

# Book reviews

**Supporting parents with learning disabilities and difficulties: a starting point.** *Disability, Pregnancy and Parenthood International*, 2011. Free to disabled people for personal use/£6.00 plus p & p to others. 43 pp.

This is an excellent resource in a pamphlet format, which is accessible and easy to use by people working with parents who have a learning disability. It is a guide that is aimed primarily at professionals and students, but will be useful for support workers and families too.

The introduction summarises the issues for parents, who will benefit from support from different agencies working well together to deliver services. There is a section on definitions and terminology, an overview of the issues and the legal duties and entitlements that this group of parents has. The need for accessible information and services, support networks, the subject of parenting assessments and the need for advocacy are explored.

It is great to have an accessible guide that pools together resources and contacts and that provides a base from which to begin thinking about what, who and how parents with learning disabilities can be best supported.

There is information about national organisations, websites and contacts, local projects and services, accessible information for parents, tools, guidance and resources for professionals, and further reading for professionals.

This is a pamphlet that every occupational therapy service that works with people with learning disabilities should buy or should ensure that it is available in its learning disability team parenting resources.

To buy the publication: Disability, Pregnancy and Parenthood International's website via <http://www.dppi.org.uk/publications/index.html>

Contact helpline 08000180040 or email [info@dppi.org.uk](mailto:info@dppi.org.uk)

**Lanier Pole**, Occupational Therapist Clinical Lead, Community Health Newham Team for People with Learning Disabilities, East London Foundation Trust.

**Occupational therapy and physical dysfunction: enabling occupation**, 6th ed. Michael Curtin, Matthew Molineux and Jo Supyk-Mellson. Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, 2010. £53.99. 672 pp. ISBN 978-0-08-045084-1

When I did my training, the 4th edition of *Occupational therapy and physical dysfunction* was the set text with its emphasis on principles, skills and practice, but very much based on the 'physical conditions' that occupational therapists were likely to come across in hospitals or in the community.

By contrast, the 6th edition of *Occupational therapy and physical dysfunction*, edited by a completely new team, is similar in name only. With its emphasis on enabling occupation, it examines a much wider world view for occupational therapists and is as relevant to those working in mental health as it is to physical occupational therapists and, in fact, challenges the dichotomy that persists in our profession.

The book is divided into sections on occupation and occupational therapy in context; an overview of occupational therapy practice; essential foundations for practice; working with and within communities; and working with the individual. Although in this latter section there is more familiar territory, with examination of some physical impairments, the focus is on strategies that could be transferred to most other practice settings. There are useful case studies to illustrate how the theory transfers into practice and each chapter has a handy summary of the key points.

What an exciting and challenging book this is! The occupational therapy profession has grown up and moved on and this book will certainly test your custom and practice. It is a refreshing and engaging read, which encourages the occupational therapist to refocus and place enabling occupation at the forefront of practice. My copy is now littered with post-it notes of things to change in my own work. For students it will illustrate the wide scope of occupational therapy and for therapists, in all practice settings, remind them of their core occupational therapy skills. This is a book to buy and apply.

**Bel Youngson**, Occupational Therapy Team Leader Stroke and Rehabilitation, University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust.

**Legal aspects of occupational therapy.** Bridgit Dimond. 3rd ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. £66.99. 664 pp. ISBN 978-1-4051-9654-3

The third edition of this book, written by a barrister-at-law, aims to provide an updated introduction and overview of the law relevant to occupational therapy practice. It examines recent changes to the law that are relevant to occupational therapy, in particular the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Mental Health Act 2007, both of which have direct implications for occupational therapy practice. This new edition has an additional chapter, which explores pain management, palliative care and death, and the legal aspects associated with these areas. The reader is not required to have any legal knowledge to be able to understand the text, and a glossary has been included to assist with the deciphering of the technical legal language used.

The text acknowledges the diverse role of occupational therapy practice, and this is reflected in the contents and chapter list. There is an informative chapter outlining the legal system in England and Wales (the author points out that although this is applicable to Scotland and Northern Ireland, there may be some differences due to devolution). Other chapters include consent and information giving, record keeping, equipment and medicinal products, teaching and research, independent practice and chapters covering all of the main client groups. Specific legal examples are used throughout the book, and this helps the reader to apply it to real-life practice situations.

I would recommend this book to all occupational therapists, regardless of their stage of career or specialism. Each chapter is presented in a clear, logical style, and it is an essential guide to lawful practice for practitioners across all areas, including education and private practice. Students will find the chapters on occupational therapy and professional registration particularly informative. I would recommend that heads of service obtain a copy for the reference of all occupational therapy staff.

**Valerie Marshall**, Deputy Head of Occupational Therapy, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.