



Early Childhood Education

→ BOOKS

Reference Books

Reference books are a good place to begin your research. They often provide concise overviews of a topic, plus tables, graphs, illustrations, etc. A librarian will help you find appropriate resources on your subject. The following are examples of reference books that may provide a good basis or framework for your topic.

Magill's Encyclopedia of Social Science: Psychology Ref BF 31 .M33 2003 v. 1-4

International Encyclopedia of Marriage and Family Ref HQ 9 .E52 2003 v.1-4

Current Diagnosis & Treatment: Pediatrics Ref RJ 50 .C976 2011

Circulating Books

Circulating books can be checked out. They are located in the library's tall book stacks. To browse for books dealing with various aspects of early childhood and early childhood education go to the following call number areas in the tall stacks:

BF 721 – BF 723	Child psychology
HQ 767.8 - HQ 777	Child development
LB 1139 – LB 2822.7	Early childhood education
RJ 131 – RJ 137	Child growth and development
PZ 7 – 8	Children's books

Use the library's [online catalog](#) to find books on a specific topic. Try a [Keyword search](#) using some of the important words or phrases that describe your research topic such as, *early childhood curriculum planning* or *preschool activity programs*. For very broad topics, such as *early childhood education* or *child development*, you might want to do a [Subject search](#) to locate books with a substantial amount of information on a topic.

Example: Let's say that you start your catalog search with a Keyword search on the topic of *child development first five years*. Only a small number of books are located. You might decide to broaden your search by changing to a Subject search and using the broader and more general topic of *child development*. More books will be located, and by looking at the table of contents and indexes in these books you will likely find information on the first five years of child development.

DATABASES

Magazine, newspaper and journal articles provide current information on your topic. Most fulltext articles also include the MLA or APA citation. The following are a sample of the many databases that the library carries. Articles that you find while on-campus can be sent to your email to be read or printed later. You can also search the databases from home or any offcampus location. You will be asked to enter your name and seven-digit college ID number.

Academic Search Complete

The contents of thousands of magazines and academic journals can be searched here. “Advanced Search” allows you to combine keywords to locate articles on specific aspects of a topic, such as, *preschool children AND discipline* or *preschool AND songs*. From the list of results, you can limit your search using options in the left hand column. The “Search within results” box allows you to add terms to your search. You can also select a specific content type such as academic journals, magazines, newspapers, etc.

WEBSITES

Beware of the Web. If you are not an expert on your topic, don’t just search using Google or Wikipedia. Click on [Find Websites](#) on the left hand directory of the Library home page; then, click the arrow on the **Best Websites** tab. Listed here are subject directories to find websites that have been evaluated by subject specialists and library professionals. You may find fewer, but better quality sites.

Google is loaded with information – some excellent, some fraudulent. For help in evaluating what you find, go to [Web Evaluation](#) on the Library home page.

Some specific websites related to Early Childhood Education include:

Educator’s Reference Desk	http://eduref.org
Early Childhood.com	http://www.earlychildhood.com
U.S. Dept. of Education: Early Learning	http://www.ed.gov/early-learning
Early Childhood Collective	https://earlychildhoodcollective.illinois.edu/
Early Childhood Education & Activity Resources	http://theideabox.com
Natl. Assoc. for the Education of Young Children	http://www.naeyc.org/

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO ASK A LIBRARIAN IF YOU NEED HELP WITH:

- Developing a search strategy appropriate to your assignment and thesis.
- Evaluating your sources and finding additional research options.
- [Citation Help](#)