



# Feel-Bad Education: And Other Contrarian Essays on Children and Schooling

*Alfie Kohn*

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**Feel-Bad Education: And Other Contrarian Essays on Children and Schooling** Alfie Kohn  
**Mind-opening writing on what kids need from school, from one of education's most outspoken voices**

Almost no writer on schools asks us to question our fundamental assumptions about education and motivation as boldly as Alfie Kohn. The *Washington Post* says that “teachers and parents who encounter Kohn and his thoughts come away transfixed, ready to change their schools.” And *Time* magazine has called him “perhaps the country’s most outspoken critic of education’s fixation on grades [and] test scores.”

Here is challenging and entertaining writing on where we should go in American education, in Alfie Kohn’s unmistakable voice. He argues in the title essay with those who think that high standards mean joylessness in the classroom. He reflects thoughtfully on the question “Why Self-Discipline Is Overrated.” And in an essay for the *New York Times*, which generated enormous response, he warns against the dangers of both punishing and praising children for what they do instead of parenting “unconditionally.”

Whether he’s talking about school policy or the psychology of motivation, Kohn gives us wonderfully provocative—and utterly serious—food for thought. This new book will be greeted with enthusiasm by his many readers, and by teachers and parents seeking a refreshing perspective on today’s debates about kids and schools.



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