Guidelines for Journal of Early Childhood Literacy (JECL) Book Reviews

The journal encourages reviews of recently published books on issues related to the nature, function and use of literacy in early childhood, focusing on the 0-8 age range and where literacy is broadly defined. Reviewers are encouraged to contextualize the book being reviewed, focusing on the relevance of the work in the field of early literacy, and connecting with the interests and concerns of the Early Childhood Literacy readership. This includes the history, development, use, learning and teaching of literacy, as well as policy and strategy. Reviewed books may address theoretical, methodological, strategic or applied aspects of early childhood literacy.

JECL is both a forum for debate about the topic of early childhood literacy and a resource for those working in the field. JECL tends to favour research that is qualitative in nature, but also welcomes reviews of quantitative work. The journal is multi-disciplinary and welcomes reviews of books from diverse disciplinary backgrounds including: education, psychology, literacy studies, sociology, anthropology, historical and cultural studies, applied linguistics and semiotics.

Reviews may be of recently launched books or they may revisit classic works that have had high impact on the reviewer and/or the field of early childhood literacy. Reviews may cover a body of work by a single significant ‘author’, or draw together several works around a key theme, such as: literacy and new technologies; early years literacy curricula; play-based literacy pedagogy, etc.

Reviews should be about 1,500 words in length. If reviewers wish to exceed this word length they are encouraged to first contact one of the commissioning editors. A clear synopsis of the work being reviewed may be included, but reviewers are strongly encouraged to go beyond chapter-by-chapter reconstructions. Rather, reviews should contextualize the work and situate it in terms of approaches to early literacy in a given time and place.

All submitted reviews will be reviewed by the book review editorial team and may be rejected, whether for reasons of quality or lack of space in the journal.

JECL will provide free copies of books to be reviewed, where possible. We are open to reviews of literacy-related websites and welcome unsolicited suggestions.

If you plan to write a review, or if you are interested in writing one in the future, please contact one of the review editors:

Natalia Kucirkova n.kucirkova@ucl.ac.uk
Diane Coller dcollier@brocku.ca
Alyson Simpson alyson.simpson@sydney.edu.au
Book Review Format

Include author, title and book details as shown in the examples below:


Include reviewer details as below:

Jennifer Rowsell
Brock University, Canada

Candace R. Kuby
University of Missouri, Columbia

If references are used in the review, please follow JECL manuscript style available at: http://www.uk.sagepub.com.elibrary.ioe.ac.uk/msg/ecl.htm#MANUSCRIPTSTYLE