



Edited by
Kim S. Golding, Helen R. Dent,
Ruth Nissim and Liz Stott

Thinking Psychologically About Children Who Are Looked After and Adopted: Space for Reflection

Kim S. Golding (Editor), Helen R. Dent (Co-Editor), Ruth Nissim (Co-Editor), Liz Stott (Co-Editor)

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DESCRIPTION

Assessment, intervention and living with children who are looked after or adopted all require an understanding of psychology and its application.

This innovative collection makes thinking psychologically about looked after and adopted children accessible and, in doing so, provides an insight into the world of these children. Informed by research, practice and psychological theory, this volume provides an overview of the area and considers the context for helping children change and develop. It goes on to describe in detail the techniques and approaches used by clinicians, and explains how interventions can be developed and adapted for children and young people living in residential, foster and adoptive care. Careful consideration is also given to carers and families living with these children.

With its multi-disciplinary approach, *Thinking Psychologically About Children Who Are Looked After and Adopted* will appeal to all professionals involved in the care and education of placed children. It will also be of interest to policy makers and lecturers and students of social work.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kim S. Golding, BSc (Hons), MSc (Clinical Psychology), DClinPsy

Kim is a chartered clinical psychologist, employed by Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust in Worcestershire, providing clinical leadership for the Integrated Service for Looked After Children (ISL). She was part of a small group who developed the Primary Care and Support Team (now part of ISL). The team provides support and training for foster, adoptive and residential carers. Kim has a longstanding interest in parenting, and collaborating with parents or carers to develop their parenting skills tailored to the particular needs of the children they are caring for. Within ISL she has developed a group for foster carers based on attachment theory, and has carried out research exploring the use of the consultation service. Kim coordinated a national network for clinical psychologists working with looked after and adopted children for a number of years. Additional to her clinical work Kim was, for 15 years, an associate lecturer for the Open University teaching Introduction to Psychology and Child Development.

Contact details: Integrated Service for Looked After Children, The Pines, Bilford Road, Worcester, WR3 8PU.

Email: kim.golding@tiscali.co.uk

Helen R. Dent, BA (Hons), MPhil, PhD

Helen is a chartered clinical and forensic psychologist, currently employed as Programme Director of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the Universities of Staffordshire and Keele. Her previous post was Consultant Clinical Psychologist in an Inter-Agency team with children looked after by the local authority. She is continuing her work in this area, and has a contract with North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS trust as Honorary Consultant Clinical Psychologist. She is particularly interested in strategic and systemic interventions, and in neuropsychological development. Prior to training as a clinical psychologist at the Institute of Psychiatry, Helen gained a PhD from the University of Nottingham, for which she carried out pioneering research into children as witnesses. She has held various academic and clinical appointments and has edited three previous books, including *Children as Witnesses* (1992) with Rhona Flin, published by John Wiley & Sons.

Contact details: Shropshire and Staffordshire Clinical Psychology Training Programme, Faculty of Health and Sciences, Staffordshire University, Mellor Building, College Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2DE.

Email: helen.dent@staffs.ac.uk

Ruth Nissim, BA (Hons,) MEd, PhD

Ruth is a consultant clinical psychologist and UKCP registered family therapist who has been in practice since qualifying in 1977. Since the early 1980s she has specialized in children living away from home in substitute families and in residential care. She has worked in all three agencies: Education, Social Services and the NHS, as well as for a private adoption agency. Since taking early retirement Ruth has worked on a freelance basis with a particular focus on supporting adoptive families. In 1999 she completed a research doctorate looking at the outcomes for children placed in adoptive or foster families longer-term.

Contact details: Dores Cottage, 17, High St, Finstock, Oxon OX7 3DA.

Liz Stott, MSc (Hons), MSc (Clinical Psychology)

Liz is a chartered clinical psychologist who has been working with children for the past 16 years. She has worked in both residential adolescent units and outpatient CAMHS before taking up specific posts to work with looked after children and their carers. She is interested in systemic and psychodynamic approaches to consultation and uses these ideas to inform practice when working with larger organizations such as Social Services, smaller organizations such as children's homes and also in consultation with carers. She is currently employed by Partnership Trust in Gloucestershire.

Contact details: The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Delancey Hospital, Charlton Lane, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 9DU.

Email: liz@patnliz.eclipse.co.uk

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