

## How Children Learn

This was an interesting chapter; I didn't think I would get much out of it since I am not engaged professionally in the education of children. I always enjoy reading about how researchers are developing their theories of cognition and so the part about how psychologists have been moving away from the theory that newborns' minds are "tabula rasa" was quite fascinating. I guess you could say that up until now I have been quite myopic about the development of learning theories. But it makes sense the much of what we know about the human mind comes from the study of how infants learn. I was familiar with the concept of the mind being equated with the workings of computers processing information and problem solving. I have always assumed it was based more on studies of adult learners, mainly college students.

The concept of privileged domains made a lot of sense. That would explain why some people excel in areas that others don't. I didn't quite gather whether the authors thought that privileged domains are something that we are predisposed to from birth or not. They say that children have positive biases but weren't really clear if it was genetic or due to early socializational factors. I would also argue that, at times, learners would also need to apply will, ingenuity and effort to learning even in their privileged domains, although the authors seem to imply that this is not the case.

What I found most intriguing was the part about the importance of capacity, strategies, knowledge, and metacognition. I was especially captivated reading about the strategies that we use for remembering things: rehearsal, elaborating, summarization, and clustering. These are techniques I have used all my life, but never viewed them as strategies, for me they are more like survival techniques. I guess you could say that I equate my attaining knowledge to my ability to survive. I feel I have always craved techniques that enable me to learn how to adapt to my environment, how to be successful in navigating life, and how to obtain a profitable livelihood. I never stopped to consider whether what I was doing was any different than what everyone else was doing or not.

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