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An Annotated Bibliography on Children of Divorce

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AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON
CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

Compiled by Jane D. Woody*

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ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

Ames, Louise B. "Children and Divorce: What the Teacher Can Do," Educational Digest, Vol. 35 (Nov. 1969), pp. 19-21.

Offers teachers suggestions on providing emotional support to children of divorce.

Anspach, Donald R. "Kinship and Divorce," Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 38 (May 1976), pp. 323-330.

Examines contacts of married, divorced, and remarried women with kin persons and their effects on minor children.

Bane, Mary Jo. "Marital Disruption and the Lives of Children," Journal Of Social Issues, Vol. 32, No. 1 (1976), pp. 103-118.

Predicts on the bases of various statistical sources that in the next decade perhaps 40% of all children will be affected by a marital disruption (parental separation, divorce, or death). Discusses issues relevant to meeting the special needs of these children, especially economic needs.

Beyer, Margaret, et al. "Runaway Youths": Families in Conflict." Paper presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Meeting, Washington, D.C., May 3-5, 1973.

Research data suggest that adolescents who run away come from broken homes where disruption during preadolescence has been associated with parental separation and remarriage.

Bitterman, Catherine M. "The Multimarriage Family." Social Casework, Vol. 49 (April 1968), pp. 218-221.

Outlines some of the special problem areas of the remarriage family, including unresolved conflicts and unconscious processes that dominated the first marriage, economic problems, building a new family unit, and the adaptation of children. Suggests guidelines for casework practice.

Bosley, Wade R. "Child Support--Protecting the Child's Interests," Family Law Quarterly, Vol. 4 (Sept. 1970), pp. 230-279.

Focuses on how the attorney can monitor the mother's provision for the child but little attention is given to issue of nonpayment by father.

Bowerman, Charles E. and Donald P. Irish. "Some Relationships of Stepchildren to their Parents," Marriage and Family Living, Vol. 24 (May 1962).

Reports on a large random sample of respondents who were children of remarried parents. Information about the remarriage family includes primarily demographic factors such as parents' marital status prior to remarriage, age, social class of parents, etc. All data obtained are via self-report.

Burchinal, Lee G. "Characteristics of Adolescents from Unbroken, Broken and Reconstituted Families," Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 26 (February 1964), pp. 44-51.

A large scale questionnaire study of 1,500 Iowa high school students. Revealed few differences that could be attributed to the marital status of parents. Variables studied were based on a personality test, social relationships, school attendance, etc.

Chen, Ronald. "The Dilemma of Divorce: Disaster or Remedy," Family Coordinator, Vol. 17 (1968), pp. 252-256.

Reviews a program developed by Parents Without Partners which offers a support group for newly divorced persons and discussion of various types of marital relationships that seem related to divorce.

"Child Support in Missouri: The Father's Duty, the Child's Right, and the Mother's Ability to Enforce," Missouri Law Review. Vol. 36 (Summer 1971), pp. 325-342.

Summarizes and analyzes factors involved in minor child's mother's ability to enforce support of the child.

Dell, Paul F. and Appelbaum, Alan S. "Trigenerational Enmeshment: Unresolved Ties of Single Parents to the Family of Origin," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 47 (1977), pp. 52-59.

Clinical impressions provide the base for discussing the dysfunctional family unit that can result when divorced single mothers return with their children to live with their families of origin. Includes examples of treatment approaches.

Drinan, Robert F. "America's Half Orphans: Children Without Fathers," Vital Speeches, Vol. 28 (Nov. 1, 1961), pp. 63-64.

In a speech given to a social work conference, Drinan argues that divorce inevitably heads to stress, anxiety, and deprivation of children.

Drinan, Robert F. "The Rights of Children: Modern American Family Law," Vital Speeches, Vol. 29 (October 15, 1962), pp. 30-32.

Historical analysis of children's rights in the nuclear family and the single parent family.

Duberman, Lucille. "Step-Kin Relationships," Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 35 (May 1973), pp. 283-292.

Reports on a small scale random sample of 88 couples remarried during 1965-69. Sample was drawn from the marriage license bureau in Cleveland, Ohio. Findings include: that stepfathers are more apt to achieve excellent relations with their stepchildren than stepmothers, that the higher the social class the greater the chance for excellent stepparent-stepchild relations, that in general stepparent-stepchild relationships are better than previous research has found.

