

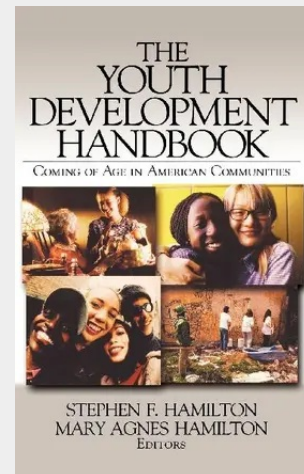
The Youth Development Handbook

Coming of Age in American Communities

"In recent years, the fields of psychology and human development have focused growing attention on issues of positive youth development. This volume provides a tool that can be used by researchers, practitioners, and policy makers alike to build collective efforts to enhance the well-being of youth. Professor Hamilton is one of the most respected scholars in the country. There is no doubt in my mind that this volume will not only make a significant contribution in the field, but more important, that it is a volume that will be utilized across disciplines and professions." —Francisco A. Villarruel, Michigan State University "The conceptualization and comprehensiveness are excellent. The book also deals with a newly emerging and exciting field and hence is at the forefront of research, policy, and practice. a useful resource." —Lonnie Sherrod, Fordham University "Both timely and potentially very useful...nothing nearly as inclusive as this youth development handbook now exists." —John Kretzmann, Northwestern University "A handbook like this is a good idea because of the interest in communities and colleges in this topic and because of the number of programs being developed targeted at adolescents. I believe the book will serve as a useful reference for scholars, policy makers, and program development specialists. There are no other comparable resources that focus on exemplary programs and community development issues." —Philip Newman, University of Rhode Island What are the types of environments in which youth thrive? How do we cultivate such environments to promote optimal development and positive behavior in youth? The Youth Development Handbook: Coming of Age in American Communities provides youth and development practitioners access to current theory and research in the field of youth development, including illustrations of good practice, original case studies, and a contextual approach to such topics as youth participation and diversity. Because youth practitioners typically identify themselves with one or more contexts, such as youth-serving organizations or faith-based organizations, editors Stephen F. Hamilton and Mary Agnes Hamilton have arranged the book so that each chapter explores the application of youth development principles to its context, drawing on current research. Part I of the book is organized around contexts in which adolescents grow up, such as schools, workplaces, families, peer groups, youth-serving organizations, faith-based organizations, recreation groups, juvenile courts, health clinics, neighborhoods, and cyberspace. Part II addresses broader issues such as evaluation, funding, and community-wide initiatives and the concluding chapter identifies themes that cut across contexts, including mentoring, universal vs. targeted approaches, and evidence-based practice. Features of this volume: - Chapters written expressly for the book by established scholars committed to learning from the field and making research useful to practitioners in everyday life. - Rather than a "how-to" guide, the book is a source of information and ideas for use in planning programs, training practitioners, and understanding the perspectives of partners in community collaborations. - Original case studies provide illustrations of good practice in working with youth to optimize growth and development in varied settings such as the family, school, youth organizations, and workplaces. - Serves as both a useful reference and as a "state of the art" account of youth development as a field. The Youth Development Handbook is designed for scholars and researchers in applied developmental science as well as practitioners and policy makers who implement youth development initiatives. The book is also recommended for use in graduate courses on youth development in the fields of Psychology, Human Development & Family Studies, and Education.

What are the sorts of environments in which youth thrives, and how do we cultivate such environments to promote optimal development and positive behavior in youth? The Youth Development Handbook gives students and practitioners in Development Psychology access to current theory and research along with illustrations of good practice.

The main section is organized around the contexts in which adolescents grow up.



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