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## Behaviour management in context

'... A very good place to start'

Pam Linke

Australian Early Childhood Association

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A potential reader could easily overlook this wonderful little book because of its non-descriptive cover and ambiguous title which could attract animal trainers as easily as the intended audience of those interested in children aged 0-8 years.

The author explains in the preface that the term 'behaviour management' was used in the title because it is the term currently used in early childhood settings and the book was originally written for staff. However, its interest and relevance extend to teachers, parents and child care workers who are in contact with children in this age group.

The book starts with a commonsense behaviour policy that covers the principles or guidelines that should represent one's approach to working with children and which provide the framework for the chapters that follow. It includes such principles as safety and awareness of cultural and developmental needs, and it lists important strategies such as listening to children, the use of distraction, showing children the consequences of their actions and teaching problem-solving. The author then proceeds to outline the various developmental stages of children and how to incorporate this understanding into responding to behaviour (for example, 'is my response/expectation to the behaviour appropriate for a child of this age?').

Issues of loss and change, cultural and lifestyle differences are discussed as well as providing information about health problems.

Finally, there is a useful checklist for responding to problematic behaviour which incorporates the information provided in earlier chapters.

I was heartened to read that the author made reference to the importance of touch to reassure, to gain attention or to show that you care. Unfortunately the author was compelled to qualify her remarks in the light of the community's position on touching children which 'deprives them the natural opportunity to experience genuine touch due to adult prejudices, fears or lack of understanding'.

This book is well written in a clear, easy-to-read style and represents great value. It should be the basic text to accompany all adults who work or live with children.

Reviewer:

Dr Helen Cleak  
La Trobe University

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### Crime and Children Victims and Offenders

Major national conference

Brisbane Parkroyal

17-18 June 1999

This Australian Institute of Criminology conference seeks to provide academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners from areas such as education, law, juvenile justice and social welfare with a forum to increase the awareness of children as both victims and offenders of crime, and to identify best practice, share knowledge and develop strategies to address the relevant issues.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS BY 15 MAY 1999

For further information, contact:

Marianne James

The Australian Institute of Criminology  
GPO Box 2944, Canberra, ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6260 9242 Fax: (02) 6260 9201

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### Fostering the Future

11th biennial International Foster Care  
Organisation conference

19-23 July 1999 - University of Melbourne

This conference consists of five themes:

- Indigenous children in care, which will explore over-representation and best practice
- Celebrating success, which will examine areas in which we are achieving our aims
- Partnership - The caring team, which will allow delegates to explore how to make partnerships work
- Today's tough issues, which will allow delegates to prepare for and meet the challenges that lie ahead
- Looking forward - into the year 2000 and beyond, when we hope to see fewer children entering into institutional care and more children accessing home based care.

For further information, contact:

The Conference Organisers Pty Ltd  
Suite 2, 5 Melrose Street, Sandringham, Vic 3191  
Tel: (03) 9521 8881 Fax: (03) 9521 8889