Elkin, Meyer. "Conciliation Courts: The Reintegration of Disintegrating Families," Family Coordinator, Vol. 22 (1973), pp. 63-71.

Describes the purpose, philosophy, practice, and procedures of the family counseling program of the Conciliation Court of the Superior Court of Los Angeles.

Fain, Harry M. "Protecting Children of Divorce," Milwaukee Bar Association Gavel, Vol. 28 (June 1967), pp. 12-13, 28.

Reviews the procedures and achievements of the Milwaukee Family Court in dealing with children in custody disputes.

Fast, Irene and Albert C. Cain. "The Stepparent Role: Potential for Disturbances in Family Functioning," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 36 (April 1966), pp. 485-491.

Discusses the contradictory pressures on stepparents to act as parent, nonparent, and stepparent which cause difficulty in their achieving stable patterns of feeling, thinking and acting toward their stepchildren. Normal role-learning opportunities afforded the natural parent are not available. Applying the normative pattern of the nuclear family is not appropriate.

Feldberg, R. and Kohen, J. "Family Life in an Anti-Family Setting--Critique of Marriage and Divorce," Family Coordinator, Vol. 25 (1976), pp. 151-159.

Relates the failure of family life to its complex dependence on the capitalist corporate order and argues that attention be given to the social and economic structures that place unmanageable constraints on couples.

Fisher, E. O. "Guide to Divorce Counseling," Family Coordinator, Vol. 22 (1973), pp. 55-61.

Advocates term "marriage and divorce counselor" and delineates dimensions of predivorce counseling, divorce counseling, and post divorce counseling.

Gardner, George E. "Separation of the Parents and the Emotional Life of the Child," Mental Hygiene, Vol. 40 (Jan. 1956), pp. 53-64.

Discusses effects of separation and divorce on the child's self-concept and on concept of other human beings.

Hetherington, E. Mavis, Cox, Martha, and Cox, Roger. "The Aftermath of Divorce." Invited address presented at the meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D. C., September, 1976 (mimeographed).

Discusses in general the results of a two-year study of divorced parents and preschool age children as compared with a matched sample from intact families. Reveals significantly different (lower levels) of functioning for the divorced sample in a variety of areas.

Hozman, Thomas L. and Froiland, Donald J. "Families in Divorce: A Proposed Model for Counseling the Children," Family Coordinator, Vol. 25 (July 1976), pp. 271-275.

Presents a model designed to facilitate counseling with preadolescent children whose parents are going through divorce. Based upon a standard loss model, the techniques help the child work through feelings.

Journal of Social Issues, Vol. 32, No. 1 (1976).

The entire issue is devoted to separation and divorce. Articles encompass consideration of sociopsychological factors as well as social and public policy issues.

Kalter, Neil. "Children of Divorce in an Outpatient Psychiatric Population," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 47 (1977), pp. 40-51.

Research study reviewed the records of 400 children referred for outpatient psychiatric evaluation and found that children of divorce appeared at nearly twice the rate of their occurrence in the general population.

Kaplan, S. L. "Structural Family Therapy for Children of Divorce--Case Reports," Family Process, Vol. 16 (1977), pp. 75-83.

Discusses structural family therapy techniques for treating families with a parental divorce in which a child is presenting psychiatric symptoms.

Kelly, J. B. and Wallerstein, J. S. "Brief Interventions with Children in Divorcing Families," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry Vol. 47 (1977), pp. 20-32.

Describes the clinical interventions developed as part of a five-year clinical research project for children of divorcing families. Focuses on assessment, strategies, and limitations of the interventions.

Kelly, J. B. and Wallerstein, J. S. "Effects of Parental Divorce--Experiences of the Child in Early Latency," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 46 (1976), pp. 20-32.

Discusses part of the sample of a five-year clinical research project--26 children in early latency. Focuses on the children's responses to the divorce process as based on clinical interviews and observation.

Kessler, Sheila. "Divorce Adjustment Groups," Personnel and Guidance Journal, Vol. 54 (Jan. 1976), pp. 251-255.

The author's extensive work with divorce adjustment groups provides the base for a description of techniques and problems regarding effective counseling of divorced people.

Koch, Margaret Body. "Anxiety in Preschool Children from Broken Homes," Merrill-Palmer Quarterly, Vol. 7 (Oct. 1961), pp. 225-231.

