

Reviews

Social Work with Young People in Care:
Looking after children in theory and practice

Nigel Thomas

Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005, 232pp. ISBN 1403920508 (pbk) £17.99

Social Work with Young People in Care takes readers on a comprehensive, albeit broad-brush, tour of the looking after children and young people landscape and it does this via a number of accessible pathways. Initially, the talking style of the book felt a tad patronising but I guess the author may well have drawn substantially upon teaching sessions and lecture notes in order to develop this into a book that can reach a wide audience. The danger, however, is that it only skims the surface on what is a complex, contested and challenging area of theory and practice. However, Nigel Thomas does provide clear signposts to take the issues further and deeper and he cannot be held responsible if readers chose not to do so.

The book is punctuated with exercises that can help readers to engage with the issues, additionally, of course they can also be a useful resource for trainers and teachers. At the end of each chapter, key points are summarised and the reading guide provides a flavour of what the recommended books have to offer.

The first half of the book provides the theory and context to working with looked after young people. It covers a number of key themes, principles and theories that relate to children and young people in care which includes chapters on the Needs of Children in Care, Listening to Children and Law, Policy and Practice in Looking After Young People. Sadly, the law section is already dated since it does not respond to the Children Act 2004.

The second half of the book focuses on practice. Again this is a comprehensive journey through some of the key practice areas and sites. The chapters cover: Assessment and Planning, Placement and Contact, Residential and Foster Care, Adoption and Working for Permanence, Leaving Care and After Care. The final concluding chapter examines 'Outcomes, effectiveness and good practice'.

This book is particularly pleasing in the way in which it links the looked after system, so often ghettoised, to the rest of children and family social work. In so doing it provides clear routes for foster carers, residential staff, social workers and

interagency staff to work together with children and young people. Furthermore, this book could help practitioners keep abreast with a raft of research and theory publications which, as the author points out is difficult to do even for a university lecturer.

Social Work with Young People in Care is a book that should definitely be added to the indicative reading lists for social work students and staff.

Sue Mills

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For these young people the guidance of a social worker or housing officer can make all the difference. Yet the NAO found that 64% of local authority services for care leavers require improvement or are inadequate. And the government's leaving care strategy has potential to improve children's lives, provided it is developed further with renewed emphasis on joining up action across government. We should learn from the recent change in Scottish law, where children can stay in their care placement up to the age of 21, with support available until they are 26. We know what works for care leavers. Now the government needs to put the legislation and resources in place to make these solutions available to young people as they leave care.

Topics. Social Care Network. Working with people who have special needs will teach you about many important aspects about life in general. Whether or not you're looking to follow a career path in the medical or care areas or intend choosing an entirely different career path altogether, any potential employer will be impressed by you choosing to commit yourself to this kind of voluntary work as it indicates a social interest in the well-being of other people and your commitment to the issue.

Hello there, I currently work with young children in Croydon having completed my Level 2 in Young people and children's workforce and now progressing onto my level 3 I am hoping to volunteer with young people with special needs to gain better knowledge and experience in that sector. An extensive number of young people in Western countries are facing severe difficulties, due to mental ill-health (Hagqvist, 2011 ; Palmer, 2012) in combination with social vulnerability. These young people are often referred to as having "complex needs". Complex needs is an elusive concept (Hood, 2015) and there are large variations in what kind of problems and needs someone labeled as a person with complex needs may have. A reference group consisting of six professionals in leading positions in psychiatric child and youth care and social services at regional and municipal level was formed. From the start, the researchers and the reference group have met in bimonthly meetings. For this review, the reference group were consulted particularly when identifying the problem. Involving children and young people in cooking can encourage healthy eating and improve communication. Teaching children to prepare their own food gives them a sense of accomplishment which can boost their self-esteem. All children in the care system should be supported and provided with opportunities to participate in cooking, regardless of their skill level. I don't expect things to always turn out perfectly " skills will improve with time and practice " and new recipes often develop when things don't go as you expect. Of course, safety is important, so make sure you help children learn safe knife skills at an appropriate age, and keep sharp objects away from younger children. This text offers a clear and balanced introduction to social work with children and young people who are looked after away from home. The book explains the context in which children are looked after, the range of services available, and the research evidence, laying the groundwork for developing good practice skills. Theoretically informed but practice-oriented throughout, this is a much-needed guide to social work with children in care for students, practitioners, educators and policy-makers. ...more. Get A Copy. Amazon. Social Work with Young People in Care: Looking after Children in Theory and Practice. ISBN. 1403920508 (ISBN13: 9781403920508).