

*For Mental Health Counselors, Family Therapists, School Counselors, Child Psychologists, Child Development Specialists, Social Workers and, of course, Counseling Students...*

**New Ideas... New Attitudes...and a New Approach to...**

## **Counseling Children ...a Core Issues Approach**

**Written by:**

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How would you like it if ...

Every child in need of your counseling could have his or her problematic behaviors neatly classified and subsequently treated according to a strict, unerring and established formula.

It would no doubt make your job a lot easier ... unfortunately, it's unrealistic.

Children, and the problematic behaviors they present, are not mathematical equations to be easily solved via formulas on a blackboard, or through a single, formalized and rigid diagnostic framework.

Indeed, where "The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders," ends ...

### **"Counseling Children, a Core Issues Approach" begins!**

This thoughtful and skillfully written book, a collaboration between three eminent scholars and practicing counselors, offers you a unique and novel way of looking at, understanding and treating children with problematic behaviors.

According to the authors (and you may have even noticed this yourself) children who present problems can be divided into two basic groups:

*Children who present problems resulting from a recent, sudden, one-time event or isolated situation.*

*Children with behavioral problems that can be traced back to an earlier time in a given child's life, and the ongoing environment in which the child lives.*

To be sure, acknowledging that these two broad categories exist will do much to help you establish a framework for understanding the nature of a child's presenting problem; however, by themselves they will do little to help you design an effective intervention.

Without a framework for understanding the deeper nature of the child's problem — what the authors call a child's *core issues* — you can often miss the bigger picture of the child's deeper struggle, and as such, your counseling process may falter, stall and even fail.

In fact, without understanding and addressing these *core issues*, the child's problems cannot be resolved, and will only become the source of more serious problems in the future.

In essence, what this book offers you is the ability to help a child either adjust to a one-time situational event (the first group) ... or change their problematic and repetitive life patterns (the second group).

**This amazing book helps you to accurately conceptualize the underlying nature of a problem child's struggle**

...And to effectively design an appropriate counseling plan to address the presenting issues at hand.

*Counseling Children, a Core Issues Approach* offers you a viable means of identifying and assessing the nature of a child's core issues instead of just relying on categories of disorders – it helps you understand why a child responds, in the way he or she does, to the difficult environment and life struggles that confronts him or her.

Plus...

*Counseling Children, a Core Issues Approach* provides you with an easily accessible classification system for understanding the core nature of a child's problems – thereby giving you, in effect, alternative models for conceptualizing a child's problems.

The authors argue persuasively, and logically, that when a counselor has more than one model for understanding the nature of a child's world – including its unique cultural and social dynamics – it's then possible to see and understand aspects of a child's life that were previously invisible or incomprehensible.

Furthermore, the authors contend...

Having only one formalized framework for diagnosing the nature of a child's problems is tantamount to imposing a culture of pathology on every child who is in need of counseling.

And this type of clinical encapsulation – limiting a counselor's assessment of a child's problem to rigid sets of observable symptoms – serves neither the child nor the counseling profession.

In contrast, *Counseling Children, a Core Issues Approach* gives you ...

**Easy access to a workable framework in which to categorize the nature of a child's core issues!**

And this framework will enhance your ability to effectively counsel your child client in four important ways!

- First, it enables you to accurately assess the core issues contributing to the child's problematic behavior.
- Second, once the child's core issues are identified you can design an effective counseling plan and choose appropriate intervention modalities.
- Third, you'll be better able to systematically monitor the child's progress in making transformational change over the course of the counseling process.
- Fourth, by committing a portion of the clinical focus to the client's core issues, you will facilitate the type of change that decreases the likelihood of relapse.

And because a framework based on core issues is clinically richer and more useful than the classification of symptoms associated with psychiatric disorders – this book will help you to also better understand your child client in a way that is qualitatively different from that offered by the traditional psychiatric diagnosis.

Finally, the authors have made every effort to present the ideas and concepts in a concise manner that lends itself to clear clinical application for both the practicing counselor as well as the counseling student.

### **This Book is Divided into 2 Parts:**

**Part 1** contains four chapters that provide a basic orientation as to how counselors might think about the nature of child's presenting problems.

**Chapter 1: An Introduction to Children's Core Issues:** Sets the stage for considering alternatives to assessing a child's presenting problem(s) and the child's responses to his or her struggles.

**Chapter 2: Conceptual Foundations for Understanding Child Core Issues:** Offers a theoretical overview of the proposed diagnostic framework. This chapter briefly traces the conceptual framework of the core issues model and the validity of the construct. It also explains the 18 core issues that might be at work in a child's life and discusses the specific origin of each core issue.

**Chapter 3: Assessment of Core Issues and the Nature of the Child's Living Story:** Provides a detailed framing of the thematic nature of core issues and how they are expressed as a living story detailed in a child's relational history and current stage of life.

**Chapter 4: Designing Counseling Interventions: Framing the Child's Living Story:** Extends the use of the child's living story as a narrative and acts as a conceptual bridge from the core issues assessment to effective intervention modalities. It also traces the counseling process through the use of a case study.

**Part 2** addresses the elements involved in applying the core issues concept across widely accepted treatment modalities for working with children.

**Chapter 5: Establishing the Therapeutic Relationship:** Addresses the critical elements involved in establishing strong counseling relationships with children, the required sensitivities that pertain to certain developmental stages, and the nuances of entering into a child's world.

**Chapter 6: Narratives and Alternative Stories for Healing and Enhancing Autonomy:** Illustrates how, when core issue themes emerge

as narratives, the counselor can assist the child in giving voice to pain and struggle through a co-constructed story and how, through the reshaping of that story, the child can find a new way of adapting to the world around him.

**Chapter 7: Child-Centered Play Counseling:** Discusses how counselors can address a core issue problem through the use of child-centered counseling and play therapy.

**Chapter 8: Sand Work in Counseling and Connecting With Children's Core Issues:** Addresses sand work in counseling children and how this can be an effective modality for connecting to the themes behind a child's core issues and working through the identified problem.

**Chapter 9: Creative Artwork in Child Counseling:** Provides an overview of the creative art approach to counseling and uses a case study to illustrate this form of intervention.

**Chapter 10: Consulting With Parents and Professional Stakeholders:** Points out the important role that the counselor plays in helping to shape the efforts of parents, teachers, and other professionals in meeting a child's needs. It makes clear that helping a group of concerned adults to move in the same direction presents some formidable challenges. Each of these challenges is clearly delineated, and suggestions are offered as to how the counselor can work toward overcoming them.

### **Here's a New Book for Your Class!**

"This easy-to-read, logically organized text can be used both as a professional development resource for practitioners and as a succinct textbook for students. As department chair, my first response after reading the book was to contact the professor in our department who teaches Counseling Children with the comment: 'Here's a new book for your class!'"

— *LeeAnn Eschbach, PhD*  
*University of Scranton*

### **A Refreshing and Unique Contribution!**

"The authors' core elements framework provides a foundation from which to expand the richness of the child's living story while informing the assessment and design of developmentally appropriate counseling interventions. This is a refreshing and unique contribution."

—*Thomas R. Scofield, PhD*

**Order Today!**  
**"Counseling Children...a Core Issues Approach"**

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