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0521546826 - Children and their Environments: Learning, Using and Designing Spaces

Christopher Spencer and Mark Blades

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Children and their Environments

This fascinating book examines theories of children's perceptions of space and place and explores how these theories are applied to the world of children. The focus is on children in large real world spaces; places that children live in, explore and learn from. These include classrooms, playgrounds, homes and yards, towns, communities, countryside, natural environments, and the wider world. An international team of authors compare the experiences of children from different cultures and backgrounds. Often excluded from discussions of place-design on the presumption of lack of awareness, young children have many environmental competencies which should lead to their inclusion. They can read maps and study photographs, respond to the natural and man-made world with great sensitivity, and contribute considerably to the community. This book will appeal to environmental and developmental psychologists and geographers, and also to planners by linking research on children's understandings and on their daily lives to recommendations for practice.

CHRISTOPHER SPENCER is Professor of Environmental Psychology at the University of Sheffield. His books include *The Child in the Physical Environment: The Development of Spatial Knowledge and Cognition* (with M. Blades and K. Morsley, 1989), *Readings in Environmental Psychology: The Child's Environment* (1995), and *Psychology: A Contemporary Introduction* (1998).

MARK BLADES is a Senior Lecturer in Developmental Psychology at the University of Sheffield. He has jointly authored several books including *The Child in the Physical Environment* (1989), *The Cognition of Geographic Space* (2002), and *Understanding Children's Development, fourth edition* (2003).

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Person-Environment Practice: The Social Ecology of Interpersonal Helping (Aldine de Gruyter, 1997) and is currently at work on a book on the history of environmental intervention in direct social work practice (forthcoming with Columbia University Press). She pursues her interest in the spatial as a faculty affiliate of CEEDS, the University of Washington's interdisciplinary Center for Education, Environment, and Design Studies.

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