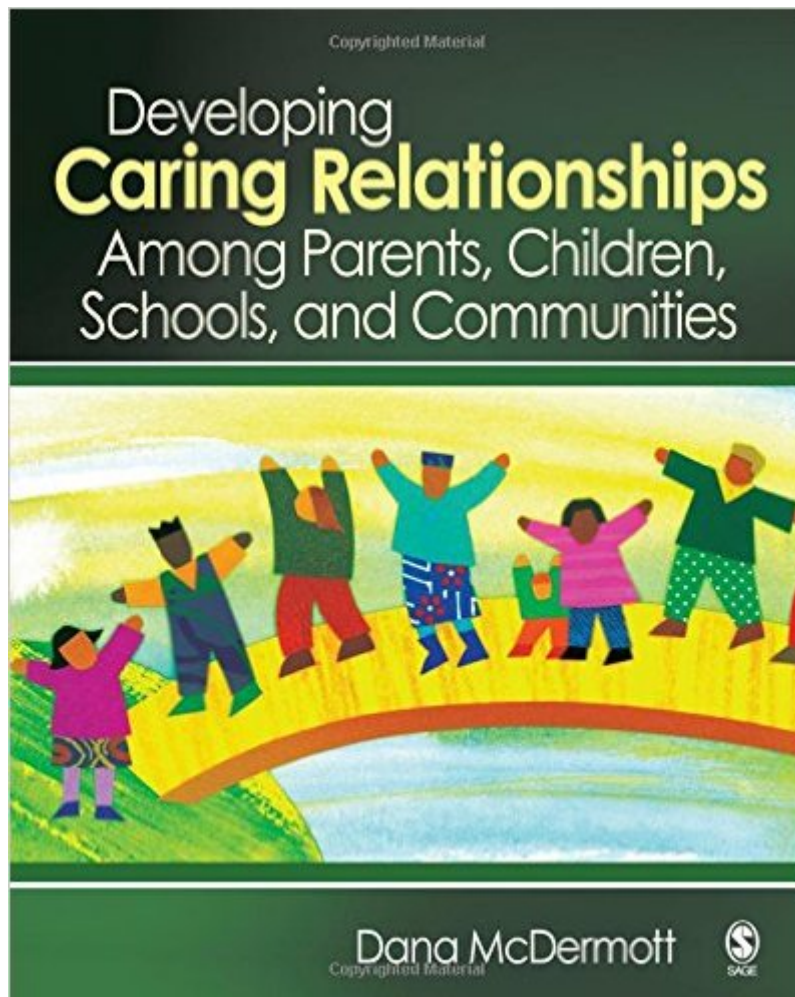


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# Developing Caring Relationships Among Parents, Children, Schools, And Communities



## Synopsis

"This text provides a fresh look at an important topic—teachers and families working collaboratively. A strong blend of research and practical application is presented." —Beth Nason Quick, Tennessee State University

"I was captivated by an innovative and a gentle, humanistic approach to viewing families and working with parents in parenting education." —Gloria Wenzel, University of Scranton

"A synthesis of theory, research, and practice couched in a very readable text... a provocative examination of teacher and parent relationships that holds the promise of a better future for the next generation of educators and parents. This book should fan the flames of professional reflection and professional practice." —William McInerney, University of Toledo

**Developing Caring Relationships Among Parents, Children, Schools, and Communities** looks at parent-professional-child relations very differently than other books in this area. Author Dana McDermott focuses on parents and teachers as adult learners who should be growing and learning along with the children in their care. Accessibly written, the book synthesizes the latest theories and research on parent-and adult-child relations and on adult learning and development, focusing on a dynamic process rather than a static role and, on all the social-contextual factors affecting parents, teachers, and children.

**Key Features**

- Focuses on parents and teachers as adult learners:** This will supplement traditional books on family involvement or parent child relations which rarely drill down to understand parents as anything more than a conduit to a child's development.
- Emphasizes the dynamic process of parenting and teaching:** The author provides a useful tool, or a caring decision-making process, for parents, children, and professionals to think through any issues they face so that everyone's needs are considered in any interaction.
- Provides a theory to practice model to support parents, families, and teachers:** This book lays out a theory of what parents and teachers need to care for children and themselves and then shows how to put these theories into practice in preK–12 schools.
- Uses narratives to demonstrate applications of theory and research:** The latest theories and research are woven into stories from the voices of parents, teachers, and children.
- Explores research from diverse cultures:** The book looks at many schools around the world and from various socioeconomic backgrounds to identify their common and differentiated concerns.
- Includes additional web resources:** Questionnaires, workshops, newsletters, model development information, resource material and other exemplary projects/resource sites can be found in the appendices located at [www.sagepub.com/mcdermottappendices](http://www.sagepub.com/mcdermottappendices)

**Intended Audience** This supplemental text is designed for undergraduate and graduate courses such as Parents/Home-School Relations in Early Childhood and Elementary Education; Parenting; and School and Community Relations in departments of education, psychology, family studies, health sciences, and social work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What a treasure this book is for the parent or educator that wants to join home and family for the benefit of children and the adults in their lives! The book is theoretically based. The author reviews research and theory that support her premises. She then takes one, caring as a paradigm, and integrates it throughout the book. She views adults as people who can and should be learning and the school as a place that should provide opportunities for growing and developing for not only the students but also the parents and teachers. She demonstrates how this approach can be adapted to culturally diverse populations. Her anecdotes not only demonstrate different points of her arguments, they also function as illustrations of how to implement her ideas. In addition there is a set of appendixes available on the internet with illustrations of teaching tools and suggestions of more activities. A good practical book that needs to be read from beginning to end to comprehend her argument but also can be used as a reference when implementing the author's ideas.

Dana McDermott's book on development of caring relationships is a book that meets a previously unmet need for those working with or preparing to work with parents and families in schools and other community settings. The author focuses on parents and teachers as adult learners who should be growing and learning along with the children in their care. The reader of this book learns that children's development and success depends upon the quality of their relationships with others and on relationships between adults in their lives within all systems, starting with the parent-child

relationship and moving on to relationships among extended family, neighborhoods, schools, communities, and beyond.

Dr. McDermott's unique book should be the model for all schools to develop relationships with the parents and caregivers of their students, members of community, business, faith groups and all who make up neighborhoods. The more support and encouragement full teams of people who care about our future can develop and implement their engagement, the better. When school administrators and school boards realize the value of parents as active, informed partners who can play vital roles in the complete education of the children dramatic results can be realized. All teachers, parents, school board members, principals, superintendents and legislators must read this book. It will change their lives.

this book highlights the importance of developing long lasting caring relationships with children, family members and with society as a whole. I found the book easy to read, yet quite detailed on the various social theories. I'd recommend this book as another tool in preparing ourselves to becoming better parents and role models.

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