

Voices about LIM-handbook:

“I believe that this handbook meets important educational purposes within its field through the different activities shown as learning modules in text and pictures. The learning modules in the handbook give a number of concrete proposals of places and areas where different outdoor based learning spaces is pointed out.

This handbook could be used in teacher training programmes related to special education as well as in teacher training programmes intended for children with disabilities, where the focus of the importance of learning outdoor in the nature- and culture landscape should be more highlighted than today.”

Anders Szczepanski

Ass. visiting prof. Outdoor Education,

Director Center for Outdoor Environmental Education, Department of Culture and Communication, Linköping University, Sweden.

“The Handbook ”Learning Outdoors” edited by the Learning in Motion project team is an invitation to discover an often forgotten “ ... world of grass, air, sun, tinkling water, flowers, trees, people and animals” for people with intellectual or mental disabilities. It is full of convincing didactic inspirations and amazing photos. The structure of this handbook is very clear and helps to find needed information of this subject in a short time. That is why this book is very useful in educational aims like teacher training at university for example. The pedagogical value consists in the dialogical way to evaluate the learning in motion activities by the learners themselves. The case study in the third section is a good example for this dialogue and impresses itself on ones memory.

The equation of behaviour from the founder of social psychology Kurt Lewin, $B=f(P,E)$, states that behaviour is a function of the person and her or his environment. That means: The same person in a different environment can show a completely different behaviour. The handbook contains very clear examples for such a change.

With Lewin’s Force field analysis, we can understand the behaviour of a person in his or her momentary situation. Mental development means for Lewin to extend the space, where the real and the mental motion of a person takes place. Changes of an individual’s life space depend upon that individual’s internalization of external stimuli (from the physical and social world) into their own life space. The Interaction (experience) of the life space with external stimuli (what Lewin calls the “boundary zone”) is important for development (or regression). Development (or regression) of an individual occurs when their “life space” has a “boundary zone”. Out of Door Learning provides an environment with uncountable options to experience with external stimuli and to expand the individual live space of people, no matter whether they are people with mental disabilities or not. The handbook explains that complex relationship between a person and his or her environment in a very simple language. It will help people with mental disabilities to decide more by themselves and to become more and more self-advocates.”

André Frank Zimpel

Prof. Dr. habil., Faculty of Education, Psychology and Human Movement, University of Hamburg, Germany.

