

Contents

PREFACE ix

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS xv

Introduction i

References 4

1. Cultural Adaptation in Effective Child Welfare Practice with African Americans 6

A Cultural Adaptation Framework 6

The New Adaptation Perspective 10

Reforming Child Welfare Through Cultural Adaptation 12

Cultural Adaptation and Policy 14

Cultural Adaptation and Practice 15

Cultural Adaptation and Research 28

Summary and Conclusion 30

Discussion Questions 31

Activities for Ongoing Learning 31

References 32

2. Child Welfare in Perspective: Historical Factors Influencing African American Families and Policy Formulation 42

Sociopolitical Factors 42

The Effect of Social and Political Factors on Policy 47

National Child Welfare Reform Movement 54

Summary and Conclusion 59

Discussion Questions	60
Activities for Ongoing Learning	60
References	61
3. Child Welfare Policy and the African American Family	64
Child Welfare Policy in Context	64
Child Welfare Policy Framework	67
Overview of Major Child Welfare Policy and Laws	70
Cultural Adaptations for African American Children in Child Welfare	83
Summary and Conclusion	85
Discussion Questions	85
Activities for Ongoing Learning	86
References	86
A Case Study: Cultural Adaptation and Services—The Davis Family	89
4. Safety and Protection	94
Child Abuse and Neglect	94
Child Welfare System Components	100
Cultural Adaptations in Support Services for African American Families	112
Summary and Conclusion	114
Discussion Questions	114
Activities for Ongoing Learning	115
References	117
5. Permanence for Children	120
Defining Permanence	122
Values Associated with Permanence	123
The Continuum of Permanence Options	126
Permanency Options	127
Summary and Conclusion	134
Discussion Questions	135
Activities for Ongoing Learning	135
References	136

6. Child and Parent Well-Being	138
Health and Mental Health Disparities Affecting African American Children	140
Behavioral Health Care and the Foster Care System	143
Vulnerabilities Faced by African American Children	151
Education	153
Crime and Juvenile Justice Involvement	159
The Well-Being of Parents and Caregivers	161
Practice Considerations and Cultural Adaptations for Increasing Child and Family Well-Being	168
Summary and Conclusion	171
Discussion Questions	172
Activities for Ongoing Learning	172
References	174
A Case Study: Cultural Adaptations and Research Initiatives— From Kinship Research to Kinship Programming	184
7. Cultural Adaptation and Research	188
Evidence-Based Practice	188
Determining Effective Interventions for African American Children and Families	192
Advocacy Research	196
Performance-Based Research	198
Summary and Conclusion	201
Discussion Questions	203
Activities for Ongoing Learning	203
References	204
8. Meeting the Challenges to Bring About Change	208
The Importance of a Cultural Adaptation Perspective in Improving Child Welfare Conditions	208
The Challenge to Social Work Educators	210
The Role of Social Work Education in Implementing Planned Change	212
The Challenge to Child Welfare Advocates and Policy Practitioners	214

The Challenge to Social Work Practitioners	218
The Challenge to Students of Social Work	220
References	222

GLOSSARY	225
----------	-----

INDEX	233
-------	-----

Preface

The purpose of this book is to inform an approach to child welfare service delivery to African American children and families that is based on cultural adaptation as the mediating construct with the existing system of care. This approach requires identification of the current system's limitations in meeting the needs of African American children and their families, and then using the needs and conditions of families to propose policy and program responses that make requisite cultural adaptations targeted to this population. The disparate experience of African American children and youths in the out-of-home child welfare system provides the primary rationale for considering an alternative approach to the study of child welfare.

The primary objective is to describe how cultural adaptations can be used in the delivery of child welfare services to African American children and families. To accomplish the objective, the book entails a review and evaluation of the three major child welfare goals: (1) *protection*; (2) *permanency*; and (3) *well-being*. Specifically, we explore the effect of these three goals on African American children and families. An important feature of the book is the recommendations for policy, practice, and research that can guide intervention with this population.

USING THE BOOK

The book is intended for use by people who have a basic knowledge of systems of care, human behavior theories, and social work practice skills. The practitioners who use it may be enrolled in a graduate program in social work or a graduate course of study, or be a participant in training directed to government bureaucrats, administrators, or program