

Book Reviews

Quality Circles—An Overview (set of 120 35mm slides and 2 cassette tapes).

Red Bluff, California:

Quality Circle Institute, 1982.

—Reviewed by Gordon Cawelti, *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development*, Alexandria, Virginia.

The Quality Circle is a problem-solving device used increasingly by forward-looking corporations to help on-line employees solve problems dealing with quality control, safety, morale, and communication. People in an organization volunteer to spend time identifying problems, collecting data, brainstorming, and determining cause and effect. The process culminates when the group recommends a solution to their supervisor (management).

Applications in school settings are not included in this slide-tape presentation; industrial settings are used as examples. However, the techniques can be adapted for school settings to be used in the future when educational leaders recognize the need to draw on the talents of their employees in seeking ways to improve productivity.

Available from Quality Circle Institute, 1425 Vista Way, Airport Industrial Park, P.O. Box Q, Red Bluff, CA 96080, for \$145.

Writing and Reading in Early Childhood: A Functional Approach.

Roy Moxley.

Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey:

Educational Technology Publications,
1982.

—Reviewed by Arnold Willems, *University of Wyoming*, Laramie.

A holistic theory is the basis for Moxley's approach to the teaching of writing and reading in the primary grades. Reading should be taught through meaning, reflecting whole-to-part methods. Writing accompanies reading and often precedes it. The teaching of writing and reading should take place in a naturalistic setting with the child as a part of the total educational environment. Moxley stresses consequences and does not isolate reading

instruction but provides follow-through activities as a basis for future achievement. Moxley believes teaching methods should incorporate both hemispheres of the brain.

This book is not for parents but for primary grade teachers and beginning teachers looking for a more holistic approach to writing and reading instruction.

I question some of Moxley's positions, such as writing precedes reading and reading sometimes precedes speaking, but the book with its novel theory and related, practical teaching/learning strategies is valuable.

Available from Educational Technology Publications, 140 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632, for \$23.95.

A Personal Approach to Teaching: Beliefs That Make a Difference.

Arthur W. Combs.

Boston, Massachusetts:

Allyn and Bacon, Incorporated, 1982.

—Reviewed by Sam Wiggins, *Cleveland State University*, Cleveland, Ohio.

A better title for this book might be, "The Best of Combs in a Single Sitting," because the author reaches a new peak in describing and supporting his own beliefs about teaching. He is generously fair to the behaviorist persuasion, within the broader perceptual field. Yet he clings to his well-known conviction: "I am a humanist because I know that when I apply humanist thinking to my teaching, students will learn anything better." No ambiguity there!

Combs is redundant on favorite themes such as empathy, but he cogently argues for an affective orientation to teaching at all levels. Readers may find his footnotes disappointing, since the book references do not cite specific chapters or pages, but the inquiring reader can presumably track down the sources.

Busy classroom practitioners who are eclectic readers will find Combs' second chapter on "origins and possibilities" stimulating and his concluding chapters about "methods" and "self"—whether comforting or provocative—conductive



to "self-actualizing." It's a worthwhile book. Make a point of reading it for "Combs distilled."

Available from Allyn and Bacon, Inc. for \$20.95.

The Beginnings of Writing.

Charles A. Temple, Ruth G. Nathan, and
Nancy A. Burris.

Rockleigh, New Jersey:

Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1982.

—Reviewed by Cynthia Prather, *Washington, D.C.*

According to these authors, children learn to write in much the same way they learn to talk: They apply intuitive principles, then modify the principles to conform to convention. If adults understand this process, they can better analyze children's mistakes and encourage language development.

The book covers three areas of writing: precursors (picture and scribe writing), spelling, and composition. The authors explain stages of development in each area and provide children's writing samples to support their theoretical discussion. Instructional strategies suggest ways adults can capitalize on children's innate capabilities at each stage of development.

For parents, teachers, and language arts students, *The Beginnings of Writing* is worthwhile reading.

Available from Allyn and Bacon, Inc., Rockleigh, NJ, \$11.95 for paperback; \$19.95 for hardback.

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