

Children's Work Theory & Practice

Faith in Education
A tribute to Terence McLaughlin
Edited by Graham Haydon



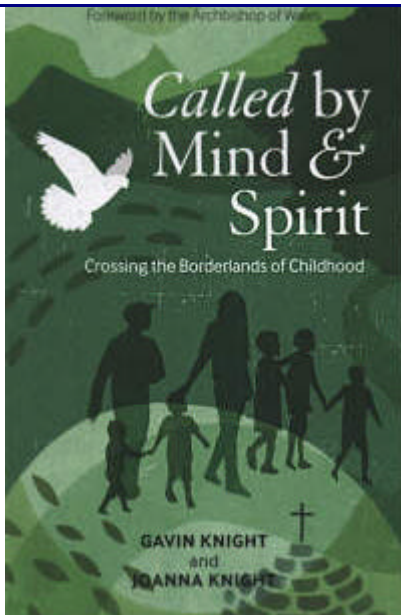
Faith in Education

Edited by Graham Haydon

published by Institute of Education Distributed Gardners
in Paperback
at £15.99 (978-0-854-73853-3)

This collection of essays on faith-based education is bound together by reflections on the life and achievements of Terence McLaughlin and is published at an important time. Although from an essentially Roman Catholic perspective (addressing specific denominational issues of doctrine and practice) the book provides a robust defence of Christian education across the spectrum. Even though it has been written as an academic collection, the writing is accessible and provides clear coverage of the critical issues. My only regret is the lack of a biography to fill me in and frame the work of this energetic and effective academic who has left such an interesting collection in his wake.

Notes by Terry Young

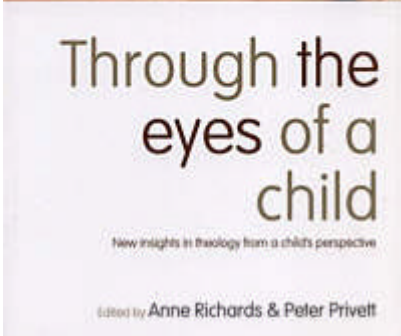


Called by Mind & Spirit

by Gavin Knight & Joanna Knight
published by Mowbray imprint of Continuum
in Paperback
at £14.99 (978-1-441-13761-6)

This is a very important book for anyone wishing to understand the place of children in the Church and how to use that understanding to enrich and engage. Gavin Knight is a priest and a School Chaplain, and Joanna Knight is a child psychologist. They explore the identity, formation and vocation of children and adolescents, from both a theological and psychological viewpoint, using the sacraments and faith/life occasions – baptism, confirmation and ordination – as the pathway. - Borderlands - refers to the route through childhood to adulthood, together with their present geographical location of Monmouth. At times I was not sure that I was finding cohesion between the two journeys of theology and psychology, but that was of less concern because of the discovery of exciting ideas and thoughts so vital to assist children at a time when so many childhood values are threatened.

Notes by Carole Burrows



Through the Eyes of a Child

by Edited by Anne Richards & Peter Privett

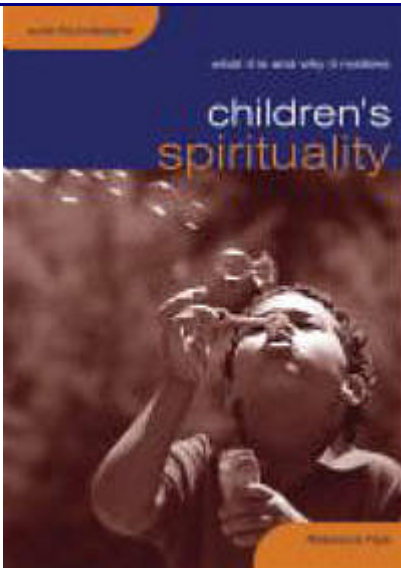
published by Church House Publishing (CHP) Distributed by Hym

in Paperback

at £19.99 (978-0-715-14088-8)

To mark the thirtieth anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Child, this book has been published by Church House Publishing (C of E). The reader must judge whether the contributors to this volume have succeeded in their aim of seeing religious experience through the eyes of a child. Perhaps more importantly the essayists address the still problematic issues of the theology of childhood, children's theological insights, childhood spirituality, and so on. In spite of decades of observation there still does not seem to be an agreed understanding of the religious development of the child, and certainly no consensus on how that development relates to the adult, and adult religious development. This is a work in progress.

