



Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextbooks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

A Child Becomes a Reader



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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

Textbook Authors:

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Reviewed by:

Regina Lamourelle

Institution:

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Title/Position:

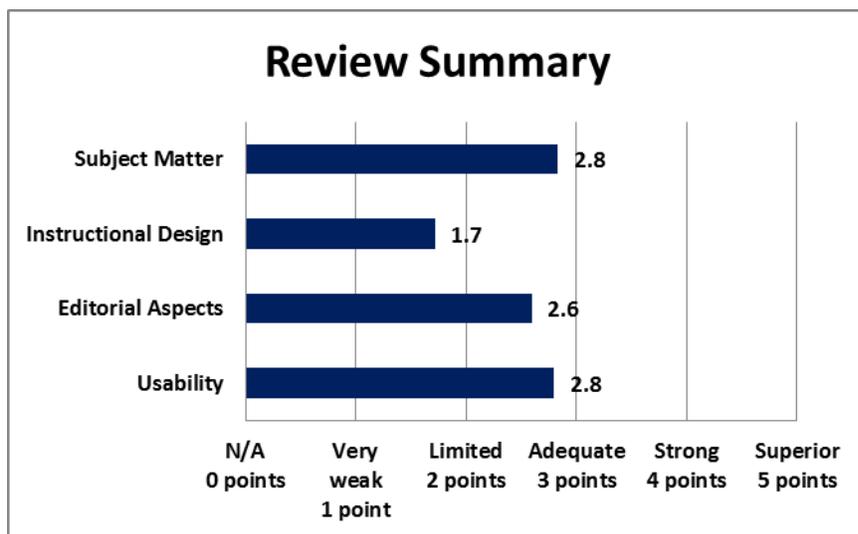
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

August 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [EDUC 200](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?				X		
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?		X				
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?				X		

Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)			X			

Total Points: 17 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- This is not a textbook for students in education rather an informational booklet for parents. The authors clearly state this in the title, “A Child Becomes a Reader, Proven Ideas from Research for Parents.”
- This booklet could possibly serve as an auxiliary handout for a portion of an education course. As sample reference material which a teacher could provide to parents regarding the value of literacy development.
- The booklet provides a basic overview of the value in language and literacy development in the early years and provides numerous examples of reading activities parents or caregivers could do with a child at each developmental stage from kindergarten to third grade.
- There are cursory references to scientific research on literacy and reading development. However, this work is not presented in a scholarly format required at the college level of instruction.
- As mentioned above, there are many reading development activities presented to a parent or caregiver that does reflect the authors’ current knowledge of the subject matter yet the examples are not inclusive of a variety of learning styles or cultural backgrounds.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?					X	
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)				X		
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?		X				
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?			X			
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?		X				
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)		X				
Is the textbook searchable?	X					

Total Points: 12 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The booklet is clearly written and easy to read. It has a mix of text and images to break the reading into sections and there is a table of contents which coherently organizes the material.
- A few footnotes are provided to explain the use of language. For example, “To make this booklet easier to read, we sometimes refer to a child as “he” or “she.” However, all of the information about how children learn to read applies to both boys and girls.”
- This is not a textbook so it does lack the instructional design of a textbook and could not be used as a valid resource or classroom textbook for any college level course.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?					X	
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?				X		
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)						X
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)		X				

How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)	X					
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Total Points: 13 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- This informational booklet is written in a clear and concise manner.
- According to the Flesch-Kincaid readability analyzer, the content is written at 5.5 grade reading level.
- The pages are laid out with consistent color schemes and text formats making it visually engaging.
- There are the conventional aspects of a textbook represented (table of contents, glossary, and references) and this work did not utilize the scientific research data in the material.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?					X	
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)					X	
Can the textbook be printed easily?						X
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?	X					
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?		X				

Total Points: 14 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- This is a PDF or Word document that can easily be downloaded and printed out.

Overall Ratings	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?		X				
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	X	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)

Total Points: 1 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- It is an informational resource brochure with activities and ideas for parents to support literacy development. It could be used as a sample for students on parent resource materials.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- It would need to be written with a student or teacher in mind.
- The writing should accurately cite in text research as needed. Given that the main source of information in this booklet is from the report of the, "National Reading Panel, Teaching Children to Read: An Evidence-Based Assessment of the Scientific Research Literature on Reading and Its Implications for Reading Instruction." A scholarly textbook could likely be written to share more research based information about how children learn to read and write.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#)
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For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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