

Reflection on What if Everybody Understood Child Development? By Rae Pica

After reading Pica (2015), I thought a lot about my experiences and aspirations with being a teacher and educator. Pica often challenges the way we think about students and how we interact with them. Pica wrote, "Failure is an Option" (p. 95). He references Dweck (pg.96) on how the growth mindset "believes in the value of hard work". I once went to a conference to see Dweck. It was called, "Mid School Math" and located in Sante Fe, NM. It was so pretty and the food was so tasty. At the conference, things went a little differently. The introducer of Carol Dweck went on and on about her son. He had received a full scholarship to Northwest University in Illinois and he had a "fixed mindset" according to her. This made many of us uncomfortable as we waited for Dweck to appear while she continued to talk about her son's greatness. After 20 minutes, Dweck demanded the microphone and the other lady left rather awkwardly. Ironically, the lady was demonstrating a fixed mind set to us and to Dweck. She wanted to only talk about success with her son and not the process he went through to get there.

I also looked at Chapter 8, "But Competition is Human Nature" and decided that this was also imperative to being an educator. The idea is that cooperation is more conducive that competition. "He contends that cooperation:"

- Is more conducive to emotional health
- Leads to friendlier feelings among participants
- Promotes a feeling of being in control of one's life.
- Increases self-esteem
- Results in greater sensitivity and trust toward others
- Increases motivation

I believe in cooperation. The more autonomy we can offer teachers and the less friction we can provide, the better the teachers will be with the students and the more the teachers can teach and preach the curriculum.

Ultimately, I thought Pica was 100% student centered and look forward to following his ideas and actions. He did it in a kind and informative way, but it seemed clear that he wanted to protect students and create an environment which would allow students to prosper and learn. Even just looking at his titles in his book it is clear to see where the changes are occurring.