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Autore	Kaufman Sherelyn R.
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Nota di contenuto	Preface; Acknowledgments; Introduction: How Can This Book Be a Helpful Companion?; Part I: How Do I Choose the Best Early Childhood Education Program for My Family?; 1 Why Is Early Childhood Education Important?; 2 Which Options Are Affordable for My Family?; A. Option 1: State-Funded Pre-K Programs; B. Option 2: Federally Funded Head Start Programs; 1. Is My Child Eligible for Head Start?; 2. What Is Head Start's Approach?; 3. Will Head Start Meet My Child's Special Developmental Needs?; 4. Where Can I Apply for Head Start?; C. Option 3: Federally Funded Special Education Programs D. Option 4: Private and Religious ProgramsE. Option 5: Public-Private Partnerships and Sliding-Scale Funding; 3 How Do I Choose among Various Pedagogical Approaches to Early Childhood Education?; A. Direct Instruction of Traditional Academic Skills; B. The Constructivist Approach; 1. The Foundations of the Constructivist Approach; 2. An Example of the Constructivist Approach: Montessori-Inspired Programs; C. The Social Constructivist Approach; 1. The Foundations of

the Social Constructivist Approach

2. An Example of the Social Constructivist Approach: Programs Inspired by the Schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy
4 Why Should I Strongly Consider Choosing a Program That Follows the Social Constructivist Approach to Early Childhood Education?; A. The Social Constructivist Approach Produces Educational, Social, and Economic Benefits for All Children; B. Recent Discoveries in Brain Research Demonstrate How the Social Constructivist Approach Helps Children; 1. The Social Constructivist Approach Develops Healthy Attachment Relationships
2. The Social Constructivist Approach Develops Intersubjectivity
3. The Social Constructivist Approach Develops the Healthy Integration of Cognitive Processes; 4. The Social Constructivist Approach Develops Habits of Well-Being; 5. The Social Constructivist Approach Develops Executive Function; 5 What Is the Best Approach to Discipline in an Early Childhood Education Program?; A. Corporal Punishment and Physical Restraints; B. Timeouts and In-School Suspensions; C. Restorative Justice; 6 What Is the Best Approach to Technology in an Early Childhood Education Program?
7 Will My Child Benefit from Special Education? A. Avenues through Which Special Education Services May Be Available to Your Child; 1. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); 2. Part C of IDEA; 3. Part B, Section 619 of IDEA; 4. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 5. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); 6. Head Start Act; 7. Child Care and Development Block Grant Act (CCDBG); B. What Steps Should You Take to Determine Whether Your Preschool Child Is Eligible for Special Education Services?; 1. The Decision to Seek an Evaluation and Referral

Sommario/riassunto

This book is a one-stop resource for parents and families facing decisions about how to provide their children the best educational experiences before kindergarten. Children who have positive early childhood experiences develop cognitive and socio-emotional abilities that lead to positive school performance, income, family stability, and health. This in turn produces particularly robust educational, social, and economic benefits for children and for the country.
