

## REHABILITATION AND REMEDIATION OF INTERNATIONALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN

This book presents specific methods for the physical rehabilitation, mental health restoration, and academic remediation of post-institutionalized international adoptees. The focus of the book is on the neurological, psychological, and educational consequences of complex childhood trauma in the context of a fundamental change in the social situation of development of former orphanage residents. A discussion of after-adoption traumatic experiences includes a critique of certain "conventional" approaches to the treatment of mental health issues and different disabilities in international adoptees. Using his 30-year background in research and clinical practice, the author expertly describes and analyzes a range of methodologies in order to provide an integrated and practical system of "scaffolding" and "compensation" for the successful rehabilitation and remediation of children with ongoing traumatic experiences. This is essential reading for researchers and practicing clinicians concerned with childhood trauma, remedial education, and issues of international adoption.

BORIS GINDIS is a licensed psychologist and a nationally certified bilingual school psychologist. He was the founder and Chief Psychologist at the Center for Cognitive-Developmental Assessment and Remediation (1989–2021). He served as Full Professor of Psychology and Director of the Bilingual Program at Touro College's Graduate School of Education and Psychology, USA (1996–2006). Dr. Gindis is the author of two books and many research articles and book chapters. He has served as a guest-editor for psychology journals, and has been a keynote speaker at national and international conferences.



## REHABILITATION AND REMEDIATION OF INTERNATIONALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN

**BORIS GINDIS** 

Center for Cognitive-Developmental Assessment and Remediation







Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009014755

DOI: 10.1017/9781009029629

© Boris Gindis 2021

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2021 First paperback edition 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data NAMES: Gindis, Boris, author.

TITLE: Rehabilitation and remediation of internationally adopted children /Boris Gindis.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2022. |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021024692 (print) | LCCN 2021024693 (ebook) | ISBN 9781316516294 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009014755 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009029629 (epub) SUBJECTS: LCSH: Intercountry adoption—United States—Psychological aspects. | Adopted children—Mental health—United States. | Adopted children—Psychology. | Psychic trauma in children—Treatment. | Problem children—Rehabilitation.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC RJ507.A36 G56 2022 (print) | LCC RJ507.A36 (ebook) | DDC 362.734—dc23 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021024692 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2021024693

ISBN 978-I-316-51629-4 Hardback ISBN 978-I-009-01475-5 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



## Contents

Acı	knowledgments	<i>page</i> vii
Introduction: Adoption Is Not an Event; It Is a Process		I
Ι	Internationally Adopted Children: Development Mediated by Early Childhood Trauma	7
2	Developmental, Neuropsychological, Psychoeducational, and "Dynamic" Assessment of Internationally Adopted Children	19
3	Differential Diagnoses and the Structure of School-Based Recommendations for Internationally Adopted Children	47
4	Developmental Trauma Disorder Rehabilitation in Internationally Adopted Children	65
5	Cognitive Remediation of Internationally Adopted Children in School and Family	82
6	Language Remediation of Internationally Adopted Children	99
7	Academic Remediation of Internationally Adopted Children	113
8	Creation of Social and Cultural Competence in International Adopted Children	ly 136
9	Therapeutic Parenting as a Major Force in Rehabilitation and Remediation of Internationally Adopted Children	155



vi	Contents	
10	Transitioning to Adulthood Using the Individual Transitional Plan	169
Conclusion: The Art of the Possible – Recovery after Trauma		184
	pendix Prences	187 191
Ind		212



## Acknowledgments

This book is an outcome of almost 30 years of my work – in cooperation with specialists in many disciplines – on the assessment and remediation of children adopted by American and Canadian citizens from foreign orphanages. There is no way to mention all my associates, but the staff and consultants at the BGCenter (Center for Cognitive-Developmental Assessment and Remediation) with offices in Nanuet (New York) and Phoenix (Arizona) are to be acknowledged first and foremost: Ida Jeltova, Chun Dong, Carol Napier, Elkhonon Goldberg, Marina Muchnick, and Shylamit Ryshick.

This book was created with the remarkable help and support of my editor Ms. Janka Romero, Commissioning Editor, her wonderful senior editorial assistant Ms. Emily Watton, and Mr. Joshua Penney, Senior Content Manager. Many thanks for your patience, close attention to details, and consideration.

My greatest acknowledgment and gratitude go to my lifelong friends, colleagues, and coauthors Carol Lidz, Alex Kozulin, and Patty Cogan, who influenced me in many ways in writing this book as well as in my day-to-day work. My particular appreciation is for the late Dr. Carl Haywood, a world-renowned scientist and a pioneer in the field of cognitive education and remediation, for his kindness and wisdom, which I will cherish forever.

Many aspects of this book are the result of communication with adoptive parents, particularly from the organizations Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA), Eastern Europe Adoption Coalition, Families with Children from China, and Latin America Adoptive Parents Association. These communications served as inspiration and a litmus test for my thoughts and actions during my long service as a "first responder" to their problems.

And last, but surely not least, is my dear wife, Tatyana, who helped me in all possible ways in writing this book.