

Foreword

Since Sir James Spence created his astonishing service for children and their families, Newcastle upon Tyne has been the origin of many fundamental advances in our understanding of sick children and their families. This new book by Professor Issy Kolvin and his colleagues is worthy of that great tradition.

The work is firmly rooted in the real community of the north-east, and ascertainment covers the whole population. The study is prospective in nature. The enquiry is detailed with meticulous documentation of the early biography of each family. The copious data that have been collected are then analysed in a most sophisticated manner. This is a study without equal in the literature.

Speech disorders, both in the deaf and in those with good hearing, are a critical marker of deviant later development. The findings reported here have large implications for developmental screening and for remedial action in the pre-school years. They will be fundamental to the implementation of the Warnock Report.

The work deals with the whole range of deviant speech and language development. Infantile autism, elective mutism, dysphasia, dysarthria, deafness, hearing impairment, cerebral palsy and intellectual handicap are all individually surveyed. In addition a residual speech retarded group is identified. Its origins are described and analysed and its outcome is presented in detail.

This work is essential reading for all those concerned in child development.

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