



Conceptual Structure in Childhood and Adolescence: The Case of Everyday Physics (Hardback)

By Christine Howe

Taylor Francis Ltd, United Kingdom, 2016. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 234 x 156 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Heat breaks up charcoal and puts sulphur dioxide in ; The air pulls faster on heavy masses. These and other similar statements by school-aged children untutored in physics carry two messages. First, children s pre-instructional conceptions of the physical world are a far cry from the received wisdom of science; second, despite their lack of orthodoxy, children s conceptions carry a definite sense of causal mechanism. This sense of mechanism is the focal concern of this book, originally published in 1998, for it raises issues of central importance to both psychological theory and educational practice. In particular, some psychologists have claimed that human cognition is organised around causal mechanisms along the lines of a theory. This carries specific implications for teaching. Does the existence in children s thinking of causal mechanisms relating to the physical world support these psychologists? Does this have consequences for the teaching of science? Christine Howe reviews evidence relating to pre-instructional conceptions in three broad topic areas: heat and temperature; force and motion; floating and sinking. A wide range of published...



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