In the future, every child in Germany has been entitled to a place at a kindergarten or nursery school. Therefore, communes and free institutions will have to devote increased attention to this subject. After the child’s own home, nursery school or day-care is the place where children of pre-school age will spend most of their time. Their individual development is either encouraged or hampered through the conditions in these homes away from home. Children need space in which they feel safe and secure, where there is peace and space for quiet time, where they can establish contact with other children, move about and play as they wish, and develop their independence in an environment they appropriate as their own.

This book shows how the design of both internal and external areas of a nursery or kindergarten can contribute to the fulfillment of these needs. The authors make psychologically sound suggestions for how nurseries can be built or re-designed. Basic pedagogic concepts - for example, using nurseries as communication and action spaces – establish the foundations for practical planning advice. The participation of parents, educators and children, even at the planning stages, is indispensable. The book addresses everyone involved in the construction, conversion and equipping of nurseries and day-care facilities: parents, educators, psychologists, architects and planners, community offices and public organizations.