Notes by Ian Gibbs



Children's Spirituality: What it is and Why it Matters

by Rebecca Nye

published by Church House Publishing (CHP) Distributed by Hym

in Paperback

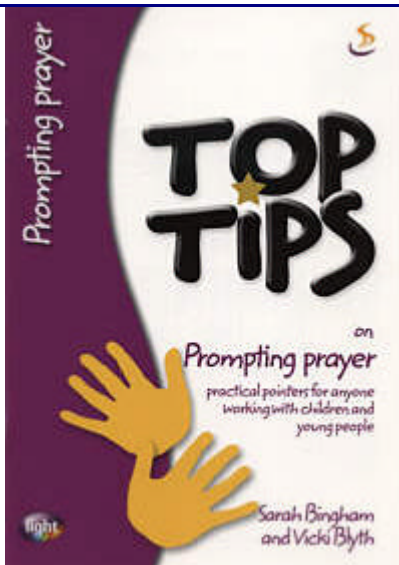
at £8.99 (978-0-715-14027-7)

Spirituality has still to gain credibility in some Christian circles. However Rebecca Nye dispatches any such scepticism with a carefully argued case, suggesting that children's spirituality is a formative influence on their development. It was Nye, after all, who introduced Godly Play to Britain. Children, she maintains, delightfully lack adult need to define and categorise, thereby separating religious from non-religious. They see mystery as a normal component of existence. Their world erupts with wonder. Therefore Nye reasons that it is time for Churches to take this on board and assess the spiritual merits of all they offer to their children.

- - That is quite a challenge, but her 'Think and discuss...' interjections help focus the mind, and the later chapters offer more detailed guidance. She suggests that our telling of Bible stories should lack prescriptive explanation, a neglect that would still terrify many a Church. Nye even suggests that Churches aren't necessarily the best places to encounter children's spirituality - the bath may be better.

- - There is much here to prompt thought, to encourage conversation, and to transform what we do. It is all presented in a well organised accessible style. I would certainly recommend it to those who work with children, and those who do not see such activity as their particular forte; - adding also those who avoid it like the plague.

Notes by Paul Scott



Top Tips on Prompting Prayer

by Sarah Bingham and Vickie Blyth

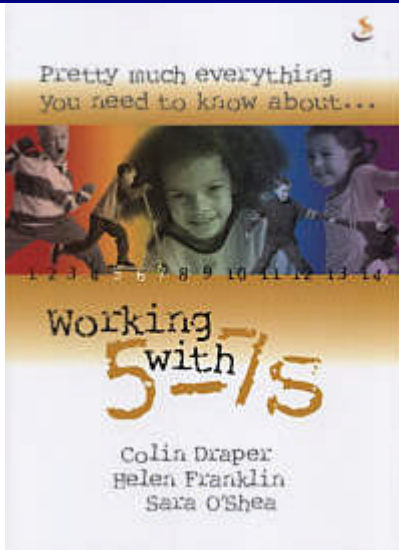
published by Scripture Union (SU)

in Stapled A5 Pbk.

at £2.99 (978-1-844-27322-5)

A great book to encourage us all to use creative ways to pray. It is difficult enough for some adults to sit still to pray – let alone children. So this book gives lots of ideas and examples of practical ways to pray but also stresses the principles behind prayer. Though it is a book for those working with children and young people, some elements of the book could be adapted to teach children about the importance of prayer. It's also full of real life examples of prayer methods which were effective, which are an encouragement to all. It is written in a very easy to digest style and concise enough to read in one sitting, but also very good to dip in and out of.

Notes by Ann Evans



Pretty Much Everything You Need to Know About.....

by Colin Draper, Helen Franklin and Sara O'Shea

published by Scripture Union (SU)

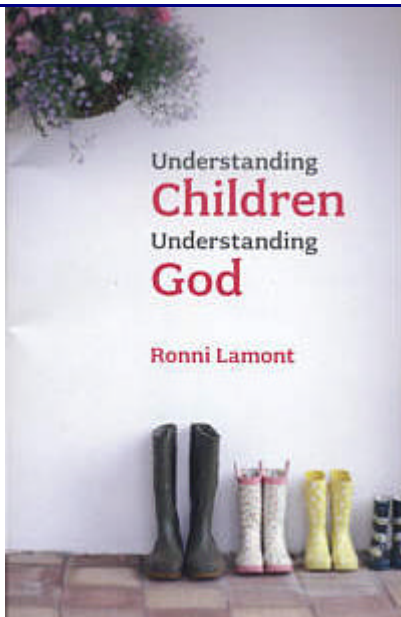
in Paperback

at £8.99 (978-1-844-27305-8)

This is a thorough book which could be used by an individual or by those wanting to train a team of children's workers for this age group. It is a book to be read from cover to cover or to dip into for inspiration and encouragement.

