



# Children's Literacy Development: A Cross-Cultural Perspective on Learning to Read and Write (International Texts in Developmental Psychology)

By Catherine McBride

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## Children's Literacy Development: A Cross-Cultural Perspective on Learning to Read and Write (International Texts in Developmental Psychology) By Catherine McBride

In the thoroughly updated second edition of this unique book, Catherine McBride examines how the languages we know help structure the process of becoming literate. Taking an ecological and distinctively cross-cultural perspective, the book looks at reading and writing development and impairment across a range of languages, scripts, and contexts. The book covers issues including:

- The importance of phonological sensitivity for learning to read and to write
- The first units, or building blocks, of literacy learning in different scripts such as Chinese, English, Korean Hangul, Hebrew, Hindi and Arabic
- The role of visual processing in reading and writing skills
- How the latest research can inform the teaching of reading
- An overview of our understanding of dyslexia, including recent neuroscientific research
- The developmental challenges in becoming biliterate
- What is special about writing for beginners and later for comprehensive writing
- Basics of reading comprehension

Children's Literacy Development, Second Edition is a timely and important contribution to our understanding of literacy around the world. Written by an eminent scholar in the field, it is the only book available that provides an overview of how children learn to read and write in different languages, and will be essential reading for all students of Developmental Psychology, Educational Psychology, Psycholinguistics and Speech Therapy.

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## **Editorial Review**

### Review

**"Offering a wealth of researched based insight, this new edition of "Children's Literacy Development" provides invaluable information fundamental to a coherent understanding of literacy around the world. Indeed, "Children's Literacy Development" is the only major work available that provides an overview of how children learn to read and write in different languages, and will be essential reading for all students of Developmental Psychology, Educational Psychology, Psycholinguistics and Speech Therapy. Enhanced with the inclusion of a thirty-eight page bibliographic listing of References, and a twenty-four page Index, "Children's Literacy Development" is an outstanding work of sound scholarship." - James A. Cox, *Midwest Book Review***

**"In this excellent book, McBride describes children's literacy development literally 'from the outside in'. By leading the reader on a journey from cultural context through the important role of home environment, she convinces us of the need to differentiate the language-universal and language-specific skills required for literacy to flourish." – Maggie Snowling, *University of Oxford, UK***

**"In *Children's Literacy Development*, Catherine McBride has provided a fascinating and well-written account of the development of literacy in different languages. She skillfully explores the context of literacy learning in different cultures. The discussion is enriched by her knowledge of many orthographies and her ability to synthesize information from many sources." – Linda Siegel, *The University of British Columbia, Canada***

**"This is a brilliantly executed cross-cultural discussion of emergent literacy that is aptly suitable for international readership. Utilizing research insights gained from a wide range of languages, the author impressively succeeds in highlighting the theme that literacy acquisition is sensitive to the language, the orthography, and the sociocultural milieu within which this process is embedded." – Elinor Saiegh-Haddad, *Bar-Ilan University, Israel***

**"This book provides a window through which one can view the major landmarks in the study of literacy development (and impairment) around the world - cross culture, language, and orthography. If you have no time to explore this vast area of research by yourself, this is the book that offers the best panoramic view." – Li Yin, *Tsinghua University, Beijing, China***

### About the Author

**Catherine McBride** is a Professor of Psychology at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. She was President of the international Society for the Scientific Study of Reading in 2014–2015, and is a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science. Her research is on the process of learning to read and write from a developmental perspective, across cultures, languages, and scripts.

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