

Goodkin

The **A B C**'s of Education

“As a child who disliked school grown to an adult who has spent most of my life teaching in one, I have been driven by one central idea: ‘There must be a better way to do this.’”

So opens this look at 26 ways that schools can better serve the “imaginative, intellectual and humanitarian promise” of our children. From Arts, Beauty and Character to the Zen of Education, author and internationally acclaimed music teacher Doug Goodkin, takes us on an alphabetic tour through the attributes that could revive all schools as we know them. Drawing from his teaching experience at one remarkable school and his work with teachers throughout the world, Goodkin reminds us that a school’s worth lies not in its test scores or sports records, but in the health of its community and its ability to keep the unbridled curiosity of six-year-olds burning throughout their entire school experience. These essays range from practical advice (What to do when your preschool class takes off running down the hall) to biting satire (Xylophones mandated in every classroom!) to tender reflections (45 years later, an answer to a note his elementary school teacher wrote to him). Teachers, parents, administrators and students alike will find ample food for thought in this provocative look at the ways in which today’s schools are failing our children, and what teachers can do to restore the promise of education.

“Doug Goodkin is among the leaders of a fast growing movement of educators working to touch the innate, deep desires of children to learn about their world through direct personal engagement and experience, rather than by rote tests, rewards, punishments, and disconnected official curricula. This book is must-reading for anyone interested in a new generation of truly alive, fulfilled human beings.”

— Jerry Mander: Author “In the Absence of the Sacred,” and “Alternatives to Globalization: A Better World is Possible”

“This book is a utopian view of what schooling can be from an experienced, passionate advocate for children. Goodkin’s alphabet for reform is an invitation to consider—and perhaps replicate—what he has learned from his years of reflection about teaching in a unique school which fosters a sense of wonder and joy in learning.”

— Jane Frazee: Acclaimed music educator and author of “Discovering Orff”

“Open the windows and let this wise, simple, heartfelt reminder reawaken the beauty in education.”

— Jack Kornfield: Renowned Buddhist teacher and author of “A Path with Heart”

\$18.00 U.S. / \$22.00 CAN.



PENTATONIC PRESS



SAN FRANCISCO, CA

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A Primer for Schools to Come



by Doug Goodkin