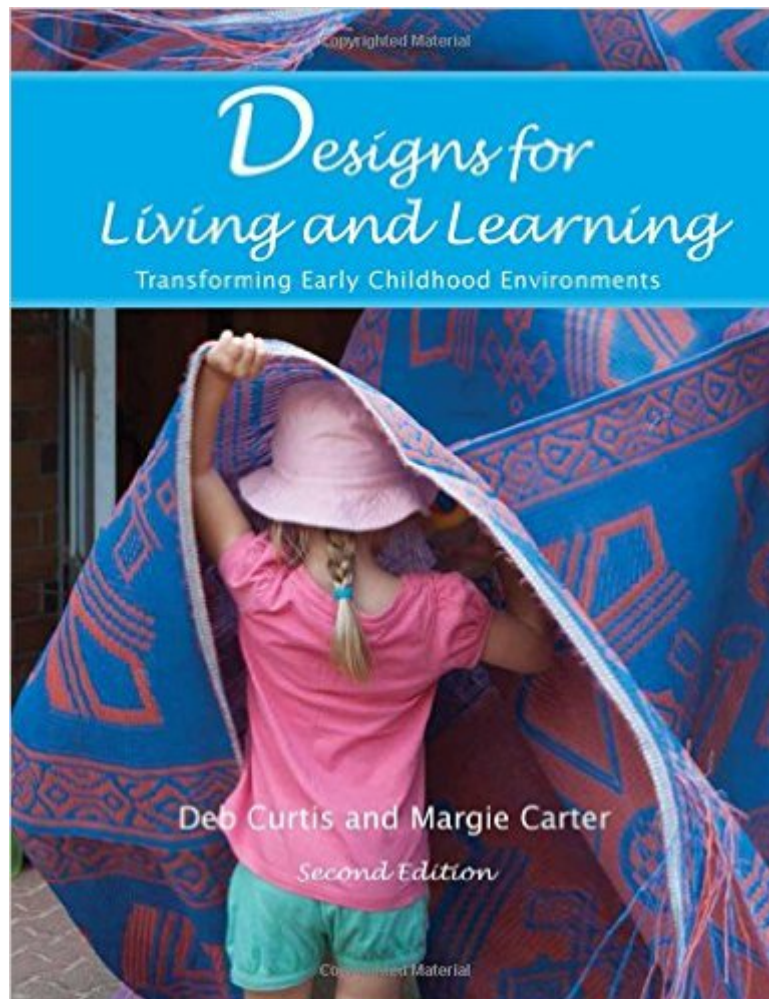


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# Designs For Living And Learning, Second Edition: Transforming Early Childhood Environments



## Synopsis

You likely have dreams for your early childhood environment that are greater than rating scales, regulations, and room arrangements. *Designs for Living and Learning* has been a favorite resource among educators and caregivers for more than a decade, and this new edition is packed with even more ideas that can be used as you create captivating environments that nurture children, families, and staff while supporting children's learning. With hundreds of all-new colorful photographs of real early learning settings and a multitude of simple and practical concepts for creative indoor and outdoor spaces and learning materials, this book truly is a source of inspiration as you learn how to shape welcoming spaces where children can learn and grow. Expanded chapters include new information reflecting current trends and concerns in early childhood, such as the use of repurposed and nontraditional materials, children in the outdoors, alternative ways to think about providing for learning outcomes, facing and overcoming barriers and negotiating change, and the impact of environmental rating scales in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS). Two new chapters are included, one highlighting the transformations of environments with before and after photos and outlines of the process, and the other with examples of soliciting children's ideas about the environment. Deb Curtis and Margie Carter are internationally acclaimed experts in early childhood. They host three-day institutes and professional development seminars for early childhood professionals; consult with early childhood programs across North America, Australia, and New Zealand; and have written many books together.

## Book Information

Paperback: 360 pages

Publisher: Redleaf Press; 2 edition (December 2, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1605543721

ISBN-13: 978-1605543727

Product Dimensions: 1 x 8.2 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #69,914 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #133 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Decorating & Design > Interior Decorating](#) #169 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Decorative Arts & Design > Decorative Arts](#) #231 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Early Childhood Education](#)

## Customer Reviews

Deb Curtis and Maggie Carter explore how you can teach children by setting up the right environment. Anyone who's read Harry Wong's First Day of School (a classic how-to guide for teachers) knows that clean classrooms are essential, but what about the layout? What about the color scheme and the furniture? This book, which I might mention is from New Zealand, shows many examples of daycare and preschools that encourage constructive play for children. The first, and most obvious things we see, are the water tables and sand tables. I remember these from when I was a kid, we loved playing with the sand. But there was something else that I saw in the photo of the New Zealand preschool, and that was the toolbench. It was at a height the kids could reach, and had lots of small hammers, nails, screw drivers, pliers, etc. We had a tool bench when I was in kindergarten, but few US preschools have them now out of fear of lawsuits. I can't think of anything better for a 5 year old boy than a toolbench and some nails to pound. Some of the schools (or afterschool places) build what I call adventure playgrounds with lots of apparatus for the kids to climb. You have slides, ladders, swings, ropes, nets, decent poles, and tires to play with, and you'll keep the kids busy for hours. We used to have these playgrounds all over the USA, but they were all torn down in the 1990s because of, you guessed, it, lawsuits. Nowadays, the average kids' playground looks like a Fisher Price playset blown up to life size. Eight year old kids are now spending all their time with TV and electronics, getting into trouble, while 30 years ago they were jumping off wooden forts and landing in nets.

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