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The following selection of books on family-related topics are recent additions to the Institute's Library. They are available through libraries, via the inter library loan system, or for purchase from good book shops. Prices are given as and when supplied.



**Children of parents with mental illness 2: Personal and clinical perspectives, Edited by Vicki Cowling, ACER Press, Melbourne, 2004. Price: \$34.95**

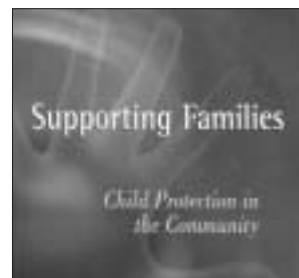
This is a companion book to the 1999 volume *Children of parents with a mental illness*. While the original volume aimed at providing a context for those working with children and their families, this collection focuses on personal and clinical perspectives. Chapters are grouped under general headings, which include: personal accounts; early years to adolescence; children living in out-of-home care; cultural considerations; and peer support. Contributors to the book include children who have a parent with a mental illness, social workers, therapists and psychologists and psychiatrists. This text would make essential reading for anyone who works or has contact with children of parents with a mental illness.



**Creative therapy: Adolescents overcoming child sexual abuse, by Kate Ollier and Angela Hobday, ACER Press, Melbourne, 2004. Price: \$34.95**

This book provides an introduction to therapeutic work with adolescents who have been sexually abused. Written for professionals, it provides more than 100 activities designed to make therapy both effective and

fun. The activities are aimed at providing ways of working with teenagers to help them regain confidence and feel positive about their future. The activities are grouped into chapters, such as: building rapport; dealing with professionals; understanding feelings; understanding the abuse; coping skills; relationships; and sensuality and sexual identity. Books for recommended further reading are also included.



**Supporting families: Child protection in the community, by Ruth Gardner, John Wiley and Sons, Chichester, 2003.**

This book is the result of a two-year evaluation study of the content and effectiveness of family support services provided by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) in the United Kingdom. The early intervention services offered by the NSPCC include group work, parent training and volunteer home visiting. Various stakeholders were interviewed to evaluate the services, including the parents, carers and children who used the service, plus NSPCC staff and other professionals involved in service provision. Parents were also asked how they thought the services had affected their children's behaviour, their own health and stress levels, and their social support networks. The author also makes recommendations for changes to policy and practice – not only within the NSPCC, but also in the wider provision of social services within the United Kingdom. All professionals involved in early intervention services with children and their families would benefit from reading this book.



**Eleven plus: Life chances and family income, by Janet Taylor and Alex Fraser, Brotherhood of St Laurence, Melbourne, 2003. Price: \$20.00.**

*Eleven Plus* is the seventh book in the series reporting the findings of the Brotherhood's Life Chances study – a longitudinal study that explores the impacts of family income and associated factors on children over time. More than 100 children born in inner-Melbourne in 1990 are part of the study. The report covers the following aspects of the children's lives: changing family context; health; the child and their family; school; the child and the wider world; family income; what families need from government; and implications for policy and practice. The findings of the study show that there are differences in the experiences of children in high- and low-income families, that low income limits the choices that parents have in providing opportunities for their children, and that low income can often cause stress within the family.



**Fatherhood and fatherlessness, by Michael Flood, The Australia Institute, Canberra, 2003.**

This paper examines some of the current debates occurring around families and parenting in Australia, especially as they relate to fathers. According to the author, society has reached a

pivotal moment in terms of fathers' roles in families and communities – a moment which presents fathers with a significant opportunity to develop stronger, more intimate bonds with their children, and a chance to enhance their roles within families. Individual chapters examine the definition of fatherhood, the significance and impact of fatherlessness, fathering politics and policies, and promoting the positive role of fathers.



**Focus on fathering, Edited by Robin Sullivan, ACER Press, Melbourne, 2003. Price: \$29.95**

This collection of papers was drawn from a Forum on Fathering organised by the Queensland Commission for Children and Young People in 2001. The first three chapters focus on work undertaken by the Commission, including their 2001 fathering study, in-depth interviews undertaken by the Commission with a small group of fathers in 2002, and the results of a 2000 Father's Day Competition where children and young people across Queensland were asked to give their views on fathers or father figures. Subsequent chapters look at the gendered division of parenting; separated fathers' grief and its impact on their parenting experiences after separation; support groups for fathers; the role of fathers in teenage mother pregnancies and the social construction of fatherhood and relationships between father and child. This collection of papers would make valuable reading for professionals who work with fathers, as well as parents themselves.



**The state of the world's children 2004, by Carol Bellamy, UNICEF, New York, 2003.**

The 2004 edition of this annual UNICEF publication focuses on the education and development of girls. It argues that universal education is possible, and that investing in girls' education today is a strategy that will protect the rights of all children to a quality education, and will jump-start other development goals. Details of specific UNICEF projects that promote the education of girls are given. As with each edition of this report, substantial statistical tables are included which give a country-by-country snapshot of the economic and social state of each country, with particular reference to children's wellbeing.



**The Blackwell companion to the sociology of families, Edited by Jacqueline Scott, Judith Treas and Martin Richards, Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, 2004.**

This substantial volume contains 28 original essays on varying aspects of the sociology of families. Taking a comparative focus, the essays examine both

**Grandparenting in divorced families**

Neil Ferguson with Gillian Douglas, Nigel Lowe, Mervyn Murch and Margaret Robinson, Policy Press, Bristol, UK, 2004.

So often, divorce research focuses on parents and children without examining the ripples that flow throughout the wider kinship structure of families after divorce. *Grandparenting in divorced families* sheds light on the complexity of these ripples, and is couched in a long tradition of scholarship from the Cardiff University Law School in the United Kingdom.

As suggested by the title, the book is about grandparents whose sons or daughters have divorced. It focuses specifically on how divorce affects the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren. A total of 115 family members in 44 families were interviewed for the study. The authors investigated the support that grandparents provide after marriage breakdown; gender differences in the grandparent role; how the age of the grandparents/grandchildren can affect their relationships; the grandparents' reactions to their adult children's divorce; the legal position of grandparents; communication



between the two sides of divorced families; and the importance that grandchildren place on their relationships with their grandparents.

The book is intended for a wide audience. It is a "must read" for those interested in the sociology of the family, as well as those deep in the trenches of family policy, research or practice.

(Readers are referred to the article on grandparenting by Neil Ferguson elsewhere in this edition of *Family Matters*.)

changing family forms and relationships and the changing social context. Part One, "Families in a Global World", examines globalisation, the changing European family, demographic trends in the United States, and families and local communities. Part Two, "Life Course Perspectives on the Family", contains essays on ageing and the life course, parenting practices, and children's families. "Inequality and Diversity" is the focus of Part Three. Essays cover immigrant families, social capital and the family, and families of the poor. Parts Four and Five look at "Changing Family Forms"

and "Relationships and their Changing Social Contexts". Issues focused upon include same-sex families; trends in the formation and dissolution of couples; work and families, and public policy and families. This volume provides an excellent and detailed overview of families (albeit with a North American and Western European bias) and would make valuable reading for all students of family studies.

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