

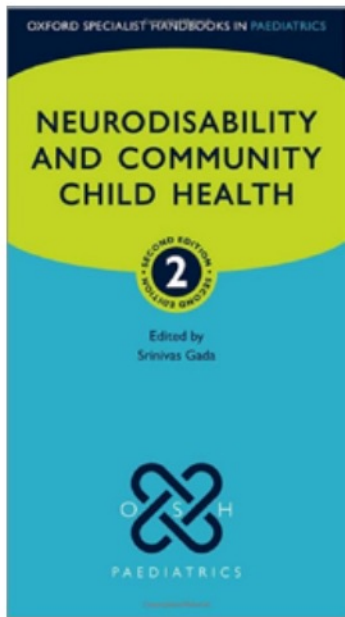
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BACCH Book Review

Neurodisability and Community Child Health – 2nd Edition - May 2022

Edited by Dr Srinivas Gada
Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Paediatrics



When I received an offer to review this sequel to the Oxford Specialist Handbook of Community Paediatrics, I naturally jumped at the opportunity, having owned, and frequently used its predecessor in my Community Child Health training.

The original handbook was first introduced to me by my supervising consultant in community paediatrics when I first started my core community rotation. Having had minimal knowledge or experience of the specialty, I asked her for a 'go-to, easy-read' textbook on all common topics that I might encounter working in the specialty. This handbook, now well-thumbed, is indeed

my 'go-to' and has remained in my work bag since my very first day working in community paediatrics

There have been significant shifts in the last decade in the field of community paediatrics. The nature of childhood illness has changed with an increase in awareness and diagnosis of mental health and neurodevelopmental disorders. There are also improved systems for safeguarding and an emphasis on early development and health promotion for which community paediatricians have a central role. Our role in community paediatrics have become more complex due to an increase in statutory duties as well as the multitude of complex problems that each individual case presents with, which warrants collaboration between specialists, primary care, therapists, educational colleagues, and social care. This book has a collaborative feel, as it encompasses more than 20 years of clinical experience of an eminent and much-respected UK community paediatrician enriched with summaries written by national and global experts in related fields.

This second edition welcomingly has a heavier focus on neurodisability and neurodevelopmental disorders with a detailed, updated section on Autism Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, incorporating new guidance, diagnostic and therapeutic approaches including behavioural, educational, and medical interventions. Information is set out in an easily readable format, with sections highlighted in text boxes, charts, bullet points and tables. There are 14 main chapters, with each chapter split into sections, including an introduction to each topic then detailed review of specific aspects.

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Edited by:
Jan Willem Gortel
Impact Factor 2021: 2.508

Child: care, health and development is an international, peer-reviewed journal which publishes papers dealing with all aspects of the health and development of children and young people. We aim to attract quantitative and qualitative research papers relevant to people from all disciplines working in child health. We welcome studies which examine the effects of social and environmental factors on health and development as well as those dealing with clinical issues, the organization of services and health policy. We particularly encourage the submission of studies related to those who are disadvantaged by physical, developmental, emotional and social problems. The journal also aims to collate important research findings and to provide a forum for discussion of global child health issues.



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The content spans comprehensively across all areas encountered in community paediatrics, including child development and neuroplasticity, neurodevelopmental conditions and neurodisability, sensory impairments, neurological disorders, mental health, neuro-orthopaedics, safeguarding and looked after children and those with special educational needs. The information is concise but detailed and would provide a solid framework for consultations in clinic. It allows for practical application of what is known so far and offers innovative ideas and approaches in diagnosis and multidisciplinary management.

There is also cross-referencing between sections as common themes emerge. At the end of each main section, there is a handy list of further resources signposted for additional reading and learning. For trainees or professionals who are new to the specialty, there are also templates and example reports which may be useful as a structured guide (e.g., example medical advice for Education, Health and Care needs assessment, and tips for documenting child protection medicals or court reports). The index is detailed and easily accessible, and I have often used this to dip into specific sections, especially when faced with less familiar topics. Only recently, I used this handbook to refresh my knowledge during specialist neuromuscular and gait clinics.

It is apparent that this book is a labour of love and the book editor's passion for the specialty and child advocacy, and his deep respect for his team of global experts, is prominent in the preface. For me, this is a fantastic, portable, and concise resource, suitable for targeted referencing of specific topics to aid consultations and assessments, or for general reading around the context behind statutory processes, and how systems have evolved over time. It serves as a practical companion for any trainees or senior clinicians in community paediatrics and neurodisability as well as general paediatricians, general practitioners and professionals from the wider multidisciplinary teams who work closely with children and their families. I would recommend this book thoroughly and feel sure that all BACCH News readers would find it highly informative.

What is more, the editor and collaborating authors will not be receiving any fees so all royalties from this book will be kindly donated to BACCH (British Association for Community Child Health), BACD (British Academy of Childhood Disability), EACD (European Academy of Childhood Disability) and AACPDM (American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine).

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- Tics and Tourette's and Management, **Dr Tamsin Owen**
- Practical use of genomics in community paediatrics, **Dr Elaine Clark**
- Siblings of disabled children, **Dr Georgia Pavlopoulou**
- The ESSENCE of Autism and Other Neurodevelopmental Conditions: Rethinking Co-Morbidities, Assessment, and Intervention, **Prof Christopher Gillberg**
- ADHD in Girls, **Drs Nivedita Bajaj and Chinnaiah Yemula**
- Dystonia approach and management, **Dr Arpana Silwal**

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