

Algebra in the Early Grades

James J. Kaput, [David W. Carraher](#) , and [Maria L. Blanton](#) (Eds.)

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Summary

This is the only book that specifically addresses research on early algebra. It provides a nice mix of both conceptual/theoretical and practice-based chapters. Given the national attention early algebra is receiving, this book is sorely needed.

—*Eric Knuth, University of Wisconsin - Madison*

This volume is the first to offer a comprehensive, research-based, multifaceted look at issues in early algebra. In recent years, the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics has recommended that algebra become a strand flowing throughout the K-12 curriculum, and the 2003 RAND Mathematics Study Panel has recommended that algebra be “the initial topical choice for focused and coordinated research and development [in K-12 mathematics].”

The book provides a rationale for a stronger and more sustained approach to algebra in school, as well as concrete examples of how algebraic reasoning may be developed in the early grades. It is organized around three themes:

- The Nature of Early Algebra
- Students' Capacity for Algebraic Thinking
- Issues of Implementation: Taking Early Algebra to the Classrooms

The contributors to this landmark volume have been at the forefront of an effort to integrate algebra into the existing early grades mathematics curriculum. They include scholars who have been developing the conceptual foundations for such changes as well as researchers and developers who have led empirical investigations in school settings. *Algebra in the Early Grades* aims to bridge the worlds of research, practice, design, and theory for educators, researchers, students, policy makers, and curriculum developers in mathematics education.

Reviewed by Daniel Chazan, *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education*.

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