We are encouraged firstly to understand the view a 5 –7 year old has of life, family, and God. Only when we understand their perception of the world can we help develop their understanding of it and of God. The book gives very clear and honest advice on how to care for the children of today – those from single parent families, from different social and ethnic backgrounds and those with disabilities or illness. Practical ideas are shared in how to put together a team and a programme. A very useful book to have on your bookshelf.

Notes by Ann Evans



Understanding Children Understanding God

by Ronni Lamont

published by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)

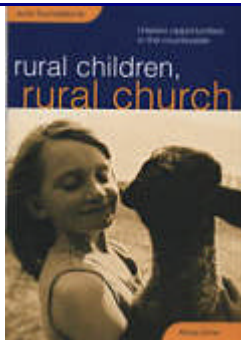
in Paperback

at £12.99 (978-0-281-05820-4)

Jesus proclaimed "Let the children come to me" so children are important in God's family. - Understanding Children Understanding God - works on two levels to help us understand why. Firstly it is an introduction to developmental psychology. Do Sunday School teachers need an understanding of child psychology? Yes and no. This psychological aspect is possibly the weakest part of the book. Children develop at different speeds so to have a strict guide can be less than helpful. Also developmental, or child, psychology is a contentious subject – just think about how often education styles change to suit the newest theory. Even so, the use of developmental psychology can help us take the children in our churches more seriously than is often the case. -

Where - Understanding Children Understanding God - is stronger is as an introduction to the - Godly Play - scheme. This is a religious education system that can be used in Sunday Schools but can also be used in secular schools, hospitals and other "non religious" situations. If - Godly Play - has a weakness it is its reliance on a specific style of psychology. But if a church is looking to build its children work, especially reaching out to the community - Godly Play - is a tool worth considering.

Notes by Phelim McIntyre



Rural Children, Rural Church

by Rona Orme

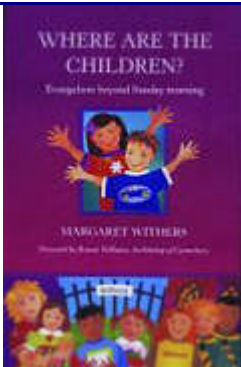
published by Church House Publishing (CHP) Distributed by Hym

in Paperback

at £5.99 (978-0-715-14126-7)

Though I was born and bred in a big city and spend the best part of my childhood and early adult life in one, I have also spent the last 35 years or so in the countryside and I realise that those that live in the rural areas of our land have very special needs to consider. Over twenty per cent of the rural population is made up of children and these children especially nowadays need to be considered carefully when churches are planning their strategy. So often the children are without sensible and effective transport networks, often when home via the school bus they are not able to get back into a town area for entertainment and company. This is when the rural parish comes into its own in providing some much needed support and activities. This book in the "Sure Foundations" series of Church House Publishing offers very sound advice and guidance to all who are working in young people's ministry, giving examples of how to improve how to plan and how to attract the young people to church and its connective tissues.

Notes by Ian Gibson



Where are the children?

by Margaret Withers
published by Barnabas imprint of BRF
in Paperback
at £7.99 (978-1-841-01361-9)

Most of the youngsters attending church are the children of the congregation. Margaret Withers identifies another group of 'hidden' children who use the church hall for sports or drama, belong to a uniformed organisation or visit as part of an RE lesson. This book is about enabling those children to hear the Christian story. It aims to provide thought-provoking guidance to explore the wealth of opportunities for evangelism among children, and a training base for clergy and children's workers.

Notes by [Guy Marshall](#)

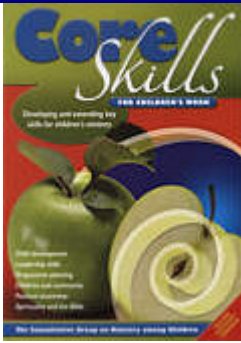


Fired Up...Not Burnt Out

by Margaret Withers
published by Barnabas imprint of BRF
in Paperback
at £5.99 (978-1-841-01209-4)

Most churches are committed to providing a biblically-based nurture programme for their children, but many rely on the goodwill of parents and other adults to supply the leaders and helpers. This book is designed to help the non-specialist understand the biblical rationale for nurturing children in the Church and gain the basic skills needed to be an effective leader or helper.

