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Ethics of Care, Care in the Home, Care of the Common Home

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Abstract

Human beings live in a home, a community of people (a family) who live together in a place (a house), with a shared common project, in a particular setting (a village, town or city open to the world). This home is part of another home in a broad sense - the earth, the universe, the nature...- that welcomes us all and offers us the conditions for a dignified life. This broad home presents problems that affect us all because it is our 'common home'. Experts, governments, businesses, and many other organizations study, report and propose solutions to these problems, but it is often forgotten that the family home is the first agent affected by the causes and effects of these environmental problems.

This article deals with the role of the home as the most significant experienced site of an embodied, inhabited and place-based environmental education. We use the ethics of care as a tool to understand these problems, become aware of them, motivate ourselves and guide the processes of analysis, decision and implementation of appropriate solutions in the home, which is the experiential and educational site where the eco-citizens of today have the chance to contribute to the moulding of the responsible pro-environmental citizens of tomorrow.

*Full paper is being prepared for publication. Further details to be announced.