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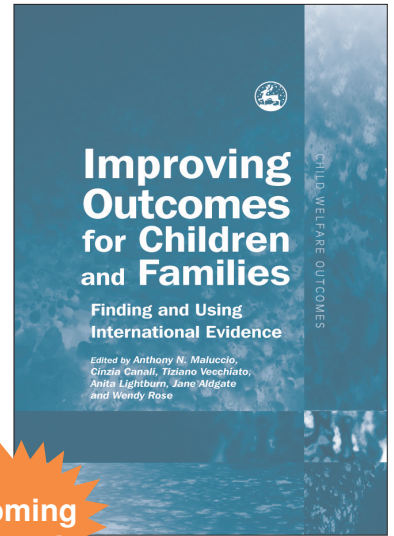
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Improving Outcomes for Children and Families Finding and Using International Evidence

*Edited by Anthony N. Maluccio, Cinzia Canali,
Tiziano Vecchiato, Anita Lightburn,
Jane Aldgate and Wendy Rose*

Foreword by James K. Whittaker

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Significant amounts of money and resources are spent on child and family services, so successful evaluation of whether or not they are achieving the best outcomes is therefore essential.

This edited collection offers an international perspective on the challenges of designing and undertaking outcome-based evaluation of child and family services. With contributions from leading international experts, it introduces the key ideas and issues currently being debated in the evaluation of these services; discusses relevant approaches to designing and using evaluation methods; and provides examples of evaluation from the real world of policy and practice. Issues covered include setting appropriate indicators for service effectiveness, cross-cultural evaluation of service interventions, service user involvement in evaluation, and evaluations of family and community-based services.

This invaluable book will be essential reading for policy makers, planners, commissioners and managers across child and family welfare services, as well as researchers and other academics in the field.

Anthony N. Maluccio is Professor Emeritus in the School of Social Work, *University of Connecticut, USA*. He has published extensively in the fields of child and family social work, child welfare and foster care. **Cinzia Canali** is Researcher at the *Fondazione Zancan in Padua, Italy*, where she has undertaken projects related to evaluative research and the evaluation of services, particularly in relation to child and family services. **Tiziano Vecchiato** is the Director of the *Fondazione Zancan*. He collaborates with the Ministry for Family Policies in Italy and has previously undertaken national health care evaluation. **Anita Lightburn** is Professor in the Graduate School of Social Services at *Fordham University, USA*, and has had 25 years' experience in evaluation. **Jane Aldgate** is Professor of Social Care at the *Open University, UK*, and has researched and published extensively on social work and child welfare. **Wendy Rose** is Senior Research Fellow in the Faculty of Health and Social Care at the *Open University, UK*, and works on national and international child welfare research and development projects. She was previously a senior civil servant advising the government on children's policy. All of the editors have published widely in the fields of child and family services, child welfare and evaluation. Anthony, Cinzia, Tiziano, Anita and Wendy are also members of the *International Association for Outcome-Based Evaluation and Research on Family and Children's Services*.

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