Synopses

Reflexes, Learning and Behavior: A Window into the Child’s Mind

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Customer Reviews

I own three books by this author: this book, Assessing Neuromotor Readiness for Learning, and Neuromotor Immaturity in Children and Adults. I will be reviewing all three, as I spent a lot of time trying to decide which of her books would be helpful to me. They are also not easy on the wallet, so perhaps I can save someone a bit of time and money. This book is a wonderful overview of the primitive reflexes and possible symptoms of retained reflexes. The book also contains tests to see if the reflexes have been retained. It helps to have some familiarity with anatomy, as this book gets somewhat technical with its medical terms. However, in the testing section, there are only stick figures that are supposed to show the testing position. I think that photographs would have been much more helpful. Also, I was quite disappointed that there is very little detail on how to overcome the retained reflexes. These are the main reasons for my giving it four stars rather than five. If you are looking for a practical handbook/program on how to overcome retained reflexes, this is not the book for you. Overall, though, of the many books I have read on primitive reflexes, this is among the most informative. Please see my reviews on the other Goddard (Blythe) books. I hope you found my review helpful!

By all means read this book. It gives you information that will deepen your understanding of the nervous system and how it functions when it is a bit off. This book will interest parents, teachers,
professionals who work with people having learning/movement issues. It offers a way to identify patterns that are left over from infancy. Many high achieving adults will also find their quirks here. This is not a book of recipes, but it will give you a good starting point. It is more complex than Brain Gym, but covers similar material.

Roberta Prada
Author of the English version of "The Ear and the Voice" by A. Tomatis, with F. Keeping, and P. Sollier; the English editions of J. Faure: "The Voice and Singing, a practical treatise" with F. Keeping, the orig 1886; owner of two websites: vocalimages.com and voxmentor.com (under construction).

I became interested in this topic because my child's teacher advised that he took occupational therapy to help improve his handwriting. And, expectedly, it did. But I wondered why and this book, recommended by his OC therapist after she saw me gobble up all the materials at her office, had so many of the answers. It's not an easy read, as it gets into the cognitive and anatomical reasons the brain and connected systems work the way they do. In a nutshell, the book explains the connection between early-life reflexes and skill development lasting well into adulthood, not just for children with severe neurological disorders but for everyone. (I for instance now better understand how my vestibular system can be calibrated to help me improve my sense of orientation, which is VERY bad and I just saw it as a given.)

As an Educational Therapist and mother of a special needs child I find this book very helpful in understanding the roots of difficulties children have both academically and in their social/physical lives. I have also been able to offer information found in this book to other parents, and direct them to Occupational Therapy resources for remediation of the difficulties their children were experiencing.

Excellant resource for looking at how prolonged reflexes can affect learning and behavior, also gives a chart for grading a reflex and ways to inhibit it. Great for those working with children, but is beneficial for adults as well.

This book is like a bible for retained reflexes. It does an excellent job of showing how each retained reflex impacts the body and then explains the resulting cascade of symptoms that can be seen from each retained reflex. I had been searching for something to tie all of my daughters symptoms together, so instead of a dozen of separate problems or diagnoses we could have one problem with many symptoms. This would allow me to focus on the best treatment plan for my daughter. This
book was it!!! If you are at a loss as to why your child has the behaviors or deficits he or she does, you may be able to read the symptoms under each retained reflex and see if any is a close match for your child. If so you can request to have your child tested for that reflex for confirmation. It is simple, quick and non-invasive to have done. Parents or the child's care giver is a child's best advocate.

As an Occupational Therapist working in the area of pediatrics (OT For Kidz) and using sensory integration strategies, this was an excellent read for explaining how the central nervous system and reflexes relate to sensory processing skills, motor skills, it effects on learning and overall daily functional skills. I think it is well written, reader friendly and believe all clinicians working with children should read it and apply it in their evaluations and therapy sessions. I think it can also benefit any developmentalist (i.e. OT, PT), pediatrician, audiologist, teacher, parent, etc. to understand more about strengths and weakness seen with their children.

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