

Book launch: *Childhood, Well-being and a Therapeutic Ethos*

A new book calls for a greater focus on the experience of childhood, and a step away from scientific and technical imperatives, in a bid to capture a higher quality childhood and thereby to lessen the current young generation's need for adult therapy in the future.

Childhood, Well-being and a Therapeutic Ethos follows widespread debate surrounding the issue of 'toxic childhood', questioning current policy and practice and its impact on the welfare of children.

Edited by Dr Richard House and Professor Del Loewenthal from the University's Centre for Therapeutic Education, the collection of essays explores the need for an approach to forming policy that is informed by therapeutic values, if we as a society are to enhance children's well-being. International tables place the well-being of children in the UK and the USA very near, if not at, the bottom, which has in turn precipitated mounting cultural and political concern.

"We must pay particular attention to childhood experience, showing that scientific and technical developments are always secondary to the resources of the human soul, if we are to minimize the extent to which today's children will need therapy as adults," said Professor Loewenthal.

Dr House added: "This will entail moving beyond narrowly mechanistic definitions of, and ways of thinking about, 'well-being' and the psychological therapies. This book offers pointers to the kinds of arguments that can inform what is rapidly becoming a central concern of politicians and policy-makers."

In his foreword for the book, Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams said: "No-one can now ignore the fact that a serious debate about the welfare of children has at last begun in our society. And, appropriately, it has started to open up a wider debate about the nature of learning and even the nature of human maturity. The essays in this collection are significant not only for what they say about childhood but for what they invite us to think about human growth and wellbeing in general."

Childhood, Well-being and a Therapeutic Ethos will be core cross-disciplinary reading in a range of academic and training contexts.

This essential text is being launched at a conference hosted by the Research Centre for Therapeutic Education in association with the Universities Psychotherapy and Counselling Association on 'Cutting Edge or Cliche: The Relational in Psychotherapy and Counselling' this weekend.

For further information please call
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