Research study on 22 preschool children revealed the test scores on anxiety were higher for children from broken homes and that they were more likely to have adjustment problems than children from intact homes.

Landis, Judson T. "The Trauma of Children When Parents Divorce," Marriage and Family Living, Vol. 22 (Feb. 1960), pp. 7-13.

Research on 295 university students who were children of divorce. Analyzes the self-reports of the subjects and discusses potentially traumatic situations.

McDaniel, Charles. "Children in Divorce Cases: The Wisdom of Solomon Challenged," Christian Century, Vol. 89 (Feb. 16, 1972), pp. 202-204.

Based on a symposium at the 1972 meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the article focuses on child custody law and child's right to own legal representation.

McDermott, John F., Jr. "Divorce and Its Psychiatric Sequelae in Children," Archives of General Psychiatry, Vol. 23 (Nov. 1970), pp. 421-427.

Research study examines statistically the characteristics of children from divorced families seen at the University of Michigan's Children's Psychiatric Hospital.

McDermott, John F. Jr. "Parental Divorce in Early Childhood," American Journal of Psychiatry, Vol. 124 (April 1968), pp 1424-1432.

Study of 16 nursery school-age children revealed that the majority showed dramatic behavioral changes after parents' divorce, especially sad and angry and lost and detached behaviors.

Morrison, J. R. "Parental Divorce as a Factor in Childhood Psychiatric Illness," Comprehensive Psychiatry, Vol. 15 (1974), pp 95-102.

Research study delves into several background factors of 127 children evaluated by a children's psychiatric clinic. Finds high incidence of psychiatric disorder, particularly antisocial behavior and alcoholism, among divorced parents.

Nye, Ivan F. "Child Adjustment in Broken and in Unhappy, Unbroken Homes," Marriage and Family Living, Vol. 19 (November 1957), pp. 356-361.

Reports on a questionnaire study of 780 high school students who gave self-reports on various facets of their family lives. Study concludes that the unbroken, unhappy home is more stressful than the broken home.

Olshaker, Bennett. "Separation and Divorce," in What Shall We Tell the Kids? New York: Arbor House, 1971.

Chapter offers common-sense advice on dealing with expectable problems surrounding divorce and remarriage.

Perry, Joseph B. and Pfuhl, Erdwin H. "Adjustment of Children in 'Solo' and 'Remarriage' Homes," Marriage and Family Living, Vol. 25 (May 1963), pp. 221-223.

No significant differences were found in children's adjustment between the two groups studied.

Plant, James S. "The Psychiatrist Views Children of Divorced Parents," Law and Contemporary Problems (Summer 1944), pp. 807-818. Reprinted in Ruth S. Cavan (Ed.). Marriage and the Family in the Modern World: A Book of Readings. 3rd Ed. New York: Crowell Co., 1969.

Presents the view that children are often used as pawns or rejected altogether by their divorcing parents.

Robbins, Norman N. "Legal Standards for Determining 'Best Interest of Child,'" Family Coordinator, Vol. 23 (Jan. 1974), pp. 87-90.

Discusses several guidelines to use for determining child custody in divorces including the Michigan Child Custody Act of 1970.

Schlesinger, Bernard. "Remarriage as Family Reorganization for Divorced Persons: A Canadian Study," Journal of Comparative Family Studies, Vol. 1 (Autumn 1970), pp. 101-118.

Reports on a study of 96 Toronto couples, primarily Protestant and middle class. The research is an exploratory effort and contains little quantitative analysis.

Silvern, Steven B. and Yawkey, Thomas D. "Divorce: Some Effects on and Teaching Strategies for Young Children." Unpublished manuscript, Available through Division of Early Childhood Education, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Describes various psychological reactions of children and offers suggestions for healthy adjustment of children to the divorce situation. Emphasis on necessity for adults to be prepared for this task.

Sonne, J. C. "Question of Compulsory Marriage Counseling as a Part of Divorce Proceedings," Family Coordinator, Vol. 23 (1974), pp. 303-305.

Questions efforts to initiate compulsory counseling, indicating more study is needed on the rationale, the current effectiveness of therapy, optimal conditions for therapy, the relationship of the citizen and therapist to government, and the government's role in family and child welfare.

Sorosky, A. D. "Psychological Effects of Divorce on Adolescents," Adolescence, Vol. 12 (1977), pp. 123-136.

