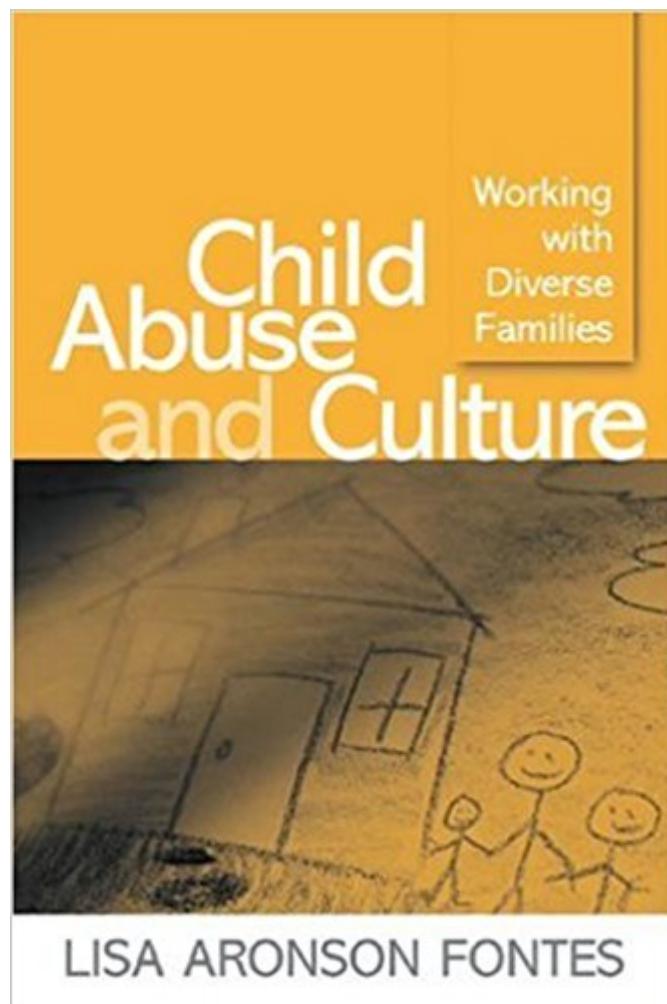


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# Child Abuse And Culture: Working With Diverse Families



## **Synopsis**

This expertly written book provides an accessible framework for culturally competent practice with children and families in child maltreatment cases. Numerous workable strategies and concrete examples are presented to help readers address cultural concerns at each stage of the assessment and intervention process. Professionals and students learn new ways of thinking about their own cultural viewpoints as they gain critical skills for maximizing the accuracy of assessments for physical and sexual abuse; overcoming language barriers in parent and child interviews; respecting families' values and beliefs while ensuring children's safety; creating a welcoming agency environment; and more.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Oh how I struggle with trying to be culturally sensitive when I work with children and families from cultural groups that I don't know enough about! I don't want to be racist, I do want to be sensitive. I want to protect children but i don't want to destroy families. I don't speak every family's language, but i want to give them the best services possible. This book discusses the range of issues in child protection with culturally diverse families--from interpreters to punishments to sexual abuse to prevention and interviewing. It's written in an enjoyable style and has a lot of important content. It's interesting and really got me thinking.

Dr. Fontes has done a masterful job in creating a highly readable and mind invigorating text that

would be of interest to any thinking person in search of deeper self-knowledge and examination of their communication skills with diverse populations. Although I am not in a field directly related to the text, I do see the well-being of children and families as something in which we must all take part, and in our increasingly global community we are indeed challenged on a daily basis to look beyond our own limited scope into the lives of our neighbors with working knowledge and respect. If you are one of those who feel overwhelmed and ill-equipped to handle the fast pace of a changing world, this book will open the doors of your mind and heart.

By far the most readable book on this subject, and chockful of invaluable hints. The writer obviously cares deeply about the families we are all trying to help. There's no excuse for professionals to make insensitive mistakes if they've read this book.

Dr. Lisa Aronson Fontes has written a unique and extremely helpful book that is a must read for anyone who works with children and families. I had my graduate students in school counseling read and discuss the book this past year and they found it to be extremely practical, enlightening and applicable to their work. It really engaged and challenged them and sparked an extremely rich and useful dialogue. I have been looking for a book like this for some time now and I am thrilled to have finally found a well researched, compassionate and clearly written book which speaks respectfully to the complexity of these issues.

I have been a forensic interviewer at a Children's Advocacy Center for 9 years now. I train in the area of Forensic interviewing and specifically Diversity. I cannot say enough about the importance of Ms. Fonte's work here. From the perspective of a CAC Forensic Interviewer she is speaking directly to me and my needs in the field with this work. CAC Executive Directors will find this book invaluable for the Standard Criteria regarding Agency Cultural Competency. The Standard itself is addressed directly in one full chapter. If you have read this book when your review comes around and worked with it in relation to your Agency, in my humble opinion you will be on the cutting edge of the available thought and practice of Cultural Competency at your Center. You will get it even if you can't implement it in your area just yet. This is your primer, and a MUST READ for Agency Cultural Competency. Ms. Fontes does talk specifically about Puerto Rican and Latino cultures in this volume more so than others, but do not discredit any part of the book for that. There are FAR reaching concepts and a paradigm shift talked about in the introduction by Jon Contes as going beyond Cultural sensitivity into more of an action and result based competency. And the book lives up to

that at minimum as a GREAT PLACE TO START. This book should become a Standard Classic in our field along side of others like Lamb and Poole's book on interviewing from the 90s, and Shame on us in the field if it does not. An interviewer dare not walk in to court anymore without have read and understood Lamb and Poole at least where it fits historically in forensic interviewing. One day this book will be of the same kind of importance. BRAVO and Thank You To Lisa.

As a practicing clinician and college professor, I cannot overstate the importance of this book. As I read it, I realized that we all make quick and often inaccurate assumptions about one another, even when from the same culture. This book forces us to look at all of the ways in which we can oversimplify the behaviors or appearances of others and often jump to false and dangerous conclusions. It is certainly a book that anyone working with people from cultures other than their own (that means most of us) should read. It speaks both to the complexity and importance of the work and challenges us to look more carefully at what we do.

This book really helps clarify the various possibilities when dealing with child abuse in immigrant cultures. The author sheds light on the various possibilities of why immigrant families act the way they do and provides examples of ways to work with those families in getting them away from those behaviors.

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