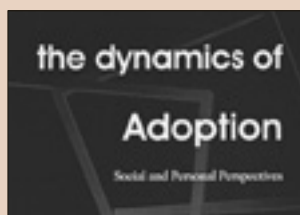


BOOK NOTES

CAROLE JEAN

The following selection of books on family-related topics are recent additions to the Institute's Family Information Centre. They are available through Libraries, through the Family Information Centre via the Inter Library Loan system, or for purchase from good book shops. Prices are given as and when supplied.



***The dynamics of adoption: social and personal perspectives*, edited by Amal Treacher and Ilan Katz, Jessica Kingsley, London, 2000. UK 14.95.**

This collection documents the experiences of all those involved in the adoption process, professionals, adoptees, adoptive and birth parents. Individual authors examine: the importance of story-telling in the construction of a family history; the transportation of German Jewish children to the United Kingdom pre World War II; the adoption process from the social workers point of view; identity formation and the adopted person; transracial adoption; reunion between birth Mothers and their adopted child(ren); same-sex parents and adoption and fostering; the changing practices in adoption; and clinical work with adults who have been adopted. Where relevant, references are included at the end of chapters.



***Surviving post-natal depression: At home, no one hears you scream*, by Cara Aiken, Jessica Kingsley, London 2000. Price: UK 14.95.**

The author of this collection herself suffered from post-natal depression, and it was her own experiences that led her to put together this collection of stories. Ten women (including the

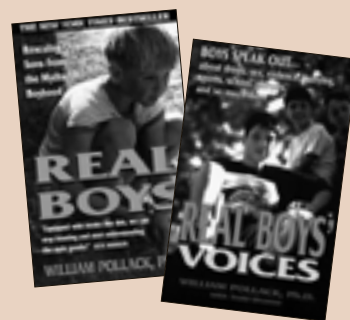
author) have related their personal stories of how post-natal depression affected their own and their families lives. A further chapter is devoted to discussions with some of the partners of the women who contributed their stories to the book. This is followed by a discussion of post-natal depression by various medical professionals. The author concludes by relaying some practical advice and coping strategies to those suffering from post-natal depression, as suggested by the women who shared their stories in the book. This book would make insightful reading for professionals who work with sufferers of post-natal depression as well as anyone who has experienced it.



***Promoting family change: the optimism factor*, by Bronwen Elliot, Louise Mulroney and Di O'Neil, Allen and Unwin, St Leonards, 2000. Price: \$ 32.95.**

This book is a guide to working with vulnerable and marginalised families outside formal therapy settings. Aimed at family workers, it presents a number of approaches, including solution-focused, narrative, cognitive and community-building. Family work addresses issues affecting the functioning of the family, and the relationships between family members, it also seeks to enhance the capacity of families to function well, and to assist the families to access resources and links to the wider community. The book also focuses on optimism, and how family workers need to approach their work with the belief that change is possible, and that the starting point for

change is the existing strengths and capacities of individual families. Case studies are used extensively to illustrate particular points in the text. This book would be valuable to students and practitioners in the areas of social, welfare and community work.



***Real boys and Real boys' voices*, two publications, by William Pollack, Scribe Publications, Melbourne, 2000. Price: \$ 33.00 (each).**

These two books are the results of research undertaken by the author as part of his "Listening to boys voices" research project. The author argues that boys today are facing a crisis, that they are becoming confused by society's messages about what is expected of them, that they are faring less well in school than they ought, that they are emotionally fragile and that they have a high rate of depression and suicide. In these two volumes the author seeks to understand what boys are really saying about their lives. In *Real boys*, the author explores: the myths that society holds about boys; how we can help boys express their true feelings; how we can assist boys to function more successfully as confident, caring members of the community; and the problems faced by boys (including depression, and violence). The subsequent volume, *Real boys' voices* examines the secret emotional lives of boys; the cycle of rage and suicide; boys reaching out and connecting; boys dealing with loss, loneliness and shame; and boys in the world. The text contains many

excerpts from conversations that the author had with boys (ranging from 10–20 years old) as part of the project.

Systematic supervision: a portable guide for supervision training, Gill Gorell Barnes, Gwynneth Down and Damian McCann, Jessica Kingsley, London, 2000 Price: \$ 13.95.

This volume aims to provide practical advice and guidelines to people either supervising or being supervised in a family therapy setting. It examines the relationship between supervisors and trainees in terms of power, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. It also discusses the types of conflicts that may arise between supervisors and their trainees where personalities differ, or where communication problems cause difficulties. Individual chapters cover: an overview of the current context of family therapy in the United Kingdom; training of supervisors; views of trainees; and culture, gender and sexuality. Throughout the book, clinical examples are used to illustrate points made in the text. While obviously aimed at family therapy settings and training requirements in Britain, the material contained in the book would be worthwhile reading for therapists in other countries.



Passages through parenthood: real-life stories from Australian parents, by Joanne Godfrey, Lothian, Melbourne, 2000. Price: \$ 24.95.

This book is a collection of stories by Australian parents about their experiences in bringing up children. The author decided to put this collection together after her own experiences of motherhood. She found, in her own words, that: "I became aware that I not only needed to learn how to care for an infant, I also needed to rethink my attitudes to all those people who were bringing up children ... For the first time I appreciated the scale of responsibility and the degree of trust invested in every parent to protect and nurture the young lives in their care." By interviewing parents in all sorts of different circumstances, the author wanted to show diverse

Australia's health 2000

Australia's health 2000, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, 2000. Price: \$44.00.

This is the seventh biennial health report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. This detailed report begins by examining what health is, what determines it and the need for information on health and illness in the Australian community. Subsequent chapters look at the overall health of Australians, environmental and individual factors that determine health, the health of particular population groups, the cost of health services employment in the health industry, and



provision and use of health services and mortality data. Detailed statistical tables are included. The depth of information contained in this report make it an essential reference for libraries and those working in health and related fields.

aspects of parenthood, as well as challenging many of society's assumptions about parenthood and its importance in society. The parents interviewed come from a variety of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, and have experienced a variety of parenting issues, including coping with children with a disability, multiple births, SIDS and relationship

breakdown. The book presents that stories of these parents in a candid fashion, and would prove to be insightful to both parents and those contemplating parenthood.

Carole Jean is the Reference Librarian in the Family Information Centre of the Australian Institute of Family Studies.



A world of babies: imagined child care guides for seven societies, by Judy DeLoache and Alma Gottlieb, Cambridge, 2000. Price: \$32.95.

This book presents information on child rearing and child care practices in seven different societies. Using the approach of presenting seven different child care manuals, the book uses authors expert in their knowledge of the societies involved. The societies covered include: the Puritans of seventeenth century Massachusetts; and the six contemporary societies of the *Beng* of Ivory Coast (West Africa), the *Balinese* of Indonesia, *Muslim*

villagers in Turkey, the *Warpipi* Aboriginal people in Australia, the *Fulani* of West and Central Africa, and the *Ifaluk* people of Micronesia. These societies cover four different continents, three different major religions, as well as a variety of local religious traditions. The societies chosen also differ widely from industrialised Western societies. This book would make fascinating reading for all involved with the care of children.

