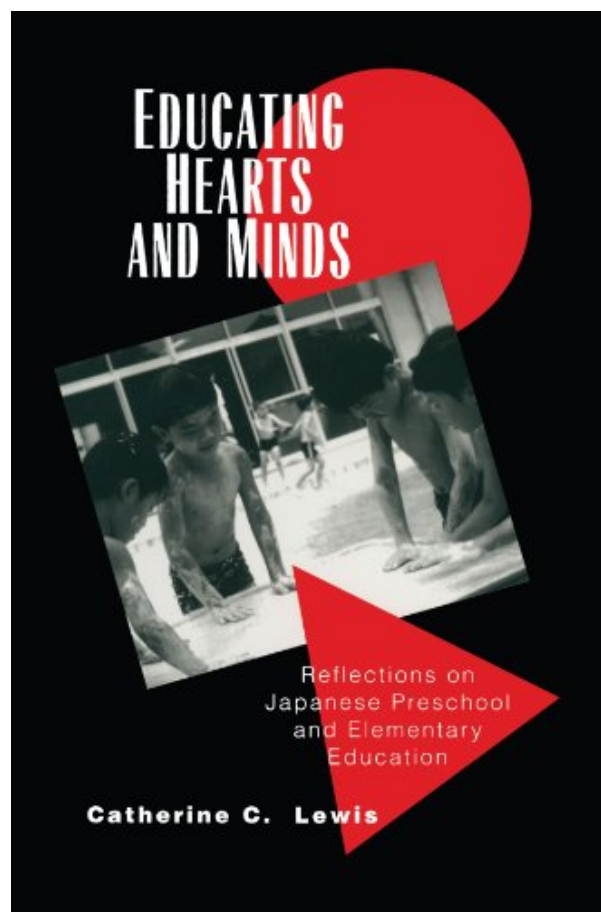
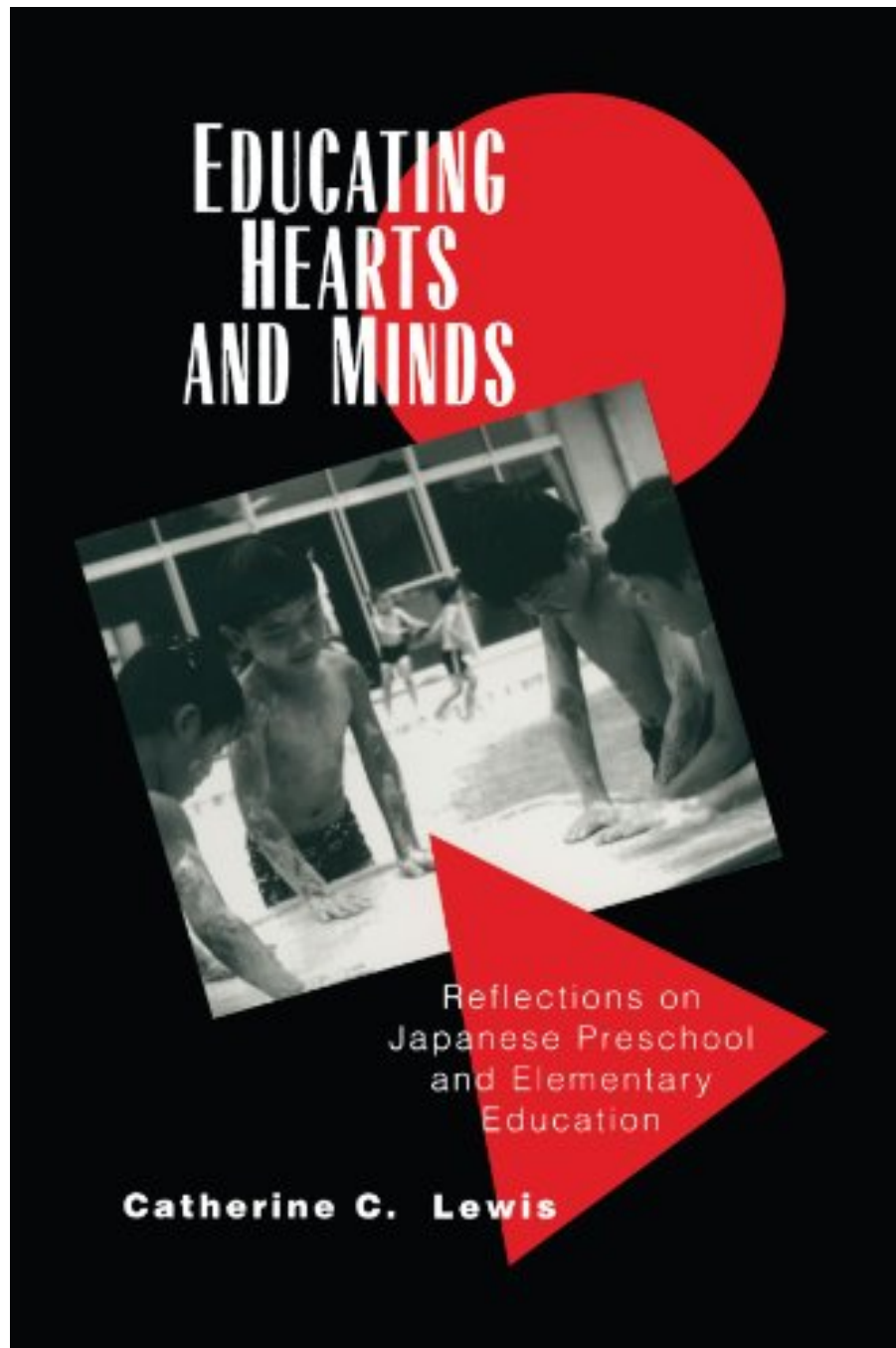


