

Inclusion, Play and Empathy
Neuroaffective Development in Children's Groups

Edited by Susan Hart. Foreword by Phyllis Booth

Highlighting the crucial role that early relationships and interactions play in the development of children's personal, emotional and social skills, this book introduces the latest research into ways of encouraging the development of these skills in groups of children aged 4-12.

Contributions from early childhood educators, psychologists, music therapists, occupational therapists, and psychotherapists explore how play within children's groups can be facilitated in order to foster emotional and empathic capacities. It looks at how to overcome common challenges to inclusion in schools and introduces practical, creative approaches to cultivate a sense of unity and team spirit in children's groups.

—A compact information-laden volume that conveys a comprehensive understanding of play activity in the lives of children. Theory and practice are interwoven reflecting the diverse meanings of play for the individual child and his parents, as well as for groups of children playing together. Susan Hart's vivid, inclusive and comprehensive view of play is a treasure!

ó Saralea Chazan Ph.D. Clinical-Child Psychologist

—Essential reading for all those who believe that inclusive schools need to focus at least as much on promoting emotional and relational competencies as they do on cognitive and academic achievements.

*ó Prof. Dr. E. Asen, M.D., FRCPsych, Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families,
University College London*

Susan Hart is a psychologist and former director of a municipal family therapy centre. Susan is the author of several books and articles on neuroaffective developmental psychology and frequently gives lectures and courses on the topic.

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[author bio to go inside]

Susan Hart is a psychologist and former director of a municipal family therapy centre. Her experience also includes working in municipal social services and in a children's psychiatric ward. Today, she has an independent practice and works with professional supervision of psychologists, visiting nurses, social workers in child and family departments, and personnel in child psychiatric wards, and advisors to foster families. Susan is the author of several books and articles on neuroaffective developmental psychology and frequently gives lectures and courses on the topic. She lives in Denmark.

[endorsements to go inside]

There is a great deal beyond words that should be part of the talking cure, particularly with children. This book gives the best map currently available to some of the techniques available to reach those children whose emotional vulnerability cannot be reached with verbal dialogue. A brilliant collection of essays.ø

- *Peter Fonagy, Freud Memorial Professor of Psychoanalysis, UCL; Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, London, UK.*