

# Book & Video News

## **Video pack: Teenagers in Trouble. Skills for Parents. Facilitator's Pack (contains 45-minute video, 32-page Facilitator's Guide, and 28-page Parents' Booklet)**

John Coleman

Brighton: TSA Publications, 2001. £23.50 (inc. VAT) boxed.

This training pack was commissioned by the Youth Justice Board and produced by John Coleman and the Trust for the Study of Adolescence. The video shows brief scenarios of conflict situations between young people and their parents, roles played by actors. These are then discussed by groups of parents whose teenaged children have been in serious difficulties, with the law or in school. The pack was designed to fill a gap, and as a flexible resource in working with parents who might be subject to Parenting Orders. The video and workbook tackle difficult topics: moods, boundaries, conflict between parents, bad influences in the community and, most importantly, keeping open lines of communication between parents and children. The underlying theoretical model is broadly developmental, with an emphasis on understanding the tasks and challenges of adolescence and supporting young people in negotiating these successfully, including the renegotiation of the dependency/autonomy boundaries with parents.

The content of the vignettes is relevant and authentic. I wondered about the necessity for the inclusion of a considerable amount of bad language, not only from the young people, which might be realistic, but also from the parents. However, in reality, parents as well as teenagers can behave badly, and this is addressed openly in the discussions. A brief reference list, including Roker and Coleman's examination of parenting programmes for adolescents is supplied.

At this stage the helpfulness of the package has not been demonstrated, but the format of video clips of parenting situation is one that has proved effective in conveying good parental management strategies with younger children and the content of the materials is both appropriate and appealing.

## **References**

Roker, D., & Coleman, J. (1998). Parenting teenagers programmes: A UK perspective. *Children and Society*, 12, 359–372.

Christine Puckering

Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow

## **A Handbook for Expert Witnesses in Children Act Cases**

N. Wall & I. Hamilton

Bristol: Jordan Publishing, 2000. pp. 102. £12.50 (pb).

This excellent book should be read by a range of professionals within the family justice system. As Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss says in the foreword: 'It is written by a Family Judge with enormous experience of medical evidence, is down-to-earth, practical and witness-friendly'. The book consists of 23 brief, succinct chapters written from the point of view of the lawyers who commission expert evidence and the judges who hear and evaluate it. Each chapter is summarised, very effectively.

It complements books such as *Child Psychiatry and the Law* (which I co-edited) (Black et al., 1998) and the expert witness pack for use in Children Act Proceedings (Family Law, 1997). The chapters cover the approach of a court to expert evidence, the respective role of expert and judge, the brief given by the court, instructions, enquiries, expert discussions and meetings, pre-hearing conferences with Counsel, preparations for court and the process of giving evidence.

There is a useful discussion of the now recommended procedure of joint instructions, where all the parties combine to instruct a single expert, together with the problems and disadvantages that may arise from this situation, and advice on how to cope when there are criminal and Children Act proceedings simultaneously or in sequence. In practice, it is not uncommon for a single expert to be treated as an hostile witness by some of those who commissioned the report but who disagree with its conclusions and recommendations. Further advice will be welcome in future editions, particularly regarding the need for second opinion on occasion. However,

the current book is flawlessly helpful: that is why one wishes for more in the future. The appendices suggest further reading, describe the circuits and the family division, give an extract from a key judgment on principles of practice regarding the instruction of expert witness [Wall, J., 1994 2FLR 291, 298], plus an analysis of the Civil Procedure Rules (1998).

In summary, this book is an essential contribution to the development of a coherent family justice system and will, one hopes, be available in successive editions to deal with developing law and practice.

## **References**

Black, D., Harris Hendriks, J., & Wolkind, S. (Eds.). (1998) *Child psychiatry and the law* (3rd ed.). London: Gaskell/Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Expert Witness Group (1997). *Expert witness pack for use in Children Act Proceedings*. Bristol: Family Law.

Jean Harris Hendriks  
*Traumatic Stress Clinic, London*

## **The Adoption Experience: Families Who Give Children a Second Chance**

A. Morris

London: Jessica Kingsley, 1999. pp. 223. £10.95 (pb).

