

# Knowing *in* Contexts and Knowing *about* Concepts

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**concepts**

**contexts**

Knowing  
about children

Knowing a child

# '3<sup>rd</sup> Person' and '2<sup>nd</sup> Person' observations of infant imitation: Reddy and Kugiumutzakis



Young children's knowing and thinking is distributed in and across familiar contexts and people


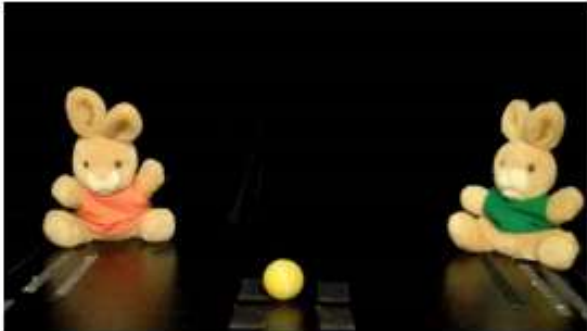


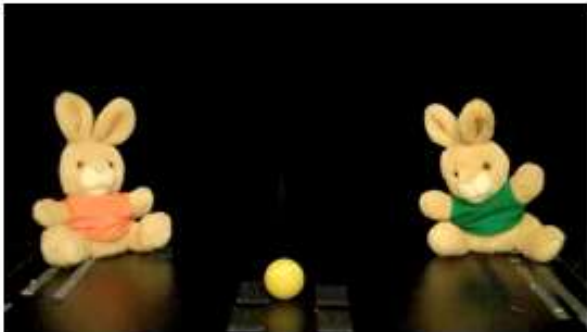

Judy Dunn (1988) showed how a two-year-old at home is a very different person from the same child outside her familiar context

## The Beginnings of Social Understanding



*Judy Dunn*

# J. Kiley Hamlin and Karen Wynn – prosocial infants

<b>Goal:</b>	Reach hilltop	Obtain object	Obtain object
<b>Problem:</b>	Too steep	Someone else has it	In box, can't lift lid
<b>Helpful Act:</b>			
<b>Unhelpful Act:</b>			

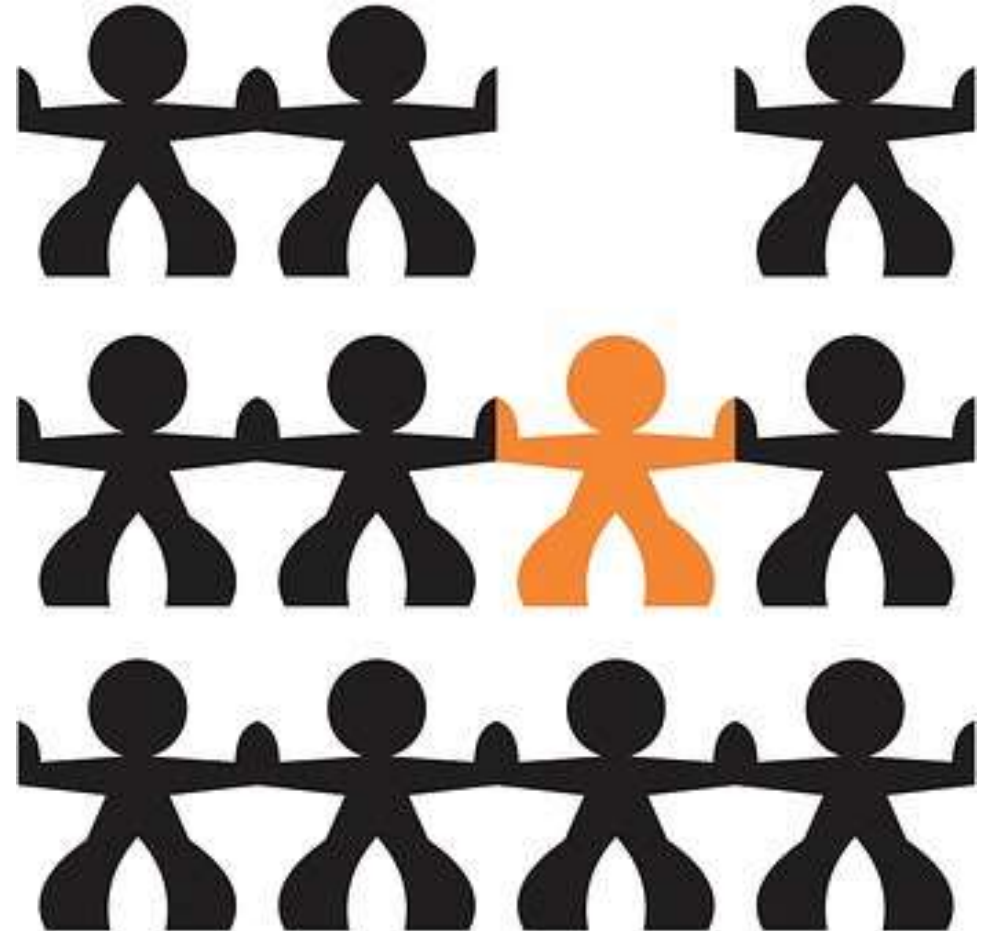
# Tomasello and Warneken: infant altruism



