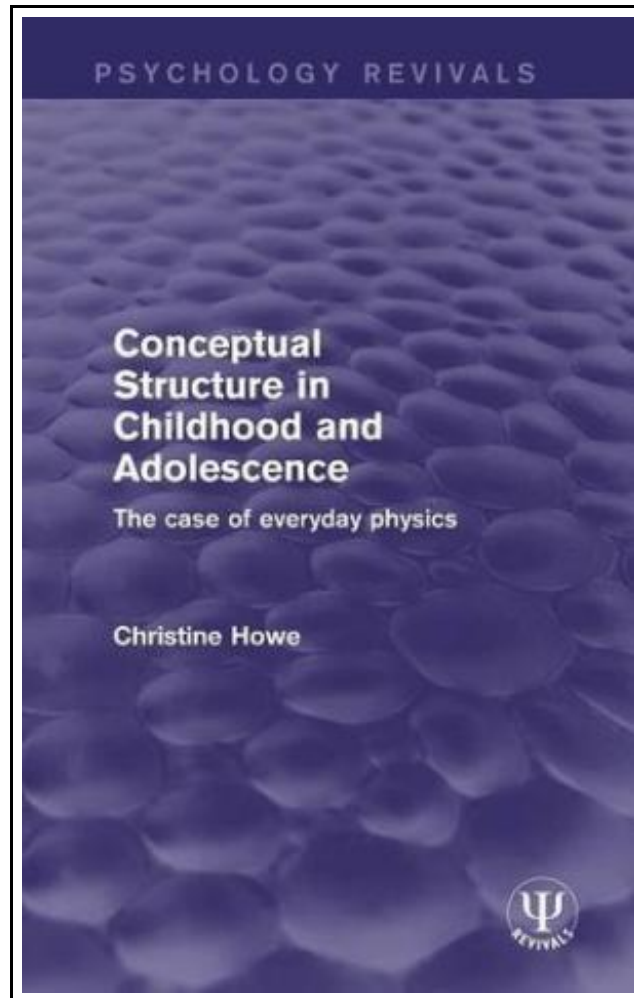


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CONCEPTUAL STRUCTURE IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE: THE CASE OF EVERYDAY PHYSICS (HARDBACK)



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 work is discussed, including the author s own research. In addition, a new study covering all three topic areas is reported for the first time. The message is that causal mechanisms can indeed play an organising role, that untutored cognition can in other words be genuinely theoretical. However, this tendency is highly domain-specific, occurring in some topic areas but not in others. Having drawn these conclusions, Christine Howe discusses their meaning in terms of both cognitive development and educational practice. A model is outlined which synthesises Piagetian action-groundedness with Vygotskian cultural-symbolism and has a distinctive message for classrooms. This title...

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