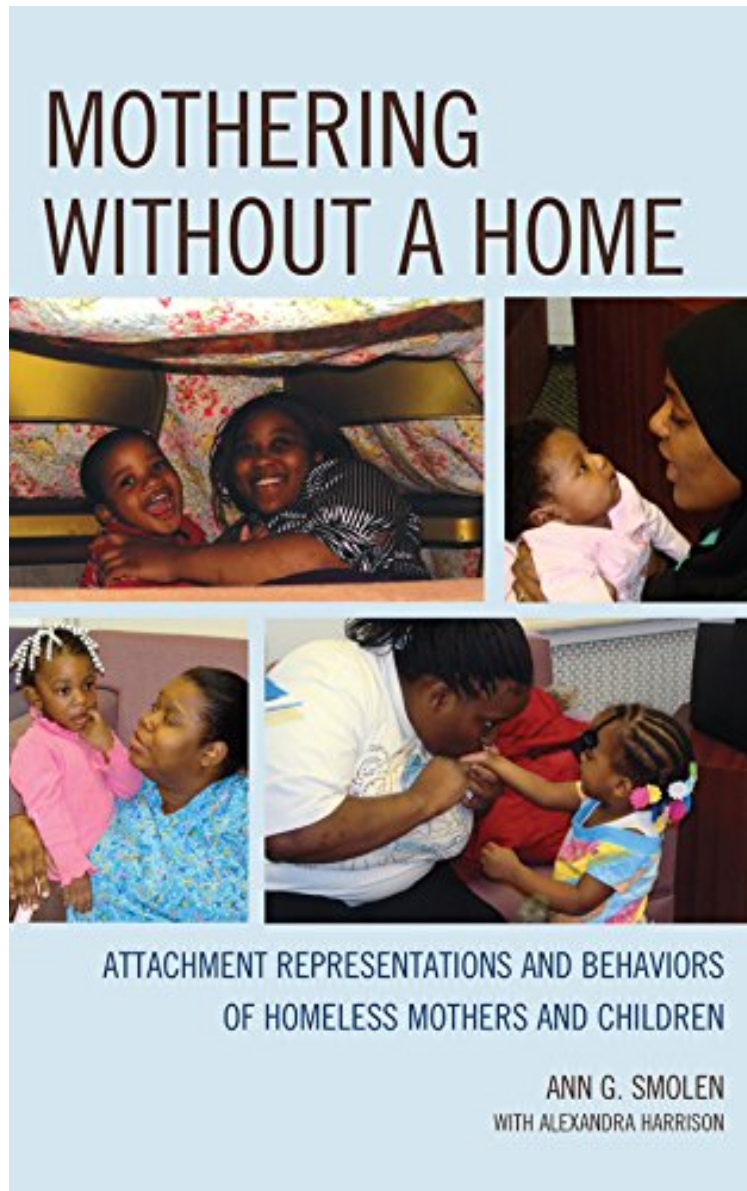


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Mothering without a Home: Attachment Representations and Behaviors of Homeless Mothers and Children (The Vulnerable Child: Studies in Social Issues and Child Psychoanalysis)

Ann G. Smolen

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Ann G. Smolen : Mothering without a Home: Attachment Representations and Behaviors of Homeless Mothers and Children (The Vulnerable Child: Studies in Social Issues and Child Psychoanalysis) before purchasing it in

order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Mothering without a Home: Attachment Representations and Behaviors of Homeless Mothers and Children* (The Vulnerable Child: Studies in Social Issues and Child Psychoanalysis):

Homeless women and their children who reside in a transitional housing facility or shelter have experienced multiple traumas and disruptions in their earliest attachments. These multiple, chronic traumas often result in disorganized attachment disorders, which, in turn, affect all future development. Although there are a dearth of programs and interventions that work with disorganized attachment disorder within the homeless population, there are few studies that explore the difficulties that homeless mothers experience in forming positive attachments with their children. *Mothering without a Home: Attachment Representations and Behaviors of Homeless Mothers and Children* explores the attachment style of homeless mothers and its effect on the resulting attachment style of their children. Ann Smolen utilizes psychoanalytically informed interventions with the goal of aiding these women in developing a deeper capacity to understand and be attuned to their children's emotional needs.

In this book, Dr. Smolen brings the full force of her psychoanalytic understanding to the clinical encounter with the most emotionally deprived and needy of human beings, homeless mothers and their children. She helps us understand the intergenerational transmission of profound emotional neglect and the role of attachment, empathy, mirroring, mentalization and appropriate responsiveness to bring about amelioration. All of this is demonstrated through moving clinical examples as well as in a research study. We are indebted to her for her empathy, understanding, and investment in this project that required dedication and tolerance of unbearable affect. In this multilevel approach, using individual treatment as well as mother-child and group sessions, play and video production, she demonstrates the benefit of a psychoanalytically informed intervention. (Ruth S. Fischer, MD, Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia) About the Author Ann G. Smolen, PhD, is a supervising and training analyst in child, adolescent, and adult psychoanalysis at the Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia. She is in private practice in Ardmore, Pennsylvania. Alexandra M. Harrison, MD, is a training and supervising analyst at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute. She is also a clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.