

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: March 1, 2015

Loving Learning: How Progressive Education Can Save America's Schools.

Little, Tom (Author) and Ellison, Katherine (Author)

Mar 2015. 288 p. Norton, hardcover, \$26.95. (9780393246162). 371.04.

Loving Learning is a laudable book, both a compelling call to arms to reignite the tenets and practices of American progressive education and a good read. In this posthumous work, Little, who was the beloved leader of the independent Park Day School in Oakland, California, for nearly three decades, and his coauthor, journalist Ellison, provide a succinct overview of how at the beginning of the twentieth century the U.S. led the way in developing pedagogies that foster what are now considered twenty-first-century skills: critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and collaboration. Little and Ellison offer examples of schools across the nation that remain true to progressive education practices involving interdisciplinary, child-centered teaching and learning experiences (and rejection of excessive standardized testing). The authors don't shy away from enumerating the pitfalls that have plagued the 100-year-old movement. But if the goal of education is to promote active participation in a democratic society, ensure American commitment to social justice, and foster lifelong love of learning, then, Little and Ellison persuasively argue, an embrace of progressive educative principles and methods is the answer.

— *Carolyn Saper*