

## ***Child Development Year by Year***

Edited by Holly Koteen-Soulé

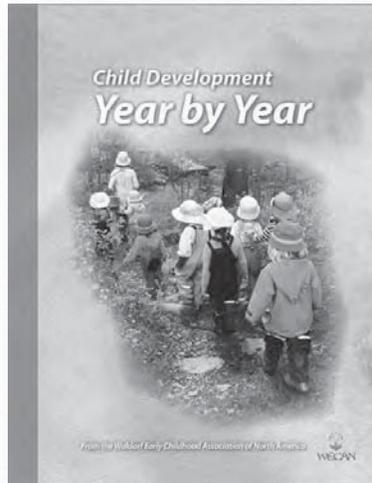
Reviewed by Nancy Blanning

*Child Development Year by Year* is a gift for teachers and parents of young children. Holly Koteen-Soulé has combined many hours of careful research with years of observing young children in the classroom to produce this concise, twenty-page gem. We often long for a quick check-in resource to remind ourselves of what is typical for each year up to age seven, when the first big developmental cycle is completed. This booklet is an answer.

The book is organized with two facing pages dedicated to each year, starting with baby's first year of life. Each two-page spread describes and characterizes what is prominent developmentally for ages one through seven. Included are the familiar physical milestones, as well as accounts of how the child's consciousness of self, world, and others grows and develops.

This booklet is geared to serve parents as well as teachers. The joys and the challenges of each age and of keeping up with a quickly changing young child are acknowledged. Practical advice is offered to calm anxieties and help parents grow in their parenting as their child progresses through so many stages and changes.

The booklet is beautifully laid out, with soft watercolor backgrounds behind the text. Photos of children at work and play exemplify what the text has just described. This booklet is also very affordable.



Each teacher can have a personal copy, and the cost is so reasonable that schools can purchase copies to give to families. That will be a good investment. This information reassures parents that their children are unfolding through the inherent wisdom within their being which is their birthright. Description of the typical appearance and ripening of the child's capacities affirms that this is a natural progression that does not need to be rushed.

Each section ends by describing a gift that each year of growth brings for both parent and child. These gifts offer a beautiful collection we can hold as guiding images. They are:

- Trust
- Learning wonder at the world
- Joy of communication and companionship
- Finding the spirit of adventure in everyday living
- Creating and clarifying family values
- Building social life through work and play
- Strengthening one's own calm center
- For the parent—learning when to let go for the child to find his own confidence in life ♦