How Is a Rabbit? Tortoise and Hare Revisited

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Abstract

Originally published in Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books, 1979, Vol 24(11), 933–934. Reviews the book, Play and Education: The Basic Tool for Early Childhood Learning by Otto Weininger (1979). One of the central arguments of this book is that play not only is the business of childhood, but also a necessary part of the whole educational process. In discussing play and the growing child, the author says that education has been too much involved in the “what” of things. The author sees play as the basic tool of early learning. Weininger is a clear-cut turtle theorist, not a hare theorist, by believing it is not how fast you go, but how far and how well you go. Two of the chapters are best for revealing the author’s sensitivity to his subject matter and to real live children. Chapter 8 is the unique feature of this book. Here one finds an extension. At the same time, the book is not without flaws. The introduction to the dialogues could have provided more information about the case studies. We are given no advance information about some children under discussion. In conclusion, the book can be criticized because no empirical evidence is provided that play is the basic tool for early childhood learning. Moreover, the book is well written. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2006 APA, all rights reserved)

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