
Reviewed by Kim S. Golding, Clinical Psychologist and author of Nurturing Attachments, 2011
This is one of those rare books that successfully brings together the human and the academic. It provides a comprehensive and clear account of the theoretically based model of care used by the Lighthouse Community, whilst bringing this to life with the real-life stories of young people and carers involved with this organisation. Theory and concepts are described clearly and with understanding, but most importantly the authors have illustrated how these are used in practice to transform the lives of young people and carers alike. This book belongs in the collections of all practitioners involved with traumatized children and young people living in residential care.

Reviewed by Laura Steckley, Course Director, MSc Advanced Residential Child Care, Glasgow School of Social Work, in, The British Journal of Social Work, February, 2013
From the introduction through the final appendices, I was struck by the constant and integrated presence of thinking, feeling and reflection as integral to meeting the needs of young people, whether at an individual or organisational level..... This book offers vision and
motivation to those with requisite courage to work towards a more humane system of care for children and young people.

Reviewed by Mark Hardy, Children and Families Social Worker, Edinburgh
This simplicity in presentation, however, demonstrates one of the key achievements of the authors in having been able to present so much potentially complex theory in a way that is accessible and of great practical use.....In conclusion the authors achieve their aims and more by providing some sound knowledge, inspiration and food for thought for anyone with an interest in residential child Care.

It is a long overdue contribution towards the theory base required to equip people working in multiple roles in environments that aim to be healing in its broadest sense. I enjoyed it as much for the elements of human testimony as for the attempts made to link eclectic theory with practice...... In many ways this book provides all the key theoretical ingredients required to ‘bake’ a good quality treatment or enabling environment for children, young people and adults.

Reviewed by Rosa Kraus, South Africa, in, Journal of Child and Adolescent Mental Health, March 2014, 26:2, p.159-160, NISC (Pty) Ltd and Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group
The strength of “Therapeutic residential care for children and young people” lies in the warmth, hope and mindfulness that the authors are able to convey through their writing style, with the inclusion of case examples, and the skilled synthesis of theory and practical input. Whilst some areas might seem somewhat elementary the overall package is a wonderfully accessible resource for those working within children’s homes and places of safety. However, the value of this book is not just limited to the residential sector: the clear, concise theoretical framework coupled with practical and sound guidance on working with children makes this book essential reading for many working within the child care sector and, perhaps of more importance, those holding decision making roles in policy and legislation.


Reviewed in: PsycCRITIQUES, American Psychological Association 2008, by Nancy Burke
I would encourage directors of programs such as the one on which this book is based to distribute it widely among their staffs and to expect, as a result, to see improvements in the lives of patients.

Reviewed in: CAFCASS Publication Channel C
This a short and clearly written book which firmly follows child-
centred and evidence based practice to outline an integrated approach to the assessment and therapy of very disturbed children. It draws on current social work thinking but also includes insights from residential and educational settings. Most Cafcass practitioners will find new, useful and interesting ideas in this book, and should be able to apply them in their work, particularly with older children, in both public and private law.

Reviewed in: Accord Magazine
This particular book, is a sensitive and comprehensive description of assessment revealing the crucial importance of getting it right for the well being of the child. There is a particularly helpful appendix which shows the progress of one child over a period of time and how she has been assessed at different stages."

I think this book would help all counsellors (whether working with children or adults) in rethinking how we initially engage with clients and carry out our initial assessment. I certainly have decided to read all the books in this series.


Reviewed in: Community Care July 2006, by Rebecca Eden
This is an excellent guide for professionals undertaking life story work with children or practitioners working with traumatized children, writes Rebecca Eden.

It has useful sections on general work with children. For example, it briefly outlines attachment theory and breaks down the process of interviewing, offering advice about each stage. It is easy to read and the format makes it simple to find or recap particular sections.

Reviewed in: Adoption and Fostering on the Internet January 2006, by Melanie Morgan RN RMN DATS
Do I recommend this book? Yes I do, it's easy to read and a good reference for multi disciplinary teams of staff and foster carers alike.

This is a valuable and must have resource for all those who work with and alongside traumatized children and young people.

As a therapist working with displaced refugee and asylum seeking children who have often suffered multiple trauma's in home country, journey to U.K., and in U.K., I feel this book has much to offer in developing the 'Child's Own Story'.

Reviewed in: Counselling Children and Young People, by Linda Bean – BACP accredited counselor/psychotherapist

The authors demonstrate throughout the book a deeply thoughtful and patient approach, which helps us see a traumatised child's behaviour as 'a communication, to be understood and given meaning', however destructive or neglectful it may be. Short vignettes drawn from casework illuminate and amplify our understanding.

By the end of the book, we can begin to 'imagine in' the world of a severely abused 'child and those who care for them, and respond helpfully. This is a useful process for any counsellor/psychotherapist as well as specialist workers such as foster carers, social workers and counsellors/psychotherapists supporting fostering and adoptive placements.

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Reviewed in: Community Care May 2006, by Lynne Fordyce - East Leeds PCT

This book is illustrated throughout with stories of recovering children, alongside descriptions of a wide range of techniques using expressive arts and play to foster both verbal and non-verbal communication, and explanations about the impact of abuse on a child's development.

This book can be dipped into or read from cover to cover, a boon for any busy therapist or social worker wishing to develop therapy.....It also provides exercises for the reader so that they are in touch with a child's feelings and predicaments. It is well worth adding to your library.

Reviewed in: Counselling Children and Young People, 2009, by Janet Edwards, Counselor, Therapist and Foster Carer
Overall, it’s a useful overview to show how the odds are stacked against traumatised children and how to plan and manage placements perfectly to prevent further problems.

Therapeutic Approaches in Work with Traumatized Children and Young People, Tomlinson, P. (2004), Jessica Kingsley Publishers

Reviewed in: Community Care, online January 2005 by Panos Vostanis - professor of child and adolescent psychiatry, University of Leicester.
At times of financial constraints for therapeutic residential facilities for traumatised young people, this is a refreshing "back to basics" approach, writes Panos Vostanis. Such children have complex emotional, behavioural and social needs. The text draws on the author's experience and wealth of material from staff discussions.

The additional material on child-adult, staff dynamics, supervision and management, will be of great interest to a wide range of residential staff, social workers, foster carers, therapists and educationalists caring for or working with emotionally needy children and young people.
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Patrick Tomlinson has authored, co-authored or edited 7 books, as well as numerous papers, on the subject of therapeutic work with children and young people who are in residential or foster care. The books have been authored in collaboration with a number of different organizations. He has also co-authored an autobiography.

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Stephen Jones, Senior Commissioning Editor, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, UK and USA

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