**EDUCATING HEARTS AND MINDS:
REFLECTIONS ON JAPANESE PRESCHOOL
AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BY
CATHERINE C. LEWIS**



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Review

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"Lewis has made a real contribution to our understanding of early school education in Japan, and by implication, how children become Japanese." *Kyoko Inoue, Curriculum Studies*

"Lewis brings forth these themes and conveys them through the use of indigenous paradigms and metaphors. She offers the average student some simple yet powerful ways to make sense of modern Japanese culture." *Gerald LeTendre, Resources*

About the Author

Catherine Lewis is a distinguished research scholar at Mills College in Oakland, California. With colleague Rebecca Perry, she has conducted a series of federally-funded research studies that illuminate how lesson study is successfully adapted and sustained in the U.S., including recent randomized trials that demonstrate the impact of lesson study on students' learning and teachers' learning. Fluent in Japanese, Lewis published the first English-language articles and videotapes on lesson study. She is a graduate of Harvard University (B.A.) and Stanford University (Ph.D) and the author of more than 40 publications on elementary education

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EDUCATING HEARTS AND MINDS: REFLECTIONS ON JAPANESE PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION BY CATHERINE C. LEWIS PDF

The question of how children become eager, motivated learners and caring, responsible citizens has perplexed educators around the world. *Educating Hearts and Minds*, a portrait of Japanese preschool and early elementary education, offers a fresh perspective on these questions. Its thesis--which will surprise many Americans--is that Japanese schools are successful because they meet children's needs for friendship, belonging, and contribution. This book brings to life what actually happens inside Japanese classrooms. In a sharp departure from most previous accounts, this book suggests that Japanese education succeeds because all children--not just the brightest or best-behaved--somehow come to feel like valued members of the school community. Ironically, Japanese teachers credit John Dewey and other progressive Western educators for many of the techniques that make Japanese schools both caring and challenging, but that never caught on in this country. This book brings to Americans the voices of Japanese classroom teachers--voices that are at once deeply consonant with American aspirations and deeply provocative.

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excellent study of how Japanese schools work

By trr

the author is an American anthropologist, and a Mom. She sent two kids to a Japanese public school, and sat back to watch what happened. I admired the book, and learned from it, because the author seems to have no axe to grind. She also demonstrates that a lot of stereotypes about Japanese schools are wrong. For example, she finds disciplinary rules considerably looser than in American schools, with kids given much more responsibility at earlier ages than in the U.S. Her experience tracks closely with what happened to 2 of my kids in a Japanese public school.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Eye opening

By Brett Reynolds

I'm a non-Japanese jr. & sr. high school teacher in Tokyo. As such, I have a reasonable idea of what goes on in secondary schools here but little knowledge of pre- and elementary schooling. *Educating Hearts and Minds* gave me a lot of the background knowledge that the Japanese teachers and students take for granted, but it also gave me a new way of looking at discipline and understanding where students and teachers are coming from.

While I found myself feeling skeptical about some of Lewis' observations, in general I found her evidence compelling. Other books dealing with Japanese education (and what it means for America) focus mostly on subject matter teaching, but this book deals more with how teachers order the classroom and maintain discipline. It goes more into teachers' thinking about how to build strong relationships with and between students; mainly by giving much of the responsibility to students and by regularly engaging in group reflection on the day's activities.

Lewis focuses on preschool and early elementary (grades 1 and 2) education. Though little of what she describes will be directly transferable to older students, much of the thinking behind it may.

For anyone teaching in Japan who has not gone through the elementary system this book is a must read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Lewis draws on excellent points in education in Japan

By The Davester

Lewis draws on excellent points in education in Japan. Although, in my opinion, -- I will add I am quite

educated -- her positive points extracted from the schooling studied are juxtaposed to what Cuban illustrates in his book *The Black Box*. A must read for those wishing to procure an invaluable addition to their global view of education with the examples of Japan's schooling.

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