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Social Work with Children

Attachment Theory, Child Maltreatment and Family Support

A Practice and Assessment Model

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Acknowledgements

In 1996, we approached Norfolk Social Services Department to ask whether we could work with a small group of child and family social workers and their team managers. The aim was to see whether we could translate and adapt the exciting ideas that were being generated in developmental attachment theory to the world of child and family social work. Norfolk responded generously. Five social workers and four team managers volunteered to take part, curious but uncertain about what they might be letting themselves in for. We worked together for almost 2 years, meeting regularly, discussing case material, thinking through assessment implications, rehearsing possible interventions, drinking much tea and coffee, eating a fair tonnage of chocolate biscuits. We also met, interviewed and talked with many children and parents who were being seen by the social, health and psychological services. The families' help and cooperation was invaluable, and we would like to record our considerable appreciation for their time and interest. However, our greatest thanks must go to the team of social workers and team managers:

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