

Safety in the operating theatre

Like other publications that have come from Rhona Flin's human factors powerhouse, this collection is a work of great quality. About half of the 80+

contributors are surgeons and anaesthetists; the majority of the remainder are human factors specialists plus a variety of social scientists. The themes that link these diverse disciplines are a passionate interest in the safety of operating theatre teams and a wealth of skills and experience. These are people who really know what they are writing about.

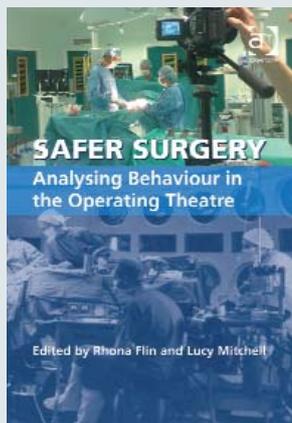
The 27 chapters are sensibly clustered into four parts. Part I, comprising chapters 2–10, deals with instruments for measuring human performance in the operating theatre. The focus here is upon the assessment of non-technical skills and teamwork. Part II deals with observational studies of anaesthetists, again focusing on non-technical skills and teamwork (chapters 11–15). Part III (chapters 16–24) covers a variety of observational studies of theatre teams. I found this section

especially interesting dealing as it does with a range of human factors issues: team communication and problem solving, the failures that arise in successful orthopaedic procedures, remembering to do things later and resuming interrupted tasks, surgical decision making, and the impact of time pressure and distractions on team task performance. The final part takes a broader perspective (chapters 25–27). These fascinating concluding chapters provide tremendous added value to the collection as a whole.

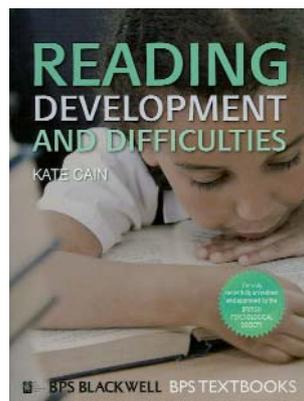
This tough-minded and rigorous book does a splendid job of broadening the evidence base for the human factors understanding of behaviour in the operating theatre. But this is not something for the scientifically faint-hearted. The large majority of the chapters deal with very specific research activities, and are generally written with all the leanness of a good journal article – and appropriately so. Nor is it for those with simply a general interest in patient safety, though the final three chapters do offer such an overview. It is instead an invaluable source book for those actively engaged in measuring, observing and improving the performance of surgical teams. While this may limit the size and scope of its possible readership, it will remain for some time to come one of the key reference books in this hugely important domain of healthcare activity.

| Ashgate, 2010; Hb £75.00

Reviewed by James Reason who is Emeritus Professor, University of Manchester



Safer Surgery: Analysing Behaviour in the Operating Theatre.
Rhona Flin & Lucy Mitchell (Eds.)



Clear and incisive

Reading Development and Difficulties
Kate Cain

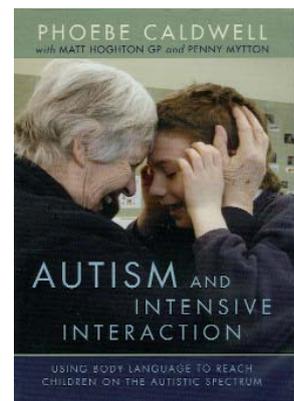
This is a clear and incisive account of current research and theory on reading development and the difficulties that can prevent skilled and fluent reading. Written as an introductory text (part of a series of textbooks from the BPS Blackwell imprint), it assumes no background knowledge but provides a comprehensive and balanced account of reading development focusing on the interrelated skills of word reading and comprehension.

Kate Cain examines the relationships between written and spoken language and the way that this supports the development of word-reading skills and the ability to extract and integrate meanings from a text. The author outlines the difficulties and issues for assessment and intervention for two distinct subgroups of reading difficulty: children with developmental dyslexia and children with poor reading comprehension.

The book concludes with a review of the simple view of reading as a framework for the study of reading development and reading difficulties. This is a well written, clearly structured and highly accessible text that provides students and professionals with an authoritative overview and up to date resource on reading development.

| BPS Blackwell, 2010; Pb £24.99

Reviewed by Paul Riddick who is Senior Educational Psychologist, Leicester City



Inspiring interaction

Autism and Intensive Interaction: Using Body Language to Reach Children on the Autistic Spectrum
Phoebe Caldwell

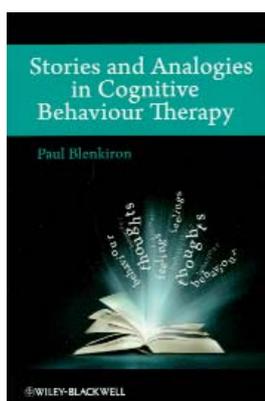
Recently awarded the Times/Sternberg Award for her pioneering autism treatment, at the age of 76 Phoebe Caldwell shows no signs of quitting her extraordinary work.

At the forefront of the recent revival in Intensive Interaction's popularity, Caldwell constantly impresses with the ease with which she establishes significant communication with people condemned as impossible to connect with. This skill is illustrated in her current DVD by an unedited section of film showing Caldwell achieving interaction with a child displaying severe avoidant behaviour, seemingly through her sheer perseverance and uncanny ability to view the world through the eyes of the individual involved.

