Children today come to therapy with problems related to anxiety, eating, lack of concentration, and difficulties in how they socialize and learn. This clinical picture is a dramatic mirror of the actual development of our society. For years we have been witnessing events that show a widespread disowning of the human condition. Deaths following terrorist attacks or migration flows in the Mediterranean area, and dramatic climate changes that have drastically affected our spirit.

What does a child feel when she listens silently to the news and the comments of the adults, or when she is directly involved in such traumatic events? Children absorb the cruelty, and, even worse, the adults' dissociation may lead them to perceive these events as "normal."

Psychotherapy and child development research must acknowledge these new conditions in which children grow up, and clinical work should take account of this now widespread experiential background.

This book tries to outline how contemporary Gestalt psychotherapists face the actual clinical situation when they work with children. The aim is to develop new tools to help children and their families to feel part of the human community, in a way that is not desensitized.

It is addressed to psychotherapists of all approaches.
Preface, by Violet Oaklander

Introduction: From Dental Aggression to Suffering of the “Between”,
by Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb, Nurith Levi and Andrew Williams

Acknowledgments

Part I – Basic Principles
1. Gestalt Therapy with Children: Supporting the Polyphonic Development of Domains in a Field of Contacts,
by Margherita Spagnuolo Lobb
2. Between Caring and Respect. Ethical Aspects of Gestalt Psychotherapy with Children,
by Nurith Levi
3. Moving Experience: Kinaesthetic Resonance as Relational Feel,
by Ruella Frank
4. Between Spontaneity and Intentionality of Growth: Gestalt Therapy and Children,
by Elisabetta Conte and Silvia Tosi
5. A Field Called Home,
by Carmen Vázquez Bandín

Part II – Clinical Applications
by Peter Mortola and Diane Gans
7. Restoring the Melody of Contact,
by Natalia Kedrova
8. Working with the Developmental Age in Gestalt Therapy,
by Giuseppe Sampognaro

Part III – Psychopathological Issues
9. The Dilemma of Diagnosis: the Practice of Gestalt in the Real World and a Possible Way Forward,
by Neil Harris
10. Transmission and Transformation of Psychopathological Fields Between Generations,
by Gianni Francesetti
11. Autism as a Qualitatively Different Encounter Between Organism and Environment at the Contact Boundary,
by Antonio Narzisi

Afterword, by Gordon Wheeler

References

Authors