



Champions for children, revised edition

Bob Holman

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Numerous books have been written about Victorian child care pioneers, but few biographical studies have been published about more recent child care and welfare giants. In the revised edition of this classic book, Bob Holman, a champion for children in his own right, looks at the lives of six inspirational individuals who made significant contributions to the well-being of disadvantaged children over the course of the 20th century. Each of the six discussed - Eleanor Rathbone, Lady Marjory Allen, Clare Winnicott, John Stroud, Barbara Kahan and Peter Townsend - were important in establishing present systems of child care and welfare, and in stimulating debate around issues which remain high on policy and practitioner agendas today. The six are all now dead but, in this re-issue, Bob Holman argues that they are still relevant to changing circumstances and shows that recent research confirms that greater equality will improve life for all children. Bob Holman also gives an engaging account of his own life, which has been dedicated to improving the lives of children through research, education and direct work with children. He outlines his own agreements and disagreements with Iain Duncan Smith, the minister for work and pensions from 2010 and, in the final chapter, makes recommendations for the future development of services for children and families and policy recommendations for tackling poverty. Champions for children is essential reading for childhood and youth studies, sociology of the family, social work, social welfare, academics and students with an interest in child care and welfare issues.

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