

## **A Plea for Environmental Education That Focuses on Learning to Care**

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**ABSTRACT** Much has been published on environmental education towards sustainable development. Research reports on a “plateauing” of positive environmental attitudes, and while environmental problems are perceived to be worsening, people seem to be less inclined to participate in actions to express their dissatisfaction about global environmental issues. The most influential factor for developing a personal concern for the environment was reportedly established through childhood experiences in the natural environment. Technology has, however, had a marked influence on childhood experiences. The stimulation of increasing factual knowledge and dramatic visual images has an important influence on the development of values. The task of teachers who are concerned about the environment has grown. Ideally, teachers should adopt a committed stance in teaching children an ethic of care so that they may participate in personal and social changes that are needed for a sustainable environment. This paper reviews research into ethical and pedagogical issues involved in teaching for an ethic of care in environmental education.