Since the recent publicity about parenting issues, and the proposed review of the Adoption Act, the needs of children who are not able to be cared for by their biological parents has received more attention and publicity from professionals. This book reviews from the standpoint of all the possible participants in such an experience what is involved in providing a secure life for such children. In using the subtitle, *Families who give children a second chance*, the author mirrors the title of a previous book, *Adoption, a second chance* (Barbara Tizard) published in 1977, one of the very limited long term follow-up studies of the outcome of the transplantation of children to new and hopefully more adequate settings.

By providing an account of what adoption

means and the wide range of emotions such an experience generates, this book is very useful. It is easy to read and presents accounts from many different points of view. It does not flinch from outlining some of the pitfalls experienced, but succeeds in presenting even these in a manner that is balanced with much useful information presented for anyone who may be involved. The list of agencies involved is particularly helpful.

*Constance Dennehy  
London.*

### **The Dynamics of Adoption: Social and Personal Perspectives**

A. Treacher & I. Katz (Eds.)  
London: Jessica Kingsley, 2000. pp. 240.  
£14.95 (pb).

Working with children and families brings us face-to-face with complex multi-layered problems; working in adoption adds several more layers of complexity. The contents of this book and the thoughtful editing help to convey these multi-dimensional complexities. The contributors to the 14 chapters include professional and personal viewpoints as well as discussions on policy and service delivery. The use of the writings of a poet and her adoption narrative serves to enhance the text.

The introductory chapter by Amal explores, within current social and psycho-analytic thinking, some of the myths and fantasies around adoption past and present. In his concluding chapter, Ilan Katz challenges professionals to move forward in their thinking. He encourages us to think, not only of the triangle of birth parent-adopter-adoptivee but of the personal-professional-political triangle. It is apparent in the biographies of many of the contributors that some people are on more than one point of any of the triangles, adding to the richness of the contributions. Acknowledgement is made that some 'voices' are missing, notably that of birth fathers.

The themes covered include consideration of the intra-personal psychological and interpersonal issues including attachment, relatedness, identity formation and family dynamics; trans-racial issues in the wider context including historical and political perspectives. Descriptions of therapeutic work with adopted adults highlight the implications of policy changes.

Ilan Katz describes the book as 'a reaction to evidence-based practice ... the opposite of a practitioner's manual'. It is, nonetheless, a rewarding book in that it takes forward our understanding in the field of adoption. Moreover, it contains topics with implications for general child and family work including defining qualities of parenting; implications of disrupted attachments; the meaning of relatedness and family connection. I would recommend this book to all those involved in the field regardless of their level of experience.

*Diane Lukeman  
Thelma Golding Centre, Hounslow,  
Middlesex*

### **Finding the Evidence: A Gateway to the Literature in Child and Adolescent Mental Health**

C. Joughin & M. Shaw (Eds.)  
London: Gaskell/Royal College of Psychiatrists, 2000. pp. 106. £12.00 (pb).

The editors and 29 expert contributors to this FOCUS project have stated three clear aims: 'First, to identify the best available scientific evidence, second, to promote critical appraisal, and finally, to be scrupulously up-to-date.' They also note that this first edition represents a starting point, with an intention for it to evolve and improve with the addition of other topics and, set in this context, the current result essentially boils down to an impressive reading list, with all the time-consuming searching done for you.

The book is divided into three main sections. Section 1 (A guide to finding the evidence) provides an introduction to the concepts of systematic reviews, the Cochrane Collaboration, Cochrane Review Groups and Clinical Practice Guidelines. It also provides 'a very basic guide' to searching for publications. Section 2 (the evidence) offers an alphabetical menu of clinical areas (from abuse to tic disorders). Each clinical area is then broken down into publication type, with the authors' search results. For example, Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is divided into the following: Systematic reviews and meta-analyses; Clinical Guidelines; Reviews; Classic Papers; Cutting edge papers and Reports. This provides a distinct sense of balance in a manageable number of references, ranging from the ardently Cochrane to personal review options.

