



The Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence (The SAGE Program on Applied Developmental Science)

By Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, Pamela Ebstyn King, Linda M. Wagener, Peter L. Benson



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The Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence breaks new ground by articulating the state of knowledge in the area of childhood and adolescent spiritual development. Featuring a rich array of theory and research from an international assortment of leading social scientists in multiple disciplines, this book represents work from diverse traditions and approaches – making it an invaluable resource for scholars across a variety of disciplines and organizations.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The editors recognize that spirituality, long neglected by psychologists, has recently come back into fashion. Because of the long exile, many psychologists are illiterate about religious scholarship. These editors know the field and are qualified to serve as guides to assist their psychologist colleagues in gaining an introduction and immersion....Timely and worthwhile."

(James Youniss 2005-04-05)

"Research into spiritual development during childhood and adolescence has remained fragmented and yearned for the stimulus of integration, cross-fertilisation, and internationalisation, across conceptual boundaries, methodological divisions, religious traditions, and local interests. The Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence sets out to meet this need and does so with skill and with authority, by identifying the key themes and by drawing on the best minds to address those themes. Research communities and faith communities have been well served by this pioneering initiative."

(The Revd Professor Leslie J Francis PhD, ScD, DD)

"The Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence makes a significant contribution to the breadth of interpretation of the multiple realities related to something we identify as *spirituality*. The strength of this volume is that it does not settle for one description or one definition of spirituality. Instead, it offers insight into the struggle to define spirituality through the multiple perspectives of the social sciences. The edited volume contributes meaningfully to the work of others who also study the content and context of our spiritual development." (Joretta L. Marshall 2006-10-11)

*"With sixty-seven scholars from four continents and many diverse disciplines contributing as authors to the volume; with fourteen scholars from around the world serving as editorial advisors; with financial support provided by the John Templeton Foundation via Search Institute; with frequent conversations occurring with colleagues at Fuller Theological Seminary; and with the careful attention of editorial work provided by Sage publications, this handbook provides a remarkable contribution toward those ends." ?JOURNAL OF YOUTH AND THEOLOGY (Chris Kiesling *Journal of Youth and Theology* (2007) 2007-12-26)*

About the Author

Eugene C. Roehlkepartain is senior adviser in the office of the president, Search Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he provides leadership for research, publishing, training, and consulting projects that focus on spiritual development, as well as the institute's work with congregations of all faiths. Roehlkepartain has written more than 25 books and reports, and numerous newspaper, magazine, and journal articles on youth development, families and parenting, community building, religious and spiritual development, and related issues. In addition to editing this volume, he is a coeditor of *Religious Perspectives on Spirituality in Childhood and Adolescence* (2005). He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and religion from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Pamela Ebstyne King serves as research assistant professor of psychology in the Center for Research in Child and Adolescent Development in the School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Her primary research and teaching interests include positive youth development, spiritual and moral development, and theological perspectives of development. She is particularly interested in enabling thriving through families, congregations, schools, and youth-serving organizations. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Dr. King has a background in child, youth, and adult ministry; a master's of divinity; and Ph.D. in family studies from Fuller Theological Seminary. She was a visiting scholar under the Divinity Faculty at Cambridge University and did her postdoctoral work at the Stanford Center on Adolescence. Dr. King is a coauthor of *The Reciprocating Self: Human Development in Theological Perspective* (2005). Her research has been published in *Developmental Psychology*, *Applied Developmental Science*, the *Journal of Early Adolescence*, and the *Journal of Psychology and Christianity*.

Linda M. Wagener is associate professor of psychology and associate dean of the graduate school of psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary, where she is also codirector of the Center for Research in Child and Adolescent Development. Her research interests include positive youth development, with a particular focus on the spiritual, religious, and moral development of adolescence. Dr. Wagener is currently a principal investigator on an adolescent violence prevention grant from the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Peter L. Benson is president of Search Institute, which provides leadership, knowledge, and resources to promote healthy children, youth, and communities. He has written extensively in adolescent development, altruism, spiritual development, and thriving in adolescence. He serves as principal investigator for Search Institute's initiative on spiritual development in childhood and adolescence. In 1991, he received the William James Award for career contributions to the psychology of religion from the American Psychological Association. Dr. Benson is the author or editor of numerous books and articles, including *Developmental Assets and Asset-Building Communities*, *All Kids Are Our Kids: What Communities Must Do to Raise Caring and Responsible Children and Adolescents*, and *Religion on Capitol Hill: Myths and Realities*. He is general editor for the Search Institute Series on Developmentally Attentive Community and Society, published by Springer. He holds a doctorate in experimental social psychology from the University of Denver.

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