Reviews some of the literature on the psychological effects of divorce on adolescents and offers clinical impressions based on private practice with an upper middle class suburban population.

Stack, Carol B. "Who Owns the Child--Divorce and Child Custody Decisions in Middle Class Families," Social Problems, Vol. 23 (1976), pp. 505-515.

Author argues against the position of Goldstein, Greud, and Solnit (Beyond the Best Interests of the Child) who favor limiting access of the noncustodial parent to the child. She favors "joint custody" unless there is reason that the court determines this is not in child's best interest.

Tooley, Kay. "Antisocial Behavior and Social Alienation Post Divorce: The 'Man of the House' and his Mother," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 46 (1976), pp. 33-42.

Clinical impressions provide the base for discussing problems of divorced mothers and their young sons that may be manifested in the child's antisocial behavior.

Wallerstein, J. S. and Kelly, J. B. "Divorce Counseling--Community Service for Families in Midst of Divorce," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 47 (1977), pp. 4-22.

Provides the conceptual framework for child-centered, preventive clinical services that were part of a five-year clinical research project. Details the structure and components of the therapeutic intervention.

Wallerstein, J. S. and Kelly, J. B. "The Effects of Parental Divorce: The Adolescent Experience," in The Child in His Family: Children at Psychiatric Risk, E. Anthony and C. Koupernik, (Eds.) New York: John Wiley, 1974.

Discusses part of a sample of a five-year clinical research project. Focuses on the adolescent's responses to the divorce process as based on clinical interviews and observation.

Wallerstein, J. S. and Kelly, J. B. "Effects of Parental Divorce--Experiences on the Child in Later Latency," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, Vol. 46 (1976), pp. 256-269.

Discusses part of a sample of a five year clinical research project--31 children in later latency. Focuses on the children's responses to the divorce process as based on clinical interviews and observation.

Wallerstein, J. S. and Kelly, J. B. "Effects of Parental Divorce--Experiences of the Preschool Child," Journals of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Vol. 14 (1975), pp. 600-616.

Discusses a subsample of preschoolers who were part of a five-year clinical research project. Focuses on the children's responses to the divorce process as based on clinical interviews and observation.

Watson, Andrew A. "Children of Armageddon: Problems of Custody Following Divorce," Syracuse Law Review, Vol. 21 (Fall, 1969), pp. 55-86.

Discusses the current treatment of children in divorce cases and presents suggestion for determining the psychological "best interest of the child."

Westman, Jack C. and Cline, David W. "Divorce Is a Family Affair," Family Law Quarterly, Vol. 5 (March 1971), pp. 1-10.

Discusses the effects of divorce on family interaction and on children.

Westman, Jack C., Cline, David W., Swift, William J., and Kramer, Douglas A. "Role of Child Psychiatry in Divorce," Archives of General Psychiatry, Vol. 23 (Nov. 1970), pp. 416-420.

Discusses treatment of children by parents embroiled in divorce proceedings and gives recommendations for post divorce psychiatric help.

Wilson, Kenneth L. et al. "Stepfathers and Stepchildren: An Exploratory Analysis from Two National Surveys," Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 37 (August 1975), pp. 526-536.

Using data from two large national surveys, the study analyzes the differences between the two groups--respondents who had lived with stepfathers and respondents from unbroken families. Several variables analyzed are related to mental health.

Wiseman, Revas S. "Crisis Theory and Process of Divorce," Social Casework, Vol. 56 (1975), pp. 205-212.

Focuses on the "divorce process as one in which both spouses experience a form of emotional crisis. Highlights both threats and opportunities for growth following the standard grief model.

BOOKS

Arnstein, Helen S. What to Tell Your Child--About Birth, Death, Illness, Divorce and Other Family Crises. Indianapolis: Bobbs--Merrill, 1962.

Includes practical suggestions to the custodial parent about explaining divorce and the future to children and guidelines for parents about visiting and remarriage issues.

Bohannon, Paul, (Ed.) Divorce and After. New York: Doubleday, 1970.

Outstanding collection of essays dealing with a wide range of topics relating to divorce, e.g., legal, sexual, social, psychological aspects.

Despert, Louise J. Children of Divorce. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, 1953.

Based on extensive clinical practice, the book explores the needs of children of divorce, identifies expected problems, and offers practical sensitive advice for helping children and parents in the divorce process. Numerous case examples included that reflect primarily a middle or upper class clientele.

