

Changing Children's Behavior by Changing the People, Places, and Activities in Their Lives

Richard L. Munger, Ph.D.

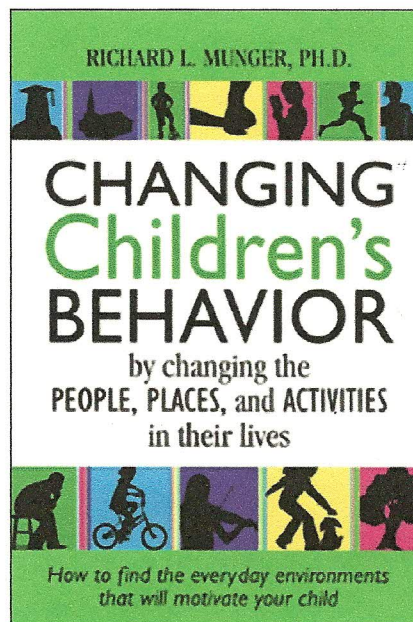
Is your child doing poorly in school? Hanging out with the wrong crowd or having trouble making friends? Defiant and argumentative at home?

In this provocative new book, author Richard L. Munger makes the case that the environments in which a child lives, plays, and studies are even more important than personality in shaping that child's behavior. So, he says, making changes in the people, places, and activities in a child's life can have profound effects on his or her behavior. He identifies ten "behavior settings" in which children and adolescents spend most of their time – home, neighborhood, school, after-school, electronic (TV, computer, and other media), friends, work, faith, recreation and leisure, and sports.

These settings and the presence of interesting, challenging activities and adult mentors in them can make a big difference in helping children develop into motivated, compassionate, and competent adults. For example, the same child who flounders in a big school with academic, athletic, and activity opportunities limited to an elite group of students may flourish if enrolled in a small school dependent on involving many of its students in order to field sports teams, form a band or drama club, etc.

For parents and professionals, Munger discusses what research has revealed about the impact of the ten environments on children's lives. At the end of each chapter, he provides a quiz to help parents develop a profile of their child's environmental strengths and weaknesses and then makes suggestions to improve them.

RICHARD L. MUNGER has spent twenty-five years as an administrator in public community mental health. He is a practicing child psychologist in North Carolina and formerly Associate Professor of Psychiatry, John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii. He received his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Michigan.



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"This book is an amazing synthesis of developmental knowledge and insight. I've benefited both professionally and personally from reading this volume."

– Scott W. Henggeler, Ph.D.,
Director of Family Services
Research Center,
Medical University of
South Carolina