With increasing recognition of the need for dissemination of information across and outside of CAMH services, this style of publication is likely to serve a role as an important reference point. It is not difficult to see it having an appeal across the CAMH professional spectrum, from trainees to policy-makers. For example, it could easily serve as a reading list for postgraduate trainees in child and adolescent psychiatry and as a tool in the decision-making process in local service delivery. At a personal level, I have already been able to use it to retrieve and view publications that have relevance to several clinical areas in my day-to-day practice, and with the added sense that these have been endorsed and recommended by experts in the field. The authors provide templates in the appendices for the critical appraisal of several publication types (including qualitative research) and, from personal experience, lend a convenient and systematic approach. I would be very happy to see future editions with the completed critical appraisal (as promised by the editors) and published with the references. An electronic format (again, promised by the editors) will add further convenience for many, and will enable the editors to continue to approach their goal of being 'scrupulously up-to-date'. I have no hesitation in recommending this publication (and hopefully its future electronic version) to any professional in CAMHS.

*Nick Carney  
Local Health Partnerships, Ipswich*

### **Autism in History: The Case of Hugh Blair of Borgue**

R. Houston & U. Frith  
Oxford: Blackwell, 2000. pp. 207.  
£13.99 (pb).

Anyone wanting a quick guide to autism can do no better than read the fourth chapter of this charming book. With great clarity and economy of style, Uta Frith takes the reader through the development of ideas and knowledge about the condition from its 'prehistory' right up to the most recent psychological and neuropsychological findings. Beginners in clinical child mental health need to know this because they would not naturally be drawn to a book whose greatest appeal is likely to be to those in a more leisurely and contemplative frame of mind.

Rab Houston, Professor of Early Modern History at St Andrew's University, discovered the case of Hugh Blair during his

archival work for his book *Madness and society in eighteenth-century Scotland* (2000). In the first three chapters he describes the social background, family history and legal proceedings relating to the marriage of a landowner's eldest son, and also how people at that time understood what was wrong with him and why he could not be legally married.

Hugh came from a dysfunctional family and his parents were cousins. One sister had been seriously 'deaf and dumb'. Hugh himself had a hearing and speech defect, and his younger brother, John, guardian of both, was also mildly deaf. The mother had arranged Hugh's marriage to ensure his care after her death. John, wishing to gain his brother's inheritance, sued for the annulment of the marriage on the grounds of mental incapacity. From the depositions of 29 witnesses, a lively and touching picture emerges of Hugh's development and disabilities, which Professor Frith distils into a clinical case history containing all the symptoms necessary for a diagnosis of autism. Fortunately for Hugh, he was affectionate in later life, his marriage outlasted its annulment, his wife looked after him and he had two apparently healthy children. This case shows that autism existed before other known historical accounts of the condition, and that it resists the cultural influences of time and place.

The book's charm lies in Houston's vivid picture of rural life in Scotland in the mid-eighteenth century and of the then current concepts of mental conditions, as well as in Frith's accounts of similar cases, and especially her citation of a letter to her from a Japanese woman describing her autistic mother-in-law.

*Sula Wolff*  
Edinburgh

**Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America: Children and Adolescents Affected by HIV/AIDS: A Mental Health Challenge**

J. A. Adnopo & S. J. Berkowitz (Eds.)  
Philadelphia, USA: W. B. Saunders, 2000. pp. 486.

This compact book attempts a comprehensive review of the issues facing young people and their families who are affected by AIDS or HIV infection. As such it represents a much needed resource at a

time when the challenges of the AIDS epidemic are beginning to be felt by many child and adolescent mental health professionals. Early chapters clearly outline the epidemiology of AIDS and HIV infection, the likely impacts of current developments in treatment, and the practical and emotional consequences for young people and their families.

Subsequent chapters describe a range of psychological treatment approaches, including home-based family and individual work, formal group work, and informal outreach programmes for adolescents. The programmes described all appear to be essentially one-off demonstration projects, based in very well resourced settings. As such, it is slightly hard to believe that they are typical of most North American practice, and while certainly defining some ideal best practice, they may seem somewhat far-fetched to the average, rather jaundiced, CAMHS worker in the UK.

Other topics covered include the issues raised by the provision of child care by relatives, in particular grandparents, and by foster carers, and the challenges posed for effective multi-agency working. However, these latter topics are discussed from a wholly American perspective, and therefore may be of limited interest to the British reader.

Overall, this book is of value for its clear presentation of the facts and issues surrounding AIDS/HIV in young people, but perhaps of rather less value as a practical guide to service provision and treatment for hard pressed practitioners and managers within the UK health and social care system.