Duberman, Lucille. The Reconstituted Family. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1975.

Book is based on the previously cited Duberman article and provides an extensive analysis of relationships among members of remarriage families.

Egleson, Jim and Janet Egleson. Parents Without Partners: A Guide for Divorced, Widowed or Separated Parents. New York: Dutton, 1961.

The founders of Parents Without Partners discuss problems of single parenting in practical and personal terms.

Farber, Seymour M. and Wilson, Roger H. L. (Eds.). Teenage Marriage and Divorce. Berkeley: Diablo Press, 1967.

Based on a symposium held at the University of California Medical Center in California, this book offers useful statistics as well as an analysis of teenage divorce.

Frohlich, Newton. Making the Best of It: A Common-Sense Guide to Negotiating a Divorce. New York: Harper and Row, 1971.

Discusses the benefits of negotiated divorce as opposed to the litigated type. Offers "how to" suggestions and a general discussion of divorce counseling.

Gardner, Richard A. The Boys and Girls Book about Divorce. New York: Science House, 1970.

Straight forward, sensible and practical guide written for children to assist them in handling their divorced parents. Contradicts many of the stereotypes about children of divorced parents.

Gardner, Richard A. The Parents Book about Divorce. New York: Doubleday and Co., 1977.

Advises parents directly on how to deal with typical reactions of children to divorce so as to protect the child from serious psychological disturbance. Practical advice also on dealing openly with teacher, neighbors, friends, etc., and on parental dating and remarriage.

Gardner, Richard A. Psychotherapy with Children of Divorce. New York: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1976.

Outlines for professionals the common reactions of children of divorce--denial, grief, depression, fears of abandonment, blame and guilt, anger, immaturity and hypermaturity, etc. Specific therapeutic techniques are described.

Goldstein, Joseph, Ann Freud and Albert J. Solnit. Beyond the Best Interests of the Child. New York: The Free Press, 1973.

The authors develop the concepts of the psychological parent and the least detrimental alternative to be applied in child placement proceedings. Based on psychoanalytic theory, the authors question and reject contemporary indefinite adoption procedures, court jurisdiction over child custody in divorce and separation, and such practices as split custody and non-custodial parent's visitation rights. They do not adequately deal with the application of their guidelines to the actual complex realities of child custody issues arising out of divorce and separation.

Goode, William. Women in Divorce. New York: Free Press, 1965.

Book is based on a well-researched study of lower class women, and includes their response to their children's adjustment to their remarriages. Seventy-five percent evaluated their children's lives as better than during the former marriage.

Grollman, Earl A. (Ed.). Explaining Divorce to Children. Boston: Beacon Press, 1969.

Offers various perspectives including psychology, law, psychiatry, sociology, child development, and religion. Suggests specifics for explaining divorce to children.

Jones, Eve. Raising Your Child in a Fatherless Home: A Guidebook for All Mothers Without Partners. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1963.

Suggests guidelines for single mothers for coping with the pressures and emotional problems they and their children are likely to face.

Krantzler, Mel. Creative Divorce. New York: M. Evans, 1973.

Focuses on preparation for the expectable crises and problems brought on by divorce. Sees the divorce process as requiring the individual to cope and explore opportunities for growth and development of an independent self. Mostly optimistic advice offered regarding children of divorce.

Mindey, Carol. The Divorced Mother. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1970.

Includes some research as well as personal experiences and attention to preparation before the divorce, to children, and to adjustment problems.

Simon, Anne W. Stepchild in the Family: A View of Children in Remarriage. New York: Odyssey Press, 1964.

Discusses effects of death and divorce on a child in the context of new family relationships.

Smith, William C. The Stepchild. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1953.

Historical review of the theme of the stepchild in fiction folklore, biography and drama; discusses complexities in the role of stepparent and factors in the stepchild's adjustment.

Steinzor, Bernard. When Parents Divorce: A New Approach to New Relationships. New York: Pantheon, 1969.

Emphasizes the "divorce with freedom" and opposes the so called "friendly" divorce. Offers a variety of legal and emotional advice on all aspects of divorce.

Stuart, Irving R. and Lawrence Abt. Children of Separation and Divorce. New York: Grossman, 1972.

A variety of specialists as well as children and parents explore the effects of divorce on children and make suggestions for helping.