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978-0-521-38682-1 - Chronic Childhood Disease: An Introduction to Psychological Theory and Research

Christine Eiser

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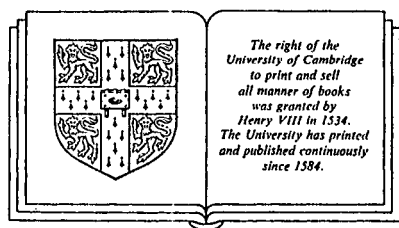
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# *Chronic Childhood Disease*

An Introduction to  
Psychological Theory and Research

CHRISTINE EISER

*Department of Psychology  
University of Exeter*



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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page ix</i>
1 <i>Psychological perspectives in chronic childhood disease</i>	I
Introduction	I
Integration with developmental psychology	3
Integration of research and clinical practice	6
Overview	8
2 <i>Admission to hospital</i>	II
Introduction	II
Psychological impact of admission	14
Preparation for hospital	17
Preparation of well children	18
Evaluations of well child programmes	20
Preparation of acutely sick children	21
The role of parents	25
Conclusions	26
3 <i>The nature of pain</i>	28
Introduction	28
The measurement and assessment of pain	29
Distinctions between measurement and assessment	30
Measurement of pain	30
Cognitive or self-report methods	30
Behavioural methods	31
Physiological methods	33
Assessment of pain	33

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38682-1 - Chronic Childhood Disease: An Introduction to Psychological Theory and Research

Christine Eiser

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Developmental changes in understanding and experience of pain	34
Definitions and understanding of pain	34
Symptom-reporting	36
Coping strategies	36
Intervention strategies	38
Relaxation	38
Puppet therapy	38
Hypnosis	39
Coping with stress-inoculation	40
Conclusions	41
 4 <i>Adjustment in the child with chronic disease</i>	 42
Introduction	42
The incidence of 'maladjustment' in chronically sick children	44
Problems of definition	44
Methodological issues	45
Theoretical approaches	46
Population-based research	48
Asthma	49
Birth defects	51
Cancer	51
Diabetes	53
Haemophilia	53
Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis	54
Renal disease	56
Sickle-cell anaemia	56
Spina bifida	57
Studies involving more than one disease group	57
Conclusions	58
 5 <i>Adjustment in the family</i>	 61
Introduction	61
Knowledge	62
Variables which determine maternal adjustment	63
Risk factors	64
Disease and disability parameters	64
Resistance factors	67
Family environment	67
Social support	68

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-38682-1 - Chronic Childhood Disease: An Introduction to Psychological Theory and Research

Christine Eiser

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

vii

Marital adjustment	69
General correlates of coping in families	70
Siblings	72
Family communication and interaction	74
Conclusions	76
 6 <i>Communication and education</i>	 78
Introduction	78
The communication of 'bad news'	79
Children's understanding of chronic disease	81
Developmental changes in children's understanding of illness	83
The cognitive stage approach to studying children's concepts of illness	84
Concepts of illness	84
Concepts of the body	85
Concepts of death	86
Concepts of related health and illness issues	86
Criticisms of the 'stage' model	88
Alternative theoretical approaches	89
The 'script' approach	90
Conclusions	91
 7 <i>Intervention programmes</i>	 93
Introduction	93
Programmes to increase disease-related knowledge	93
Programmes to increase self-care skills	95
Programmes to improve social skills	98
Interventions with families and schools	100
Programmes to improve participation in school-life	100
Interventions for parents	102
Interventions with bereaved families	103
Conclusions	104
 8 <i>Coping with chronic disease</i>	 105
Introduction	105
Theoretical approaches to understanding coping during childhood	105
Coping with everyday stress	111
Interpersonal stress	112

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-38682-1 - Chronic Childhood Disease: An Introduction to Psychological  
Theory and Research  
Christine Eiser  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

viii	CONTENTS	
	School-related stress	113
	Conclusions	114
9	<i>Future directions</i>	116
	Developmental perspectives	116
	Structuralist versus functionalist approaches	118
	The psychological effects of chronic disease on the child	119
	Chronic disease: a single diagnosis?	119
	Outcome measures	121
	Intelligence	121
	Social development	122
	Personality	123
	Other issues in child adjustment research	123
	Time	123
	Gender	124
	Adjustment in families	125
	Psychology–paediatric liaison	126
	<i>References</i>	128
	<i>Author index</i>	159
	<i>Subject index</i>	170

Cambridge University Press

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[More information](#)

## *Preface*

Recent years have seen a substantial increase in research concerned with the psychological effects of chronic disease on children and their families. This has been reflected in the popularity of journals specifically concerned with child health (e.g. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*; *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*), the organisation of a number of major conferences (e.g. the Florida conferences on Child Health Psychology in 1988 and 1989) and the publication of a number of important books. Many of these, however, seem to be directed toward those who are active researchers, and are not necessarily appropriate for students newly introduced to the concepts and issues of child health psychology. This book is directed primarily at these groups, and will hopefully appeal equally to students of psychology, medicine, nursing and other disciplines involved in the care of chronically sick children.

I increasingly feel that there should be greater collaboration between researchers and clinicians, and that this is important both to improve the quality of research and to effect change in clinical practice. In addition, I would like to see 'child health psychology' truly developmental, rather than embedded in adult perspectives. Both these themes are central in this book.

I am especially lucky at Exeter in being able to work happily with all the paediatric and nursing staff, and am grateful to them all. Special thanks are due to Dr John Tripp, who is always highly supportive and encouraging. I am also grateful to Dick Eiser, both in his capacity as husband and Head of Department, for his help and constructive advice. At various times, I have been supported financially by the Department of Health and Social Security, the Medical Research Council, the Nuffield Foundation and the Economic and Social Science Research Council. Without this

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PREFACE

support, this book would not have been written. Finally, I would like to thank Sandy Salisbury for her careful typing of the manuscript.

*Christine Eiser*  
*February 1990*