

**Family conferences bid for mainstream.**

Carson, Gordon

Children Now 6, October 2004: 8

*Discusses moves by Children 1st to set up a unit promoting the use of family group conferences as a means of keeping children out of public care.*

**Family group decision making and permanency planning.**

Horwitz, Mark

Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 93-95

*Discusses the Kinship Connections Project in Massachusetts, which provided family group decision-making services as a permanency planning process for children in state care. Staff at the Lutheran Community Services of New England worked with the Massachusetts Department of Social Services to identify children in care for whom kinship permanency resources might be known. Reports on the findings of an evaluation of project outcomes.*

**Family group conferencing in Sweden.**

Nyberg, Eva

Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 119-120.

*Discusses the development of family group conferencing in Sweden in the 1990s, the findings from an inquiry sent to municipalities to summarise the results of the first local and national projects, the projects which expanded target groups to include clients such as drug addicts, and the documentation of family group conferencing project evaluations in Sweden.*

**Family group conferences: family-led decision making.**

Tapsfield, Robert

Childright 195, 2003: 16-17.

*The Chief Executive of the Family Rights Group explores the development and operation of family group conferences. Includes sections on the worldwide and UK origins of family group conferences, how they work, key research findings, family group conferences in care proceedings and children's views of the process.*

**Family group conferencing: new directions in community-centred child and family practice.**

Burford, Gale and Hudson, Joe (eds)

New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 2000

ISBN: 0202361225

*Collection of work looking at family group conferencing practice in New Zealand, the United States of America, Australia, the UK, and Sweden. Aims to: "examine approaches that entail a shift in assumptions about the way child welfare services are planned and delivered - away from models that emphasize pathology, and toward those seeking an ecological understanding of the families and social networks involved."*

**Better practice, better quality: the role of the black voluntary sector in child protection.**

Dutt, Ratna and Joseph, Pat

London: Race Equality Unit, 2000

ISBN: 1873912900

*A pack divided into 5 sets of practice notes: 1: The child protection process 2: Family group conferences 3: Interagency working 4: The impact of the child protection process on black families 5: The role of the black voluntary sector in child protection.*

**Families matter.**

Bond, Henrietta

Community Care 1278a, 1999: 34-35.

*The use of family group conferences in Essex, enabling families to plan for vulnerable children.*

**The future of specialist child care mediation.**

King, Michael

Child and Family Law Quarterly 11(2), 1999: 137-149.

*Specialist family mediation as an alternative to contested court hearings and as a process where disputes between social workers and parents could be aired and resolved: an account of the Tavistock / National Family Mediation pilot project.*

**Family decision making: good practice in child protection solutions.**

Mondy, Linda and Kiely, Patricia

Children Australia 24(3), 1999: 24-27.

*Describes a family decision making project involving the piloting of family group conferences in New South Wales.*

**Family support.**

Gardner, Ruth

Birmingham: Venture Press, 1998

ISBN: 1861780265

*Defines family support and gives examples of research, planning, budget management and evaluated practice.*

**Family group conferences in child welfare.**

Marsh, Peter and Crow, Gill

Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1998

ISBN: 0632049936

**Group therapy.**

Stanley, Chris and Mapp, Sue

Community Care 1171, 1997: 24-25.

*Explains the theory behind using the Family Group Conference as an alternative to court for young offenders and look at three pilot projects.*

**Family planning.**

Hirst, Judy

Community Care 1119, 1996: 16-17.

*How family group conferences are being used in Britain to give families a say in their child's future.*

**Family group conferences: partnership in practice.**

Ryburn, Murray, and Atherton, Celia

Adoption and Fostering 20(1), 1996: 8.

*Having traced the origins of the family group conference in New Zealand, this article describes the setting up of such a conference, and implications for partnership and practice in the UK.*

**Family group conferences: a report commissioned by the Department of Health.**

Tunnard, Jo (ed)

Family Rights Group; Department of Health (DoH)

London: Family Rights Group, 1994

ISBN: 1871515262

*Contents: Family group conferences in the UK; New Zealand; Family partners; local developments: Gwynedd, Warwickshire, Hampshire, Wandsworth, Birmingham; and, ways forward.*

## Social work practice

**Safeguarding children: challenges to the effective operation of core groups.**

Harlow, Elizabeth and Shardlow, Steven M.

