

BOOK NOTES

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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.



***Learning to love: the developing relationship between mother, father and baby during the first year*, by Lorraine Rose, ACER, Camberwell, 2000. Price: \$24.95.**

This practical book is intended for new or expectant parents. It explores the evolving relationship between the parents and the baby, focusing in particular on the first twelve months of the infant's life. In particular, it examines the key emotional and mental milestones of the baby and how parents' relationship with the baby (and themselves) change over this period. As well as giving practical advice, the book includes many quotes from new parents on their personal experiences.



***Creating unequal futures: rethinking poverty, inequality and disadvantage*, edited by Ruth Fincher and Peter Saunders, Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest, 2001. Price: \$35.00.**

This edited collection gives an overview of social disadvantage and poverty in Australia. Individual papers examine: contexts of inequality in Australia; understanding Australian poverty and social exclusion in an international context; popular discourses and images of poverty and welfare in the

media; inequality and children's futures; poverty among indigenous Australians; population mobility and disadvantage; and the labour market. According to the editors of the collection, the authors are taking a fresh look at the issues, emphasising the underlying processes which produce and reproduce poverty and disadvantage. This collection would make excellent introductory reading for tertiary students or professionals working in the human services or welfare fields.



***Moving families: expatriation, stress and coping*, by Mary Haour-Knipe, Routledge, London, 2001. Price: \$57.20.**

This study investigated how families cope with the stresses of moving to a new culture. The families studied were all from North America, and had moved to Geneva, Switzerland. The core sample consisted of 28 families comprising children and two parents who stayed in Geneva for the full two years of the study. Chapters describe the families who participated in the study; why they had decided to move; how they prepared for the move; the stresses they experienced as individuals and families; how they coped with stresses; and what social support (from both within and outside the family) they received. The final chapters discuss the effect of the move on the families. Extensive quotes from the families are included. This book would make fascinating reading for those interested in issues of migration, those studying families under stress, as well as families who are moving to another country.



***An introduction to working with children: a guide for social workers*, by Matthew Colton, Robert Saunders and Margaret Williams, Palgrave, Basingstoke, 2001. Price: \$40.44.**

This book is intended as a text for student social workers. It aims to provide an introduction to social work with children and, in particular, child welfare. Individual chapters examine: a history of contemporary child welfare; child development theory; skills in working with children and families; prevention and family support; protecting children; looking after children; and anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice with children and families. Each chapter contains examples and case studies that are intended to facilitate discussion. An extensive bibliography is included. While this book is English in origin, many of the general principles it discusses would be applicable to social work students in Australia.



***Back on track: finding a way through separation and repartnering*, Child Support Agency, Canberra, 2000.**

This publication is an education resource kit designed to assist relationship educators and

counsellors in the provision of services for separated or repartnered men and women. The Child Support Agency sponsored the development of the kit, and it was created by a consortium of professionals including the Stepfamily Association of Victoria. The kit provides material on the key themes and issues surrounding divorce and repartnering, which can be used by professionals as background information, or integrated into course material for information/education sessions. Individual sections of the kit look at: separating; future directions for recently separated people; and repartnering. Practical advice is also given to organisations and individuals who run courses for divorcing/separating people on how to integrate the ideas of the kit into their programs, as well how to market and organise their courses. The kit is written in a very user-friendly style and contains material which can be copied and used as handouts.



Working with children in groups: a handbook for counsellors, educators and community workers, by Kathryn Geldard and David Geldard, Palgrave, Basingstoke, 2001. Price: \$47.30.

This book is based on the authors' experience of running children's groups and training group facilitators. First, they discuss how groups can be used with children, and their advantages over other forms

of therapy work. The types of groups that can be used is also discussed. Part Two looks at planning a group program and identifying the needs of the target group, and designing a group program. Part Three examines: how to assess children for their suitability to the group; the role of the group leader; counselling and facilitation skills needed; and evaluating the outcomes of the group program. The final section gives practical examples of how to run groups which cover particular issues – for example, children exposed to domestic violence; children with ADHD; and self-esteem or social skills program. Examples of worksheets that can be used in program are also included, as is a substantial bibliography. This book would make a valuable addition to the professional resources of anyone who runs group programs for children.



The effect of children on parents, by Anne-Marie Ambert, Haworth Press, New York, (second edition), 2001.

This book examines the interactions by which parents and children change, develop and affect each other. Unlike most other research, which looks at how parents effect their children, this book looks at the opposite – how children effect their parents. Initial chapters of the book provide an overall framework, looking at child effect historically, theoretically and in terms of research. Other chapters look at children with difficult behavior and emotional

It hurts you inside: children talk about smacking, by Carolyne Willow and Tina Hyder, National Children's Bureau, London, 1998. Price: UK 13.00.

In November 1997, the British government announced its plan to review the law which allows "reasonable chastisement" of children. In order to feed into the public debate about the physical punishment of children, the National Children's Bureau and Save the Children conducted a survey on children's attitude towards smacking. Existing research had found that most infants and young children in the United Kingdom are hit by their parents, but no research could be located which asked children their opinions on this form of punishment. The study interviewed 76 children aged between five and seven years on their knowledge of and attitudes towards smacking.

To facilitate the discussions, which were carried out in small groups, a story book was produced. The central character of the book, Splodge, did not understand smacking, so in order to explain it to the character the children were asked a series of questions about smacking: What is a smack? Why do you



think children get smacked? Who smacks children? On what part of the body do children get smacked? What does it feel like to be smacked? How do children act after being smacked? Do you think you will smack children when you grow up? How can we stop children being smacked?

The vast majority of the children thought that smacking was wrong, and believed that children respond negatively to being smacked. The authors, and their organisations, argue that children must be listened to, and that the physical punishment of children must be brought to an end.

problems, and the effect of children's peers on parents. Discussion is also given to adoptive parents and immigrant and minority parents. The role of professionals in enhancing positive, and exacerbating negative, child effect on parents is also discussed. The interaction of genes and environment and how they both effect children's development and personality is also considered. The author argues that the effect of children

on parents is an under-researched area, and that the lack of social acceptance of this effect is detrimental to parents' ability to carry out their role and to socialise their children. Professionals with an interest in child development and family studies would find this book of interest.

Carole Jean is the Reference Librarian in the Institute's Family Information Centre.