

CAROLE JEAN

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



*Putting the kids first: Caring for children after separation.* (2008). Jenny Robinson, Jan Pryor, Roy McKenzie and Janine Moss. Wellington: Families Commission. Online copies free at website: <http://www.nzfamilies.org.nz/files/putting-kids-first-report.pdf>

This New Zealand study interviewed a sample of parents with regard to their decision making processes around post-separation parenting. A total of 39 parents were interviewed, with most having made their own arrangements without the intervention of the court system. Parents were asked how they made decisions regarding their children, how their agreements were recorded, how much time children spent with each parent and if parenting arrangements had changed over time. The information and support needs of parents undergoing separation was also examined. This report would be of interest to all who work with separated families.



*Making progress: The health, development and wellbeing of Australia's children and young people.* (2008). Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Price: \$30.00. Online copies free at website: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10653>

This publication gives an overview of the health and wellbeing of Australia's children and young people. As well as providing overall data for children in the 0–19 years range, it also presents information for the three main stages of development: infancy and early childhood (0–4 years), childhood (5–12) and adolescence (13–19). Topics covered include: mental health, disability, mortality, education, homelessness, crime, and family status and economic situation. Specific mention is made of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Where possible, comparisons are also made between Australian and international data. The information is attractively presented and would be valuable to policy makers, researchers, students and all who work with children.



*Research with children: Perspectives and practices* (2nd Ed.). (2008). Edited by Pia Christensen and Allison James. New York: Routledge. Price: £23.00.

This collection of papers explores questions arising from undertaking research with children. Authors begin with the assumption that research with children doesn't necessarily entail adopting different or particular research methods, instead they argue that what is important is that the methods chosen for research should be appropriate for the people involved in the study, for its social and cultural context, and for the kinds of research questions that are being posed. Areas covered include: how to frame research questions in childhood research, the production and

interpretation of data and the experience of the research process from differing viewpoints. New chapters include: research with children living in war-torn areas, research with children living on the streets, gendered aspects of the research process, and evidence reviews. This collection would make essential reading for all researchers whose work involves children.



*Factors associated with relationship dissolution of Australian families with children.* (2008). Peter Butterworth, Tamar Oz, Bryan Rodgers and Helen Berry. Canberra: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Online copies free at website: [http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/prps-prps\\_37.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/research/prps-prps_37.htm)

This research paper investigates the context in which relationship instability occurs, by examining the factors that precede relationship breakdown within Australian families with children. In particular, the study examines health and health behaviours by considering whether mental health problems, impaired physical functioning, hazardous levels of alcohol consumption and smoking are associated with later divorce or separation. Using data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey, it was found that a number of these measures were factors in marital instability. Of particular interest was the link between smoking and marital instability, with the authors commenting that this factor warrants further investigation.



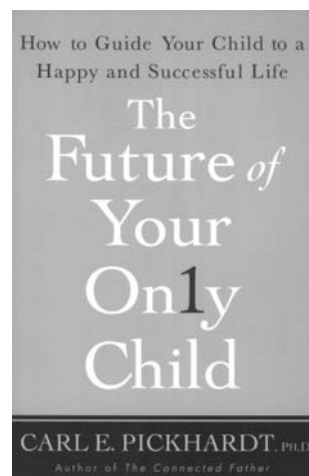
**Children, families and communities: Contexts and consequences (3rd Ed.). (2008).** Edited by Jennifer Bowes and Rebekah Grace. South Melbourne: Oxford University Press. Price: \$65.00.

This text focuses on children, families and communities and their interrelationships. In analysing children's development, or considering policy issues relevant to children, their families and communities must be taken into account. This collection gives an overview of the ways in which families, children and communities influence each other and how varying contexts can affect them all. Part A explores the central concepts of contexts and consequences and explains the theoretical framework used throughout the book. Chapters also present examples of individual characteristics that can affect wellbeing and development in children, families and communities. Part B, "Characteristics of children", examines the characteristics of disability, ethnicity and playfulness, and how these can affect wellbeing and development in children. Families, schools and communities are the focus of Part C. This includes social isolation in rural, remote and urban communities; refugees; and child care. The final section looks at issues of current and past social policy, including child protection and out-of-home care, and the Stolen Generations. Each chapter contains case studies as well as student exercises and a bibliography. While the book is primarily intended for students, it would also make valuable reading for all concerned with early childhood development and teaching.



**Creative tension: Australia's social inclusion agenda (State of the Family 2008).** (2008). Canberra: Anglicare Australia. Online copies free at website: <http://www.anglicare.asn.au/documents/StateoftheFamily2008.pdf>

Since 2000, Anglicare has published their annual State of the Family report. The 2008 edition focuses on social inclusion. Its aim is to examine the prospects for genuine social inclusion in Australia in the context of today's economy, describe the reality of life for families and consider ways in which current government aspirations for social inclusion may be given greater substance. Individual chapters focus on employment, housing affordability, and early childhood development and care.



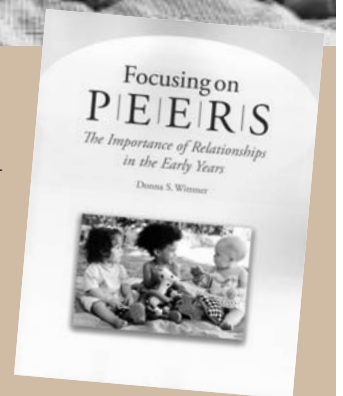
**The future of your only child: How to guide your only child to a happy and successful life.** (2008). Carl E. Pickhardt. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. Price: US\$14.95.

**Focusing on peers: The importance of relationships in the early years.** (2008).

Donna S. Wittmer. Washington: Zero to Three. Price: US\$23.00.



This book presents a research review on the development of infant and toddler relationships. The three purposes of the book are: to increase parents' and professionals' appreciation for the capacity of infants and toddlers to enjoy meaningful relationships, to emphasise the importance of the first three years of life in creating strong adult-child and peer foundations for children's relationships success throughout their lives, and to improve the quality of peer experiences for young children in early care and



education. The book is written in a clear style, making it suitable for those working in the early childhood field as well as parents.

This practical book is aimed at both parents of only children and only children as adults. It examines how being an only child can impact upon a child's development and how parents can positively influence their only child's development. The first chapter examines the growth in the number of only children and reviews research into birth order and only children. The subsequent 15 chapters each describe one family dynamic in detail. Issues covered include: friendships,

responsibility, possessiveness, ambition and dependence. This book is written in a clear style, with the author using his experience as a counsellor of only children (and their families) to add to the examples in the text. This book would make fascinating reading for anyone interested in child development, as well as only children and their families.

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