Child and Family Social Work 11(1), February 2006: 65-72

*This article evaluates interagency work within child protection and specifically case conferences. It also considers the retention of social workers and the potential contribution of Children's Trusts.*

**NYAS update.**

Roberts, Kevin

Representing Children 18(1), 2005: 7-10

*Outlines some of the initial findings from the NYAS children and young people advocacy pilot scheme, carried out in partnership with Bournemouth Social Services Directorate and Poole Children and Families Unit, which explored the most effective use of advocacy in child protection conferences.*

**Mainstream or margin? The current use of family group conferences in child welfare practice in the UK.**

Brown, Louise

Child and Family Social Work 8(4), 2003: 331-340.

*Examines the extent to which family group conferences have developed and become enmeshed*

*into social work practice since their introduction into the UK by the Family Rights Group a decade ago. Presents the findings of two surveys undertaken in 1999 and 2001 which reveal the areas of practice within which family group conferences are being used, the size and capacity of projects, and why some councils are hesitant to adopt the model.*

**Restorative justice: a model for social work practice with families.**

Van Wormer, Katherine

Families in Society 84(3), 2003: 441-448.

*Argues that restorative initiatives such as victim-offender mediation and family group conferencing have special relevance for family practice, are effective in meeting participants' needs and are consistent with social work values.*

**Taking care of the children: a video about family group conferences. A training video.**

White, John (dir) and Surgenor, Gael (prod)

Family Rights Group

London: Mental Health Media, 2001

*Training video (~30mins) aimed at staff who need to know about family group conferences. Shows two fictional family group conferences interspersed with comments from family members, co-ordinators and social workers.*

**Educating family group conference coordinators: a 'family of origin' perspective.**

Clare, Michael

Children Australia 25(2), 2000: 21-27.

*Looks at social work education and supervision in respect to family-based practice, with particular reference to family group conferencing.*

**The use of Family Group Conferences in child protection work: an exploration of professional's views.**

Hayes, David

Child Care in Practice 6(2), 2000: 124-146.

*A survey of professionals' views on the possible use of Family Group Conferences within the North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust concluded that the Family Group Conference model has considerable advantages over case conferences in encouraging parental involvement.*

**Mediation in context.**

Liebmann, Marian (ed)

London: Jessica Kingsley, 2000

ISBN: 1853026182

*Reflects the range of contexts in which mediation is used to resolve conflicts, includes chapters on: the history of mediation in the UK; family mediation; conflict resolution and peer mediation in schools; community mediation in an urban setting; rural mediation services; victim-offender mediation; family group conferencing; employment dispute resolution; workplace mediation; medical mediation; multicultural elder mediation; and, mediation in situations of large-scale violence. Includes details of national mediation organisations in the UK.*

**Extending honor and respect to our young people: family group conferencing for youth justice.**

Nash, Jessalyn

Protecting Children 16(3), 2000: 44-51.

*Discusses the youth justice process in New Zealand and the use of family group conferences.*

**Family group decision making: protecting children and women.**

Pennell, Joan and Burford, Gale

Child Welfare 79(2), 2000: 131-158.

*Looks at the use of family group conferencing and the implementation of family group decision making as a means of integrating child welfare and adult safety, and strengthening family unity in cases of family violence.*

**Putting the family in the driving seat: aspects of the development of family group conferences in England and Wales.**

Thomas, Nigel

Social Work and Social Sciences Review 8(2), 2000: 101-115.

*Concludes by examining some of the difficult issues raised by the family group conference model*

for social work practice.

**The role of the co-ordinator in family group conferences: a Northern Ireland experience.**

Allison, Sam and McCambridge, Catherine  
Child Care in Practice 5(4), 1999: 372-379.

*Outlines a model of the role of the family group conference co-ordinator that allows the family system to retain its responsibility and the professional system to fulfil its duty.*

**Working in partnership in child protection: the conflicts.**

Bell, Margaret  
British Journal of Social Work 29(3), 1999: 437-455.

*Examining the work of 22 social workers involved in child protection investigations, the author suggests that the case conference is a problematic decision-making tool.*

**Crawling then walking: first steps in family group conference practice.**

Bowser, Avery  
Child Care in Practice 5(4), 1999: 340-349.

