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**Frommer's® Reveals the 100 Best Places to Raise a Family  
in the United States**

*Louisville, CO, Comes Out On Top, Followed by Gaithersburg, MD, and Roswell, GA*

*Frommer's Best Places to Raise Your Family: The Top 100 Affordable Communities in the U.S.* (Wiley, May 2006, \$24.99) has named Louisville, CO, the number-one place to raise a family in the United States. The coveted 'Best of the Best' list in the book also includes Gaithersburg, MD; Roswell, GA; Lakeville, MN; Flower Mound, TX; Fort Collins, CO; Cary, NC; Sugar Land, TX; Columbia, MD and Noblesville, IN.

*Best Places to Raise Your Family*, by Peter Sander and Bert Sperling, bestselling authors of *Cities: Ranked and Rated* (Wiley, March 2004), provides the most savvy, up-to-the-minute insights into the 100 top affordable communities to live and raise kids in in the country. Organized alphabetically for easy reference, the book highlights 100 areas across the U.S., based on a complete and balanced set of facts, local interviews, and professional evaluation of each area. By examining not only cities and metro areas, but specific neighborhoods, this book is *the* tool to help parents—and prospective parents—find a place that's right for them. The data is arranged in tables with a narrative summation of five major categories:

- **Is it affordable?** The "Standard of Living" category offers insights into incomes, home prices, and other costs, including gas, taxes, and child care. In addition to providing statistics on income levels, the authors compile and analyze facts about job security, local companies, and future employment potential. Two innovative new calculations—the Buying Power Index and Home Price Ratio—help families tabulate how much money they'll have left over for luxuries and savings.
- **How are the schools?** For each neighborhood, the authors evaluate school test results and educational standards, based on such criteria as the number of adults with college degrees, and the amount of money spent per student. With the help of a nonprofit organization called Greatschools.net, *Best Places to Raise Your Family* is the first book to report on specific academic testing results at

local schools. Readers will also learn about school sizes and funding, and the number of students attending public school.

- **How safe is the community, and can I get proper healthcare if I need it?** The “Health and Safety” category takes a look at violent- and property-crime risks in neighborhoods and surrounding areas, environmental issues such as pollen and air quality, health care costs and resources, and levels of stress.
- **In addition to work and school, what can my family do there?** This unique “Lifestyle” category discusses quality-of-life variables. A complex set of factors influencing family development are examined, such as the number of arts and cultural resources, entertainment venues, and recreational activities. The book also explores “background” factors such as commute times, climate, and the physical infrastructure and attractiveness of each area.

**About the authors:**

Peter Sander is a professional author, researcher, and marketer. He has written 14 books concentrating in the areas of business and personal finance. Aside from *Cities Ranked & Rated*, his other titles include *Value Investing for Dummies*, *Niche and Get Rich*, and *The 250 Personal Finance Questions Everyone Should Ask*. Before starting his writing career, Peter worked for 20 years in business and program management at the Hewlett-Packard Company. He resides in Granite Bay, CA. He has traveled in all 50 states and has appeared in major print, radio, and television media, including NBC Today, Fox News, CNBC, NPR, and Business Talk Radio.

For more than 20 years, Bert Sperling has appeared in print, on radio and television programs, and at conferences, speaking about cities and quality-of-life issues. He developed the methodology for the Best Places to Live software, which is now the standard for studies in this area. His data forms the basis of such national articles as Money magazine’s annual “The Best Places to Live in America.” He is the CEO of Fast Forward, Inc., which produces his popular website, [www.bestplaces.net](http://www.bestplaces.net). Bert lives in Portland, OR.

***Best Places to Raise Your Family***  
***The Top 100 Affordable Communities in the U.S.***  
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