RESHAPING UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL
Critical Perspectives on Power and Policy
Lucinda G. Heimer and Ann Elizabeth Ramminger

This is a comprehensive, detailed account of the complex state of Universal Preschool (UPK) in the United States. As discussions regarding access, equity, and the societal value of early childhood education enter into the public forum, this book offers critical perspectives for next steps. The authors join the synergy of wonder to the practicality of wisdom to navigate complicated systems of power, relationships, and discourse. Cross-sector efforts to address planning and implementation of UPK are examined while acknowledging the current inequitable nature of the field. The book is a cautionary tale that includes historical and current vignettes showing that some issues in UPK collaboratives are constant across time. To bring the discussion alive, a variety of stakeholder perspectives offer insights into the “why” behind policy decisions. Reshaping Universal Preschool will help stakeholders explore, reflect, and apply lessons learned to existing or potential UPK collaborative efforts.

Book Features
• Honors and illustrates perspectives from the participants—families, teachers, support staff, administrators, researchers, and policymakers.
• Considers the complicated nature of perceived power among stakeholders.
• Offers pragmatic suggestions to consider while engaging in policy changes that affect early childhood practice.
• Provides insight on collaborative practices building up from early education to the larger educational context.
• Contains reflective questions to help readers apply the research and concepts to their own practice, situation, and communities.

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“This timely book not only demonstrates why this work must be done but also offers insight as to how those who work across the multiple layers of early childhood programs and policies might lead this movement forward.”
—Christopher P. Brown, The University of Texas at Austin

“Heimer and Ramminger tackle the complexities of cross-sector initiatives through the topic of universal preschool programs. They thoughtfully portray the challenges of this work, including attention to all stakeholders in these systems and focusing on issues of equity. Because they declare collaboration to be necessary, they also highlight opportunities and paths forward in this vital book.”
—Nancy File, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee