

A Book Review

By George Simons

In her new book, *Where in the World Are You Going?*, Judith Blohm has created a workbook to help children work through the process of international relocation. Importantly, the first half of the 63-page book is about saying goodbye to one's old home and living environment, ending or making ways to stay in contact with old connections, the part of the moving process that is most traumatic for many children. This part of the book is fundamentally a journal with helpful suggestions and room for the child to reflect and make notes or draw pictures to be aware of both inner states and practical changes required by the process of moving.

In the second half the focus is on "Learning About Your New Country" and the activities help the child to be aware of what he or she already knows about the destination and how to get more information.

Where in the World Are You Going? is aimed at children 5-10 years of age. The individualistic assumptions in the process make it definitely a tool for children coming from relatively well educated low context backgrounds which is no doubt the largest market for such a publication.

Certainly parental assistance with this inner work would be required and advisable for all children, particularly the younger ones. A helpful afterword to parents by Cay Hartley partially fulfills this need.

This work is a valuable contribution and a very good start in an area where little exists. We hope that Judith and others can continue to address more aspects of these transitions.

Perhaps a follow up piece could be created to assist children when they have arrived at the destination to deal with the ensuing real grief that inevitably occurs and to journal what they are learning and to make suggestions for working out the challenges and dilemmas that will occur. In an age when children are more computer literate than their elders, perhaps an engine could be found to make such transition processes available in that medium.

The book is available from Intercultural Press. Call (207) 846-5168.

George Simons can be reached by phone at 408-426-9608, by fax at 408-457-8590, by e-mail at gsimons@euronet.nl and on the Web at www.intl-partners.com

June 1997

A monthly source of information, ideas, and tips for people managing a Diverse Workforce

Managing Diversity

Vol. 6, No. 9