

Nadya Danova

PETAR BERON'S VIEWS ON CHILDHOOD

(Summary)

The study focuses on Petar Beron's views on childhood revealed in his writings and biography. One of his strongest messages is for a new understanding of childhood and children as a stage in human development, requiring from adults specific treatment. He was especially strong on defending the right of girls to school education. Along with Locke, he believed that a kid's mind is a tabula rasa and corporal punishment should be abolished. More traditional is he regarding the power distribution at home and school: free choice is the domain of adults; children don't have enough knowledge and experience to be vested with it.