



Ecological Literacy: Educating Our Children for a Sustainable World (Bioneers)

By David W. Orr

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Our efforts to build a sustainable world cannot succeed unless future generations learn how to partner with natural systems to our mutual benefit. In other words, children must become “ecologically literate.” The concept of ecological literacy advanced by this book’s creators, the Center for Ecoliteracy in Berkeley, California, goes beyond the discipline of environmental education. It aims, says David Orr in his foreword, “toward a deeper transformation of the substance, process, and scope of education at all levels”—familial, geographic, ecological, and political.

The reports and essays gathered here reveal the remarkable work being done by the Center’s network of partners. In one middle school, for example, culinary icon Alice Waters founded a program that not only gives students healthy meals but teaches them to garden—and thus to study life cycles and energy flows. Other hands-on student projects described here range from stream restoration and watershed exploration to confronting environmental justice issues at the neighborhood level.

With contributions from distinguished writers and educators, such as Fritjof Capra, Wendell Berry, and Michael Ableman, *Ecological Literacy* reflects the best thinking about how the world actually works and how learning occurs. Parents and educators everywhere will find it an invaluable resource.

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