DESCRIPTION

Although most families do not repeat the patterns of abuse of their childhood, there is evidence that, for whatever reason, substantial numbers do. This book explores continuing intergenerational cycles of child maltreatment and the controversies that surround the theories, focusing mainly on physical abuse, neglect, and emotional abuse, rather than sexual abuse. Examining the facts and the fallacies permeating the international literature, the author suggests that in intergenerational child maltreatment, there may not be just one cycle, but four separate cycles: sociopolitical factors; recurring cultural patterns; psychological factors; and biological factors. Interventions need to be focused on each cycle independently to attempt to break the cycle of child maltreatment. Ann Buchanan draws on her wide range of both academic and research experience in this field, as well as on her clinical experience, to bring together both the theories and research in the mechanisms of transmission, and the practical aspects of interventions. The book is easily accessible with clear summaries and will prove an excellent introduction to all those working with children and families.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ann Buchanan is Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Associate at the University of Oxford, UK. She has been researching into child and family well-being, specifically fathering, grandparenting and divorce, for more than twenty years. At Oxford she directed the Centre for Research into Parenting and Children. Her work has an international profile and she was awarded an MBE in 2012.
SERIES

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The majority of children who are abused do not show signs of extreme disturbance. Research has suggested a relationship between child maltreatment and a variety of short- and long-term consequences, but considerable uncertainty and debate remain about the effects of child victimization on children, adolescents, and adults. It begins with a description of what is known about the childhood consequences of child maltreatment, followed by a discussion of what is known about the consequences of abuse and neglect in adolescence and adulthood. A discussion of labeling effects, considering the issues of stigma, bias, and discriminatory treatment, is followed by an examination of a number of potential protective factors. Examining the facts and the fallacies permeating the international literature, the author suggests that in intergenerational child maltreatment, there may not be just one cycle, but four separate cycles: sociopolitical factors; recurring cultural patterns; psychological factors; and biological factors. Interventions need to be focused on each cycle independently to attempt to break the cycle of child maltreatment. Ann Buchanan draws on her wide range of both academic and research experience in this field, as well as on her clinical experience, to bring together both the theories and research in Child maltreatment is comprised of all abusive or neglectful actions committed by adults against minors. Maltreatment can be classified into the five following types. Physical abuse represents any deliberate use of physical force against a child that constitutes a threat to the child’s health, development, and self-respect. The range varies from milder forms of violence (e.g., pushing and shoving) to more severe forms (e.g., strangling and hitting). Child sexual abuse (CSA) encompasses any completed or attempted sexual act, including both contact and non-contact interactions, committed against