© Warneken & Tomasello

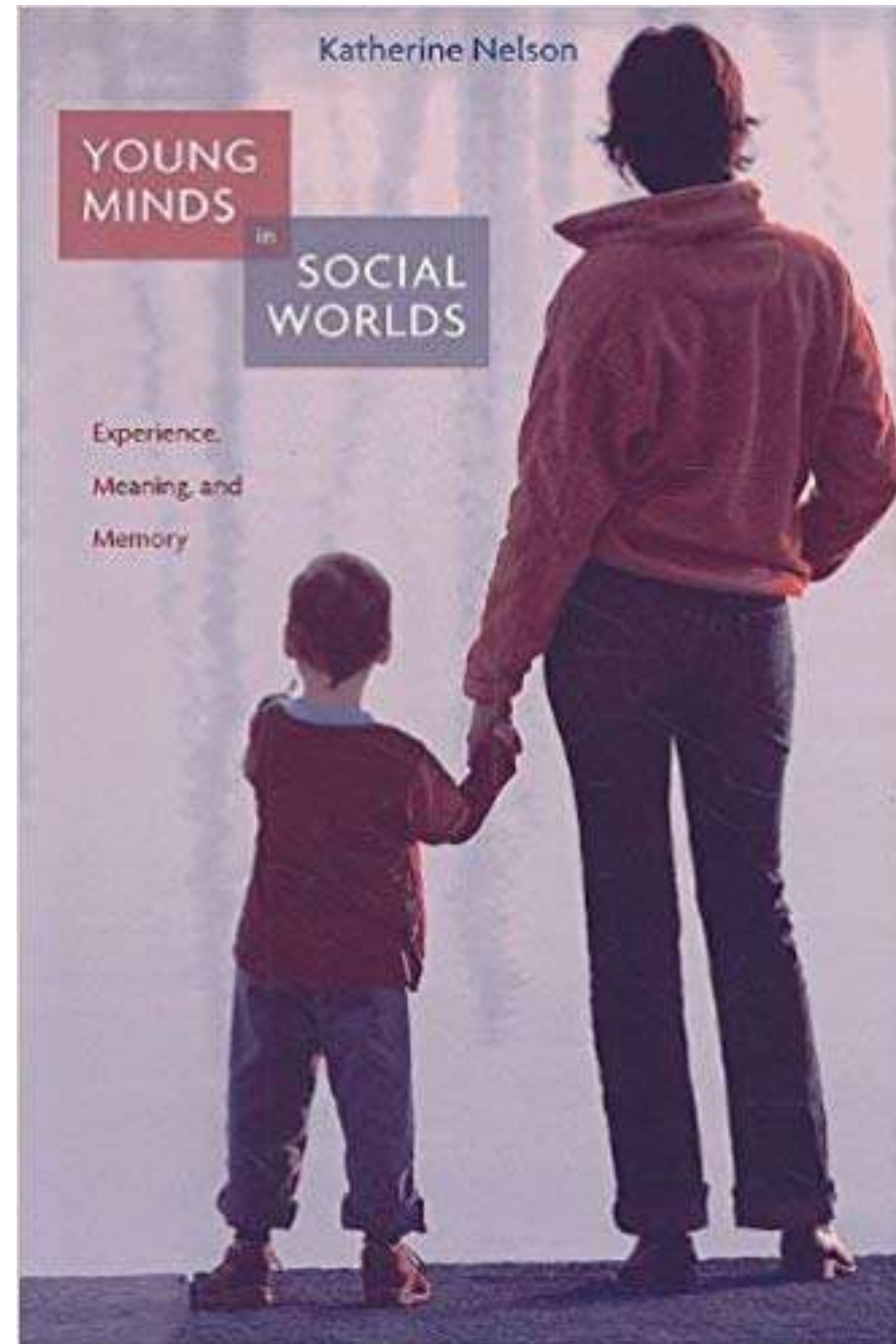


# Understanding





‘Sharing the meaning of experience appears to be a unique motivation of human cognition incorporating the intertwined motivations of making sense and making relationships’  
(Nelson, 2007: 17)



