


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# Tools Of The Mind: The Vygotskian Approach To Early Childhood Education (2nd Edition)



## **Synopsis**

As the only text of its kind, this book provides in-depth information about Vygotsky's theories, neo-Vygotskians' findings, and concrete explanations and strategies that instruct teachers how to influence student learning and development. Key changes to this edition include a new chapter on dynamic assessment, separate and expanded chapters on developmental accomplishments of infants and toddlers, preschool/kindergarten, and primary grades and on supporting those accomplishments, and elaborations of Vygotsky's ideas from neo-Vygotskians from Russia.

**FEATURES:** Written for the beginning student, the book provides a clear discussion of Vygotskian principles including...a historical overview and a complete chapter on the "Zone of Proximal Development" (ZPD). Each section of the book builds on the other...framework, strategies, and applications of the Vygotskian approach. The work of Vygotsky is compared in a fair and balanced way with the work of Piaget. Examples and activities have been class-tested in a variety of classroom environments including a Head Start program, private preschool, and in the Denver Public Schools.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This unique text provides in-depth information about major concepts and principles of the cultural-historical theory developed by Lev Vygotsky, his students and colleagues, as well as three generations of neo-Vygotskian scholars in Russia and in the West. Tools of the Mind enables teachers to arm young children with the mental tools necessary for learning. Key features include:

explanations and strategies on how to scaffold young children's learning and development are provided throughout the text. These are a product of 15 years of collaboration between the authors and early childhood teachers from diverse programs across the United States, most of which serve children from at-risk populations. Key changes to this expanded edition include: Separate chapters on developmental accomplishments of infants and toddlers, preschoolers/kindergartners, and primary grade children, each followed by a chapter on supporting those accomplishments Additional strategies for supporting children with special needs A new chapter on dynamic assessment as an application of the zone of proximal development Research findings and practical applications from the neo-Vygotskian approach

Elena Bodrova is a senior researcher at Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) in Denver, Colorado. Prior to her coming to the United States, she was a senior researcher at the Russian Center for Educational Innovations and the Russian Institute for Preschool Education. She received her Ph.D. from the Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, Moscow, Russia, and her M.A. from Moscow State University. In addition to her work with Dr. Leong, she co-authored the book, *For the Love of Words: Vocabulary Instruction That Works, Grades K-6* (Jossey-Bass) with Diane E. Paynter and Jane K. Doty. Deborah J. Leong is a professor of psychology and the director of the Center for Improving Early Learning (CIEL) at Metropolitan State College of Denver. She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University and her M.Ed. from Harvard University. In addition to her work with Dr. Bodrova, she is co-author with Oralie McAfee of *Assessing and Guiding Young Children's Development and Learning* (Allyn & Bacon) that is now in its fourth edition.

The content of this book is great but I am very disappointed with the physical product. For a text costing over \$30 I expect decent quality pages. The paper used is so thin it feels like phone book paper and all notes show through to the other side making it difficult to read. I hope the publisher will consider using a higher grade paper. This photo isn't great, but note how transparent the paper is.

As a student studying pre-school programs I've written a couple papers based on Tools of the Mind and really enjoyed this book. I am kindof unable to give a good review for laypersons however, and I am uncertain how it reads without a good background in child development. Ideally, I would have enjoyed more "how to" materials (what Tools of the Mind really looks like) and some information on how the system has worked in studies. I have read a couple such studies which showed that

children exposed to a TotM curriculum at an early age showed better self-regulation and less negative behaviors than controls, and statistically insignificant (but present) improved cognitive abilities and literacy. I would not recommend this book for a parent, but certainly for someone interested in child development and educational philosophies and systems. See this new york times article on the system here: [nytimes.com/2009/09/27/magazine/27tools-t.html?pagewanted=1](http://nytimes.com/2009/09/27/magazine/27tools-t.html?pagewanted=1)

This book explains Vygotsky's approach to child development! It is easy to read and easy to understand! While Vygotsky is not my favorite child development theorist, this book does a wonderful job at making everything come together and make sense! Highly recommend to anyone working with children!

excellent! I wish it was in spanish but it is very easy to read it.

I bought this because of an introduction I received via one of HH the Dalai Lama's Mind and Life conferences where this approach was mentioned. As a parent there are keys here that can help, but it is clearly aimed at a more professional audience. I've gotten some good and useful nuggets, but it's slow going for me. Well worth the time spent - just a little above my level.

This is a "must read" for anyone looking to understand and apply Vygotskian theory. Using mediators to help children develop self regulatory skills and habits is a gift for teacher and child alike.

The chapters are short and to the point. However I think it is in need of an update. It's a small textbook and yet it provides good information. It's a great investment for students going into the psychology field.

Great book.

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