

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910595038003321
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Titolo	Are Children Reliable Witnesses? // by Ben F. Cotterill
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2022
ISBN	9783031103827 3031103823
Edizione	[1st ed. 2022.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (169 pages)
Disciplina	016.15335 347.066083
Soggetti	Forensic psychology Cognitive psychology Personality Difference (Psychology) Criminology Social service Forensic Psychology Cognitive Psychology Personality and Differential Psychology Social Work
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

"This is an excellent book. The book considers all aspects of children's performance as eyewitnesses. The book explains when and why children can be accurate witnesses. It includes many relevant real life cases from police interviews and legal cases. This book is well researched and very well written so it will be accessible to anyone, and can be highly recommended to parents, and to students of developmental psychology, sociology, law and linguistics." —Dr Mark Blades, Senior Lecturer in Developmental Psychology, University of Sheffield, UK "There is a nice coverage of how well children can serve as witnesses to a crime ... I am recommending this book as a valuable resource for academics and students in psychology, criminology, and law because there isn't another in the market that fully captures children's experience ... Not only is it good for academics, but a great resource for social workers, forensic investigators and practitioners working within the Youth and Criminal Justice." —Dr Tochukwu Onwuegbusi, Lecturer in Psychology, University of Lincoln, UK This book explores practices and influences that can increase or decrease the accuracy of children's testimonies. If a child falls victim to a crime, or becomes witness to it, they may well be questioned by the police. Perhaps even tasked with selecting a suspect from a line-up. But how reliable can a child be under such strenuous circumstances? Memory mechanisms and general developmental factors behind the capability of child witnesses are outlined, demonstrating their ability to describe or identify. Factors that affect jurors' perception of said children are also looked into in detail. There have been many instances in which poor interviewing practices with children led to false imprisonments. Said occurrences demonstrate how both situational factors and individual differences can potentially compromise children's eyewitness performance. Based upon what we now understand, can recommendations be made, so that, in a court of law, innocence is the key to achieving justice? Ben F. Cotterill is lecturer in psychology at Clemson University in South Carolina, USA. He completed his doctoral dissertation on how children's temperament relates to their eyewitness performance. Dr. Cotterill's research interests include personality

development, the reliability and credibility of eyewitness testimony, and testing police procedures used with children.
