First hand experience
what matters to children

The publication

• promotes first hand experiences for all children
• offers an alphabet of real experiences and
  enquiries underpinned by what matters to children
• is aimed at all those who work with children aged
  3 to 8.

The authors are a team of experienced and
respected education consultants who are concerned
that many children today are starved of first hand
experiences. They are committed to bringing the
real world back into children’s lives and learning.

The book takes the form of an alphabet of real
experiences. Each page has been developed as
a springboard from which children and educators
can launch themselves into the beautiful,
mysterious, physical world in which we all live.

It will be essential reading for everyone
working with children from 3 to 8 or
even beyond. Student teachers, nursery
nurses and those studying for VQs could
also benefit from this book.

... very readable ... thought provoking ...
user friendly ... inspirational ...

Practitioners
This is the first in a series of publications which can be supported by conferences led by its authors. With many years of experience in professional development, conference design and delivery, we offer large or small conferences with keynotes and practical workshops to promote First hand experience: what matters to children.

Following the initial conference we can offer further keynotes, workshops or seminars, for smaller groups and individual settings in your local area.

The authors

• Diane Rich was formerly chief executive of a leading national early years charity. She currently runs Rich Learning Opportunities: keeping creativity, first hand experience and play at the heart of children’s learning.

• Denise Casanova is a freelance arts education consultant who is committed to education through the arts. She has worked extensively in museums and galleries in the USA and UK.

• Annabelle Dixon’s classroom was, in the words of a friend, ‘a place of genuine intellectual search’. She is committed to offering first hand experiences to children as the essential basis for such a search.

• Mary Jane Drummond is a writer and researcher with an abiding interest in young children’s learning. She has recently retired from the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge.

• Andrea Durrant is a freelance consultant in early years and primary education. Her mission is to bring back creativity into children’s learning.

• Cathy Myer is a freelance education consultant. She is passionate about children and their capacity to learn from their experiences of the real world.

The publication can be launched and supported in your area by a conference with keynote presentations and workshops.

Speakers at the conferences will
• offer an extended definition of ‘first hand experience’
• explore ‘what matters to children’
• consider why first hand experiences are important for children’s learning
• examine the role of adults in making first hand experiences worthwhile for children
• introduce the publication and demonstrate how it can be used, through practical workshops.

The book has been trialled by practitioners in different settings nationwide.

If re-inspired us as a staff, taking us out of autopilot and complacency.

The children went home excited and focused on what they were doing.

Parents told me that for the first time they felt part of their child’s world at school because they really understood what learning was all about.

To register interest in conferences, please either complete and return the enquiry form by post or fax, use the website, or contact:

Rich Learning Opportunities
email office@richlearningopportunities.co.uk
tel 01473 737405 fax 01473 737613

This form can also be completed and returned via the website www.richlearningopportunities.co.uk

I would like to know more about conferences to support the book First hand experience: what matters to children
I would like to host a conference in my area yes/no

Please write in block capitals
Name ________________________________
Job title ________________________________
Address ________________________________
_____________________________ ________________________________ Postcode
Telephone ________________________________ Email ________________________________

Proposed conference dates (if known) ________________________________ 2005
______________________________ 2006 ________________________________ 2007

I have responsibility for organising conferences yes/no
I will be able to arrange a suitable venue yes/no
I can make all necessary catering arrangements yes/no
I will be able to distribute publicity material yes/no
I will be able to manage contacts with delegates yes/no

You will be contacted to discuss a range of conference options to suit your needs.

You can complete these details on the website www.richlearningopportunities.co.uk
or return this form to
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tel 01473 737405 fax 01473 737613
Firsthand definition is - obtained by, coming from, or being direct personal observation or experience. How to use firsthand in a sentence. 

- obtained by, coming from, or being direct personal observation or experience a firsthand account of the war 
- had a firsthand view of the turmoil that wracked the region. 
- William W. Finan, Jr. Other Words from firsthand. 
- I also have first-hand experience of the repercussions that follow when you make a stand against sectarianism. 
- Apart from military personnel, it is only our oldest generation that has had first-hand experience of life in a war zone. 
- An increasing number of Australians understand this from first-hand experience. 
- He heard a range of first-hand accounts of people’s experiences of crime. 
- Numerous poets and playwrights had first-hand experience of the wars. 
- Learn about first hand experience with free interactive flashcards. 

Choose from 500 different sets of flashcards about first hand experience on Quizlet. 

- Palm of the hand has concave appearance of bones distal to the carpal bones. MCP closed-packed position. was a prerequisite for first-hand experience. 
- International research tends to involve analyzing international data, rather than acquiring first-hand knowledge about international operations in other countries. 
- And now I know from first-hand experience it's the wrong approach. 
- This understanding needs to be informed, up-to-date and backed by first-hand experience, not based on hearsay or second-hand impressions. 
- It reflects, often, a first-hand experience of the events it describes.