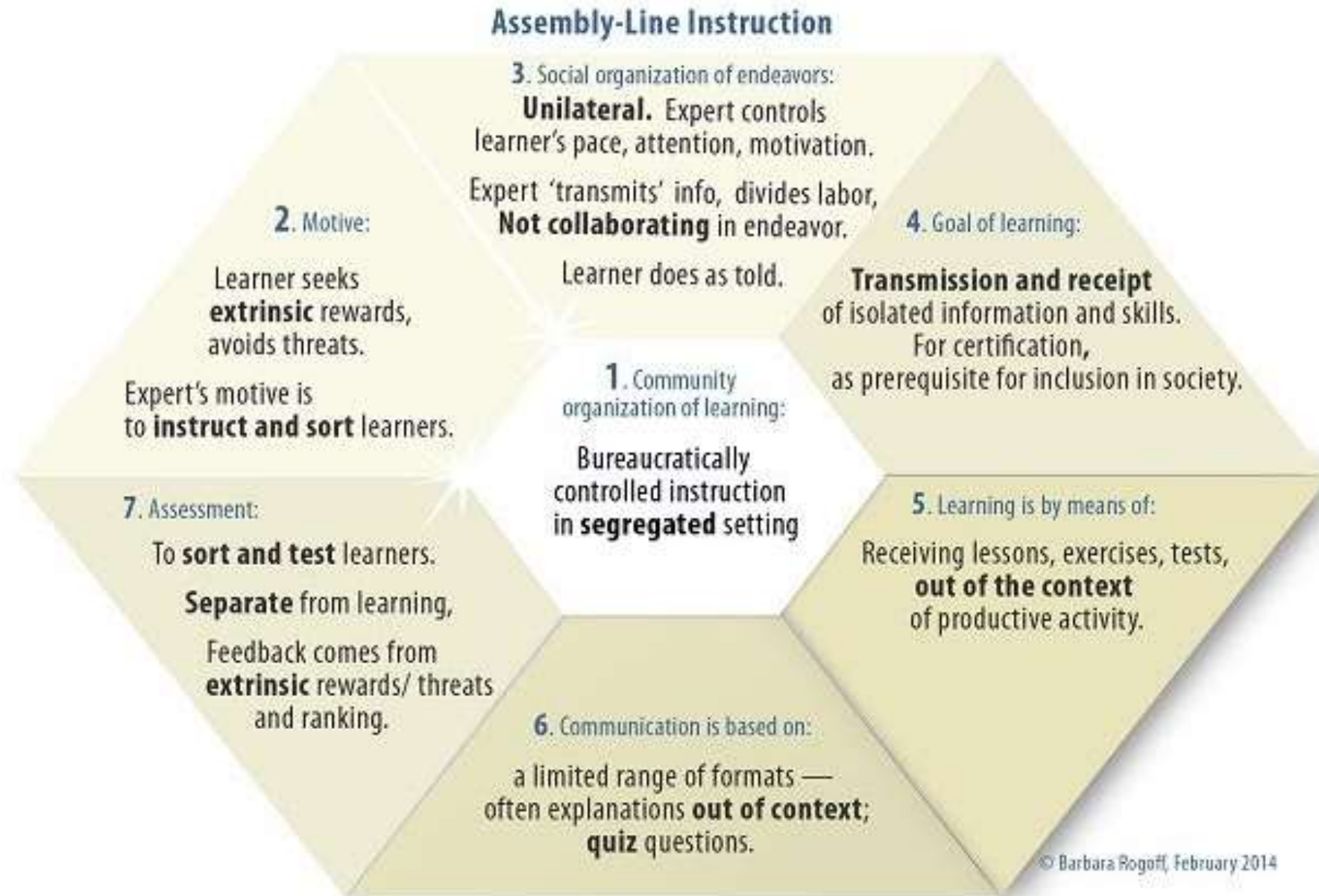
What we do

What we did

# Children want to be invited/helped to 'pitch in'



# Traditional (formal) schooling is very different





# Metaphorical Forest School

How can children experience the 'forest' of the adult world, beyond the safe confines of their 'children's garden'?



‘Do not teach and do not  
“bring up”, but live an  
interesting life together with  
children’.

L.S. Vygotsky (cited in Kravtsov and Kravtsova, 2009: 207)

# Bringing the wide world in:

## Play

- Thinking with things
- Re-membering
- Transactional calibration (watchplay)





# Bringing the wide world in:

## Conversation and Stories

- Anecdotes - learning about wider worlds of people we know
- Negotiation of shared meanings (situating self among others)
- Stories - about worlds beyond personal experience - long ago and far away and playing with (im)possibilities
- Constructing shared culture (knowing what other people know)
- Getting to know others by noticing HOW they tell their stories.

Vivian Gussin Paley

IN MRS.  
TULLY'S  
ROOM

A Childcare Portrait

