

(Mobile book) The Vulnerable Child: What Really Hurts America's Children And What We Can Do About It

# The Vulnerable Child: What Really Hurts America's Children And What We Can Do About It

*Richard Weissbourd*

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**Richard Weissbourd : The Vulnerable Child: What Really Hurts America's Children And What We Can Do About It** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Vulnerable Child: What Really Hurts America's Children And What We Can Do About It:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Still Relevant 15 Years Later!By SylviastelThe author, Professor Richard Weissbourd, does a superb job about the hidden epidemic of the neglected and troubled children in the middle class in this book. Even though this book was published in 1996, I am still surprised that there are no reviews here regarding it's importance or any negative or positive criticism.This book is a must read for somebody in the education or social services field. Vulnerable children today have grown since the book first published in 1996. We now have plenty of information via the internet and studies have been done since then regarding this population. Regardless, this book is informative and educational about the plight of today's children in vulnerable situations.The author does provide plenty of examples about children who struggle and the circumstances regarding their situation. As somebody with an educational background, I can see those circumstances everyday in the classroom. The struggling students are often the most obvious as are the students who seek to blend and assimilate into the classroom situation. If we had smaller class sizes, we would be able to attempt more contact or had an extra teacher or aide or paraprofessional in the classroom to assist some students.Students who are classified as special needs often face ridicule and stigma from the label. They often suffer self-esteem but some of them work harder than the rest to prove them wrong. Then there are

those who suffer in silence. This book helps detail students in situations such as a one parent home, welfare, poverty, divorce, and even substance abuse. The children who live in homes where their parents are unable to provide an adequate learning and living environment are vulnerable children themselves. Sometimes, they have to act as parents to their own. This book may be a little outdated and could use some revision to 2011. The author does a service and this book should be read by those in the educational and social services field as a requirement in understanding the problems that occur when vulnerable children in our society.

What really hurts America's children and what we can do about it.

From Publishers Weekly Beginning in the 1980s, Weissbourd, a family issues expert, interviewed and spent time with the disadvantaged children and their families whose stories presented here shatter monolithic concepts of poverty and an underclass. In positioning poor children as distinct individuals, often poor at only some point in their lives, Weissbourd demonstrates that poverty hurts children in a range of subtle ways that have nothing to do with neglect or abuse. He states, moreover, that "a good deal of evidence suggests that most vulnerable children are not poor." His research indicates that such parenting deficits as depression, stress and community isolation often punish children, who become scapegoats or assume other negative roles. The chain of interactions that makes a child vulnerable is followed with compassion in this challenging report, which "shows that children are not typically doomed because of poverty, or other risk factors at early ages." An important advisory for all in service of children. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Harvard-affiliated Weissbourd includes snippets of troubled children's (and parents') lives to enhance the theme of this solid work, that there is no simple circumstance (low income, single parent) that gives rise to a disadvantaged childhood. What does commonly exist in such an environment is a poverty of knowledge about children and their development, a failure to understand the interrelation of family and community circumstances. Weissbourd identifies institutions he feels well positioned to develop and practice informed holistic programs to salvage children at risk: schools, child protective services, police, and community officials. Boston's South End Community Center, Hawaii's Healthy Start, New Haven, Connecticut's Lincoln Bassett Elementary School, and South Carolina's Resource Mothers program are cited as examples of efforts that work. Policymakers, government representatives, educators, and social workers could attend to this thoughtful and reasoned argument, perhaps to the benefit of more than the children. Recommended for academics, professionals, and the general public. ?Suzanne W. Wood, SUNY Coll. of Technology, Alfred Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.