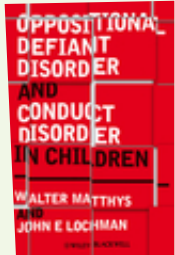


Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Conduct Disorder in Childhood by Walter Matthys and John E. Lochman

This is a great book, but not an easy read. There are no anecdotes or personal stories. It is a science-based survey of Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Conduct Disorder, which are jointly categorized as Disruptive Behaviour Disorders (DBDs). ADHD is also discussed frequently in this book since approximately 50% of children who have a DBD also have ADHD.



The book covers environmental and individual characteristics correlated with the DBDs, and also spends a chapter discussing aetiology. The authors note that we must distinguish between correlates that are present before the behaviour arises from those that are merely present at the same time, in order to determine true risk factors. Individual and environmental characteristics discussed include genes, ADHD, emotional deregulation, deficits in social information processing and problem solving, neurotransmitters (dopamine, serotonin and noradrenalin), poverty, marital conflict, parent-child attachment, contextual peer factors, parenting practices, community and school factors, etc. Assessment is covered next, followed by intervention, which is the focus of the last half of the book.

Chapter 8, on parent training, begins with some definitions from learning theory (behaviourism), such as positive and negative reinforcement, punishment, and extinction and then discusses parent training methods including parent-child interaction therapy and positive parenting. Chapter nine covers Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, with a brief history and a good discussion of contemporary approaches and programs. The authors draw on well established studies when discussing the effectiveness of these approaches and of strategies within these approaches.

In Chapter 10, Pharmacotherapy, the authors begin by saying that pharmacotherapy should only be used when absolutely necessary and never as the only treatment method. They then offer summaries of studies of various medications and their effectiveness for children with DBDs, including the impact on ADHD. This is a short, but informative chapter for anyone looking for some basic information on medications.

The book finishes with multicomponent intervention programs and factors that influence intervention delivery and outcomes. I recommend this book and think that anyone who works with children should be familiar with this material. Anyone who encounters a child with risk factors or with a DBD can make things better or worse for that child. Only if we understand what is effective and what environmental factors will make things worse, will we have a positive influence.

This book is available in the Mental Health section of the Reach specialized book lending library.