

Fostering Spatial Abilities in Young Children: Implications for Early Childhood Education

This paper reviewed studies, conducted primarily after 1999, on children's spatial reasoning and skills. The specific areas in which children manifest their spatial reasoning and skills followed three main themes: spatial skills innate to young children, mediation strategies, and mapping. These central themes were elaborated by reviewing empirical studies, identifying spatial abilities and effective strategies to promote them in children, and highlighting the need for a broader understanding for training young children in spatial skills. The underlying purpose of the review is to maximize effort and attention to cultivating spatial skills in children, likely to be the next generation of mathematicians and scientists. Implications for early childhood education and future research are provided.