This DVD may not be the perfect introduction to Intensive Interaction for those unfamiliar with the subject, due to its autism-specific focus (e.g. in reducing sensory overload), as opposed to a general overview of the topic. However, it is inspiring to view this technique in action, especially delivered with Caldwell's unique blend of spontaneity, sensitivity and dedication, which capture the true essence of Intensive Interaction.

| Jessica Kingsley, 2010; DVD £19.99

Reviewed by Abigail Methley who is a research assistant at Bangor University



Telling stories

Stories and Analogies in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
Paul Blenkiron

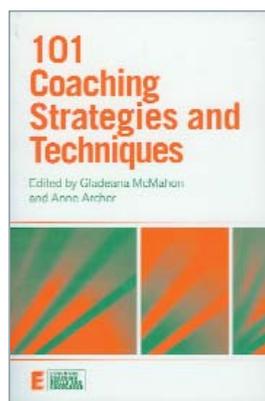
Everyone knows that stories, analogies and metaphors can give powerful insights into a wide range of issues. Creating narratives and images in our mind can have profound effects on thinking, feeling and behaviour. Here Paul Blenkiron skilfully examines the way in which stories and analogies can be used in a systematic and directive manner to tackle specific issues typically faced within CBT contexts.

What makes this book such a coherent piece of work is its structured presentation of useful content paired with the well-thought-out narrative in which these ideas are communicated. The author not only presents a wealth of useful stories and analogies, but also uses these effectively to explain concepts, in addition to providing tips on how these might be applied within CBT.

If this book were a bag of sweets, it would impress with variety, colourfulness and taste; and anyone working with, or even just interested in CBT would be guaranteed to find a lot of pieces they want to eat. I recommend having the whole bag.

Wiley-Blackwell; 2010;
Hb £31.99

Reviewed by **Stephan U. Dombrowski** who is a Research Fellow at the University of Aberdeen



Bringing effectiveness together

101 Coaching Strategies and Techniques
Gladeana McMahon & Anne Archer (Eds.)

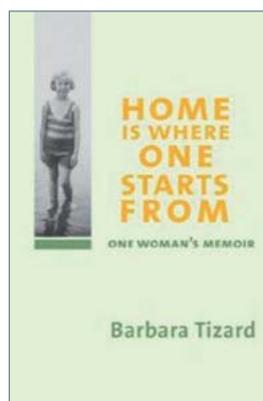
The book provides coaching practitioners with a range of focused, practical and bite-sized strategies that cover a number of common issues faced by professional coaches. It also seeks to contribute novel practical strategies to the existing coaching toolkit, as opposed to being a strictly academic text.

The techniques, from a variety of coaching backgrounds, are organised in six structured and accessible sections. There are clear portrayals of each strategy with its purpose, description, an explanation of the process accompanied by examples, potential pitfalls, suggested solutions and a bibliography.

The aim of orchestrating a large diversity of coaching approaches in the book is commendable; however, there is a lack of elaboration of the transitional process from theory to practice, and an overlap of certain techniques may leave the reader with a sense of ambiguity.

Overall this book is a useful resource worth reading and referring to from time to time, yet it should be read with a mindset that positive, holistic coaching can never be reduced to strategies and techniques.

Routledge; 2010; Pb £16.99
Reviewed by **Wang Qing** who is a PhD student at the Graduate School of Education, University of Bristol



From disadvantage to eminence

Home Is Where One Starts From: One Woman's Memoir
Barbara Tizard

This fascinating book relates the story of how a little girl in poor circumstances in London grew to be an eminent psychologist with a world reputation.

Barbara Tizard was born in 1926 into a troubled family, with a busy teacher mother and an alcoholic absentee father. Despite this she won scholarships first to a boarding school, then to St Paul's and finally to read medicine at Somerville College, Oxford alongside her first love. His eminent academic family disapproved of the match, so Barbara felt it necessary to change courses to PPE.

She later married Jack Tizard, a New Zealand student at the university, who shared her passion for socialist causes. In the end they settled in London where Jack was appointed to an MRC Unit at the Maudsley Hospital. They started a family, and Barbara took a course leading to a degree in psychology, with which she was

appointed to do research on brain physiology.

Barbara's research interests shifted to social problems with an emphasis on implications for policy. After her husband's premature death, she became Director of the Thomas Coram Research Unit, founded by Jack Tizard. This Unit has been foremost in shedding light on a variety of social issues. Her personal research flourished and, among other books, *Adoption: A Second Chance* became a classic. Her eminence has been recognised by her Fellowship of the British Academy, her Honorary Fellowship of the BPS and Honorary Membership of the Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

This is a candid personal account of a life richly lived, presented with a vivid commentary on unprecedented political and social changes and reflecting advances in developmental and social psychology.

Word Power Books; 2010;
Pb £12.99

Reviewed by **Alan and Ann Clarke** who are formerly of the University of Hull

just in

Sample titles just in:

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Psychotherapy and Culture: Weaving Inner and Outer Worlds Zack Eleftheriadou
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