Contents

Acknowledgements		page xi
1	INTRODUCTION	1
	Recognition of the problem	1
	The development of definitions	2
	Characteristics of the abusing parent	4
	Characteristics of abused children	6
	Physical chastisement and physical abuse	8
	The problem of definition	9
	The emotional environment of the family	10
2	THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF CHILD ABUSE	15
	Child abuse in Newcastle upon Tyne, 1975 and 1976	16
	Long-term effects: previous research	18
	A follow-up study of school adjustment	21
	The findings of the survey	23
	An overview of the study findings	30
	Some implications	32
3	WORKING IN THE FAMILY CENTRE	34
	The setting for the research: the Family Centre	35
	The nursery staff	36
	The children	36
	The mothers	37
	The fathers	37
	Research with the sample	38
	Control group	39
4	INTERVIEW AND OBSERVATIONAL TECHNIQUES	40
	Background and interview material	41
	Case files and information from nursery staff	41
	Maternal interview	41
	Observational techniques	42

	The collection of behavioural data by direct observation	42
	Open versus closed systems in observation	42
	Mother-child interaction at lunchtime	44
	Peer interaction	45
	Observation of activity, peer interaction and hostility	45
	Transcription and analysis of data	46
	Observation of approaches, reactions, approach-avoidance	40
	and hostility	49
	The approach and reaction coding system	50
5	THE FAMILIES	56
	Susan and Sally	56
	Elsie and Eddie	60
	Winnie and William	63
	Connie, Carl and Colin	66
	Katherine, Kevin and Keith	68
	Andrea and Alan	70
	Jenny and James	71
	Natalie and Nonny	73
	Liz and Lindy	75
6	LUNCHTIME IN THE FAMILY CENTRE	79
	Susan and Sally	80
	Katherine and Kevin	84
	Elsie and Eddie	89
	Winnie and William	92
	Connie and Carl	95
	Implications	100
	-	
7	THE CHILDREN AT PLAY	101
	Sally	103
	Kevin	106
	Eddie	107
	William	108
	Carl	108
	Hostility	109
	Summary	111
8	APPROACH, REACTION, AVOIDANCE AND HOSTILITY	114
	Frequency data	114
	Approaches by others	114
	Reactions to others	115
	Approach and avoidance of others	118

Contents

	Behaviour directed towards other children	119
	Other approaches	120
	Hostile approaches and reactions	121
	Child directed hostility	121
	Overall hostility	123
	Sequences of behaviour	123
	Behaviour directed towards staff	124
	Behaviour directed towards other children	127
	Intercorrelations of approach and approach-avoidance	
	behaviour	130
	Summary	131
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
9	FAMILY LIFE: BEDTIME AND SEXUALITY	132
	Bedtime	132
	Comments	142
	Sexually related issues	143
	Comments	148
		-,0
10	AFFECTION AND CONTROL	150
	Enjoyment of the child as a person	150
	Affection	154
	Strategies of punishment and control	156
	Conclusions	169
		207
11	FOLLOW-UP	172
	The follow-up	172
	Conclusions	179
12	CHILD ABUSE: WAYS FORWARD	181
	The relationship between research and practice	181
	The case study approach	183
	Topographical description versus functional analysis	184
	Assessing vulnerability	189
	Conclusion	189
13		101
13	PUTTING THE CHILD FIRST: SOME PRACTICAL ISSUES	191
	The rights of the child	192
	Normal development and its assessment	195
	Physical punishment Substitute care	196
		199
	Jasmine Beckford The multidisciplinary unit: a model for work with high rick	200
	The multidisciplinary unit: a model for work with high-risk families	202
	TAITHIES	202

x Contents

	Policy change in action	204
14	LOOKING FORWARD	205
Appendix. The interview schedule		208
References		218
Index		224

Names and other specific details that might serve to identify individuals, families or the location of the main body of the research have been changed in order to preserve anonymity. The views expressed in the book are the authors' own and are not meant to represent NSPCC or any other policy.