*Annie Flower*  
Royal Free Hospital, London

**Family Matters: Interfaces Between Child and Adult Mental Health**

P. Reder, M. McClure & Jolley A. (Eds.)  
London: Routledge, 2000. pp. 345.  
£15.99 (pb).

Links between child and adult mental health services remain inexplicably poor, despite their close organisational and training origins, and the fairly substantial body of joint research. This book successfully attempts to bridge the gap with a combination of clinical, research and policy material. It mainly focuses on psy-

chosocial aspects, and can claim a number of chapter authors with strong contributions in this field.

It comprises 22 chapters grouped in five sections, and based on presentations at a conference in 1998. The Editors present interesting case material in the Introduction, and highlight the traditional service and training barriers by providing a historical overview of child and adult mental health services. The second section discusses developmental issues, such as continuities between child and adult psychiatric disorders, the role of adolescence, the impact of children on parents, and the long-term effects of childhood abuse. Although the chapters are well written, this is the least homogenous section. The next section presents findings on the impact of a number of parental psychiatric disorders on children, such as anxiety, eating disorders, somatisation, substance abuse and personality disorders. Children's experience of parental disorder is a particularly important topic. So are the chapters on the role of health visitors and needs assessment, which might be more suitably placed with other treatment and service developments (section 4).

The described interventions and service models are particularly valuable for clinicians working in both types of services. Chapters include the involvement of children, working with families at the time of parenting breakdown, parenting skills programmes, and perinatal mental health services. The principles of collaboration and the liaison model are also relevant to health and local authority senior managers and commissioners. The book concludes with two chapters on future directions, which incorporate different theoretical frameworks.

This is a well-written and structured book that would be suitable for every child or adult mental health services bench library. It would be particularly useful to psychiatry trainees, as well as social workers and health visitors.

*Panos Vostanis*  
University of Leicester

**Books by Members**

Brian Neville & Robert Goodman (Eds.)

**Congenital Hemiplegia**

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. pp. 216. £40.00 (hb).

Alan Rushton, Cherilyn Dance,  
David Quinton & Deborah Mayes  
**Siblings in Late Permanent  
Placements**

London: British Agencies for Adoption  
& Fostering, 2001. pp. 180. £11.95 plus  
p&p. £2.50.

Beate Hermelin  
**Bright Splinters of the Mind:  
A Personal Story of Research  
with Autistic Savants**

London: Jessica Kingsley, 2001. pp. 188.  
£13.95 (pb).

Myra Bluebond-Langner, Bryan  
Lask & Denise B. Angst (Eds.)  
**Psychosocial Aspects of Cystic  
Fibrosis**

London: Edward Arnold/Hodder  
Headline Group, 2001. pp. 482.  
£75.00 (hb).

John Richer & Sheila Coates  
(Eds.)

**Autism: The Search for  
Coherence**

London: Jessica Kingsley, 2001. pp. 368.  
£15.95 (pb).

Ian Goodyer (Ed.)

**The Depressed Child and  
Adolescent (2nd ed.)**

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,  
2001. pp. 388. £35.95 (pb).

John Coleman & Jane Schofield  
**Key Data on Adolescence 2001**

Brighton: TSA, 2001. pp. 101. £22.99  
(pb) + 10% p&p.

Joyce Scaife  
**Supervision in the Mental  
Health Professions: A  
Practitioner's Guide**

Hove: Brunner-Routledge, 2001.  
pp. 288. £16.99 (pb), £40.00 (hb).

Margaret Hunter

**Psychotherapy with Young  
People in Care: Lost and  
Found**

Hove: Brunner-Routledge, 2001. pp. 193.  
£15.99 (pb).

Quentin Spender, Niki Salt, Judith  
Dawkins, Tony Kendrick & Peter  
Hill

**Child Mental Health in  
Primary Care**

Oxford: Radcliffe Medical Press, 2001.  
pp. 375. £24.50 (pb).

Simon Gowers (Ed.)

**Adolescent Psychiatry in  
Clinical Practice**

London: Edward Arnold/Hodder  
Headline Group, 2001. pp. 560.  
£45.00 (hb).