Notes by [Guy Marshall](#)



Core Skills

by the Consultative Group on Ministry Among Childr

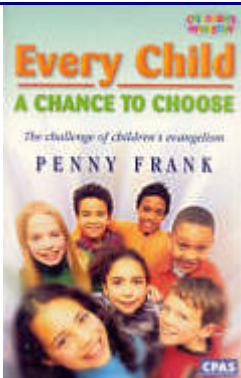
published by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship)

in A4 Paperback

at £12.99 (978-1-841-01507-1)

A comprehensive curriculum for training and equipping children's workers, I can imagine this making a significant impact in churches of all denominations up and down the country. This is an extremely user-friendly course guide (web based support for group leaders is available), which would be especially rich if used in an ecumenical context, where different ideas and approaches can be explored. Dealing with six key areas: child development, leadership skills, programme planning, children and community, pastoral awareness and spirituality and the Bible, this course will empower and encourage children's workers whatever their level (or length!) of experience. Sessions are interactive and thought provoking, with plenty of opportunity for group work as well as personal reflection. Go to www.coreskillsforchurches.com for more information. - Includes Photocopy Permission

Notes by [Samantha Luscombe](#)



Every Child : A Chance to Choose

by Penny Frank

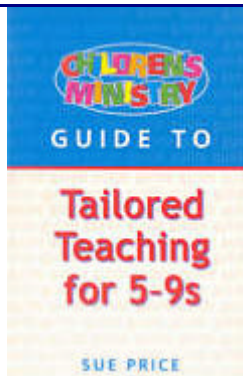
published by Children's Ministry

in Paperback

at £4.99 (1-842-91053-1)

I found this book very uplifting and inspiring; ideal for any one involved in children's ministry. The only difficulty in reading this book will be putting it down! It offers a great deal of information of why and how to engage in children's ministry both in the church and in the wider community, covering many topics including faith development, training, the big picture of children's evangelism, co-operation across denominations and much more, wrapped nicely around snippets of real life tales from up and down the UK. Each section contains discussion points which will have you questioning your work within your church, helping you to go further for each of the children you serve and for those you are yet to reach. An excellent piece by Penny Frank, which can be added to on the website discussion pages; www.chancetochoose.com; well worth the visit.

Notes by [Guest reviewer](#)



Guide to Tailored Teaching for 5-9s

by Sue Price

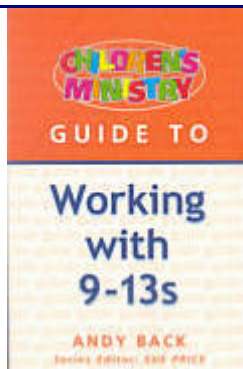
published by Children's Ministry

in Paperback

at £4.99 (1-842-91035-3)

This book is ideal for those entering into children's ministry for the first time or those moving to this age group. It is easy to read, from front to back or is easy to dip in to for key information. Covering children's development in all areas, including spiritual, with case studies to show what this may actually look like in your children, as well as providing information on learning styles; you have all the basic information for better understanding this age group at your finger tips. As well, it offers practical ideas for art and craft, music, games and drama and also provides new ways for livening up the group environments. In addition to this the book points to further resources available which could be useful to your ministry. Notes by Vicky Williamson

Notes by [Guest reviewer](#)



Guide to Working With 9-13s

by Andy Back

published by Children's Ministry

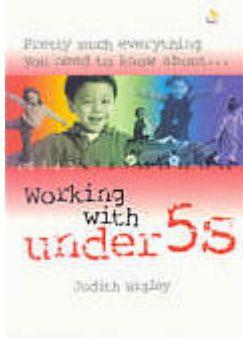
in Paperback

at £4.99 (1-842-91154-6)

This is written in a different style from others in this series, so requires a little more thought and time to digest the information. However, it is still packed full of great ideas for working creatively with the 9-13 age group. Following good insights into the journey of young people during these years, Andy Back offers a wealth of ideas for discussion, competition and activities to engage these pre-teens. This is an ideal resource for those just starting in ministry with this age group but also those who feel a little stale after many years in this area.

