

Caring Relationships (*Noddings*)

Dr. Nel Noddings is a professor of educational psychology who believes that developing caring relationships will support classroom, curriculum and school organization. She defines a caring relationship as a connection or encounter between two human beings in which both parties must contribute something.

Noddings argues that the first job of schools is to care for children. Schools need to encourage the growth of competent, caring, loving and loveable people. Moral education allows students to develop the attitudes and skills required to sustain caring relationships.

Noddings believes that caring is the basis of moral education. She sees schools as important learning environments that teach students to care for the world around them.

Noddings identifies these four components of moral education:

- modelling (demonstrating caring in our relations with others)
- dialogue (open-ended dialogue that connects people and helps maintain caring relationships)
- practice (finding opportunities for students to care)
- confirmation (the act of confirming and encouraging the best in others).

Related publications

Noddings, Nel. *Educating Moral People: A Caring Alternative to Character Education*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press, 2002.

Noddings, Nel. *Happiness and Education*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Noddings, Nel, Michael S. Katz and Kenneth A. Strike (eds.). *Justice and Caring: The Search for Common Ground in Education*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press, 1999.