Notes by Vicky Williamson

Notes by [Guest reviewer](#)



Working With Under 5s

by Judith Wigley

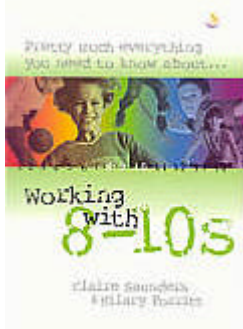
published by Scripture Union (SU)

in Paperback

at £8.99 (1-844-27114-5)

The complete title of this book is 'Everything you need to know about working with the under fives' and I think it probably is. This is not a book of session plans but allows you much more freedom to arrange life for your individual needs. It begins with looking at how little ones learn and life from their perspective and answers questions such as 'how do they know about God'? It also covers a host of topics, how to start your own group, what to expect from behaviour, difficult children, and making up a programme. There is an account from six church groups on how they did it. I strongly feel that no one should ever say they are 'just a children's worker', this is vital part of the growth of God's kingdom and this book will encourage anyone to have a go.

Notes by Hilary Morgan



Working With 8 – 10s

by Claire Saunders & Hilary Porritt

published by Scripture Union (SU)

in Paperback

at £8.99 (1-859-99661-2)

A book devised for those working with children in a church based context, how children learn and grow, with some sensible advice on planning and running a programme. I found this book offers good pointers toward running a programme, including building a team, how to use the bible, prayer etc.. It is a good book if you're with reasonable well-rounded children who come from disciplined homes (or dare I

say it, those from the typical "middle class background of the UK church"). It's a good starting base - but as ever, use this to go deeper. Children's work is very rewarding when we dig deeper!

Notes by Andrew Elliott



Child Rearing for Fun

by Anne Atkins

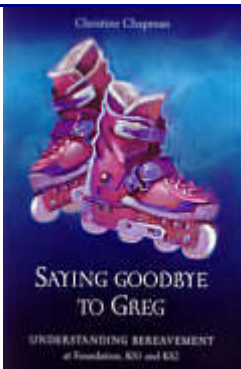
published by Zondervan Publishing House

in Paperback

at £8.99 (0-310-25417-5)

This book does cover a wide range of important issues relating to bringing up children, which could help those caring for children in whatever capacity to reflect on their own values, attitudes and practices. Rather than giving answers this book seeks to encourage the reader to think through the issues themselves. The strong emphasis on security, self-worth and relationship are welcomed as is the reassurance that we all make mistakes but that does not make us bad parents. The overall aim is to encourage. Helpful and enjoyable to the "competent" parent who is looking for reassurance and help to develop their skills but it would not be for those with more fundamental problems with child care.

Notes by Alan Sutherland



Saying Goodbye To Greg

by Christine Chapman

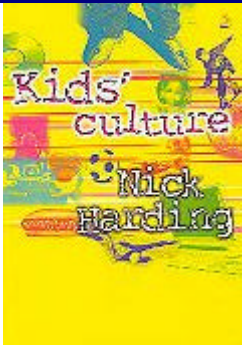
published by Barnabas imprint of BRF

in Paperback

at £7.99 (1-841-01210-6)

- Saying Goodbye to Greg - looks at what happens when a child tragically and suddenly dies as a result of an accident. The book is written in story-form, providing a true to life situation and yet is a resource to help teachers handle what they perhaps never expect to deal with. The chapter headings are revealing and include Children's attitudes to death, When a school is bereaved, Explanations about heaven and eternal life, and many more. Here is a book to help through all the difficulties of finding a balance between coping with the school day and allowing children time and space to grieve. The role of counselling, Memorial services and longer term suggestions to facilitate moving on are also discussed.

Notes by Publisher's notes



Kids Culture

by Nick Harding

published by Scripture Union (SU)

in Paperback

at £8.99 (1-859-99676-0)

What do children think and feel about the world they live in? What pressures do they feel at school or at home and what makes them happy or sad, excited or scared? How can children's workers, parents and church leaders engage most effectively with children today? Nick Harding surveyed nearly one thousand 9-11 year olds and from their answers and his wide experience of working with children has written a very readable and helpful book to guide adults through the key issues of children's concerns. With facts, action points and quotes from the children, adults are encouraged to engage with them positively.

Notes by [Mary Bartholomew](#)



Not Just Sunday

by Margaret Withers

published by National Society / Church House Publishing

in Paperback

at £3.95 (0-715-14982-2)

This is a thin booklet giving basic technical advice and aimed at Church of England parishes. If you are wanting to set up a small mid-week group then this is a useful yet small contribution to the initial thinking process, looking at issues of child protection, legal issues, recruiting and training leaders etc. A useful start but please don't rely solely on this text.

Notes by [Andrew Elliott](#)