*The author describes his introduction to family group conference practice and discusses the experience of co-ordinating his first family group conference.*

**Family group conferences: user empowerment or family self-reliance? A development from Lupton.**

Jackson, Shirley and Morris, Kate  
British Journal of Social Work 29(4), 1999: 621-630.

*Response to article by Carol Lupton in British Journal of Social Work vol 28(1). Argues that family group conferences should prioritise family needs above professional and political agendas. Also calls for adequate resources to be provided for FGCs.*

**Empowering practice?: a critical appraisal of the family group conference approach.**

Lupton, Carol, and Nixon, Paul  
Bristol: Policy Press, 1999

ISBN: 1861341490

*Examines the nature and meaning of 'empowerment' in child welfare and protection, using the family group conference approach to decision making as an example. The empowerment potential of family group conferences is critically assessed and the implications for professionals, their agencies, and the children and families is examined. Contents: The dilemmas of empowerment; Partnership & empowerment in children's services; Lessons from New Zealand; Empowering professionals; International perspectives; Empowerment in process; Assessing outcomes in child welfare; Empowering outcomes?; Conclusion.*

**Family group conferences: putting principles into practice.**

Wiffin, Jane  
Child Care in Practice 5(4), 1999: 365-371.

*The author, a Family Rights Group Policy Advisor, discusses the principles and practice of the family group conference. Also outlines the five stages in convening a family group conference: referral; preparation for the conference; the information giving stage; private family time; agreeing, reviewing and monitoring the plan.*

**Family group conferences: a training pack.**

Family Rights Group  
London: Family Rights Group, 1998

ISBN: 1871515238

*Training materials and exercises for staff who need basic understanding of family group conferences and how they work in a multiagency setting. Can also be used for training managers and senior managers, conference co-ordinators, and for staff who present information to the conferences.*

**Family group conferences.**

Mitchell, Peter and Kitson, Bill  
Representing Children 10(1), 1997: 20-28.

*An outline of the process of family group conferences, illustrating some practice opportunities and dilemmas.*

**Family group conferences in child care practice.**

Hamill, Heather  
University of East Anglia. Social Work Development Unit  
Norwich: University of East Anglia, 1996  
ISBN: 1857840429

**Family group conferences.**

Hudson, Joe  
Annandale, N.S.W.: Federation Press of Australia, 1996  
ISBN: 1862872015  
*Assesses the principles and practices of family group conferences in the child protection and juvenile justice systems. Includes case studies from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, USA and England.*

**Family group conferences: an introductory pack.**

Morris, Kate  
London: Family Rights Group, 1995  
ISBN: 1871515300  
*Contents: the model of family group conferences; practice in the UK; family experiences; research, training and evaluation.*

**Family group conferences: a resource pack.**

Family Rights Group  
London: Family Rights Group, 1994  
*16 A4 leaflets/sheets in folder.*

## Research and evaluation

**The child protection conference: a study of process and an evaluation of the potential for on-line group support.**

Prince, Jane, Gear, Anthony, Jones, Cath and Read, Martin  
Child Abuse Review 14(2), March 2005: 113-131  
*Reports the findings of three investigations into the dynamics and processes involved in reaching decisions about the registration of children as at risk. Study One reports the findings of a linguistic and discursive analysis of transcripts of child protection conferences which provides a framework for the second and third studies. Study Two reports on the views of child protection chairpersons about the level of satisfaction felt with process and outcomes of child protection conferences. Study Three describes the outcomes of a trial to support the conference process through an online group support system.*

**Familias primero: family group decision making in El Paso county, Texas.**

Sandau-Beckler, Pat and Reza, Susana  
Protecting Children 19(4), 2005: 54-62  
*This article reports on a research project undertaken in El Paso which blended the family group conferencing approach with Oregon's Family Unity Model. This research looked at the strengths and challenges of applying this hybrid model to a community where Mexican-American families make up the majority. 53 conferences were included in this research. Methods used included: participant surveys from families and other family group conferencing participants; focus group interviews and recorded evaluations; and worker reviews of closed cases for outcomes. This evaluation showed that family conferencing results in improved family communication, risk taking, comprehensive information sharing, improved family support and reduced family conflict.*

**Fidelity of family group decision making: a content analysis of family conference and case plans in a randomized treatment study.**

Thomas, Karen L., Berzin, Stephanie C. and Cohen, Edward  
Protecting Children 19(4), 2005: 4-15  
*This article looks at family group decision making (FGDM) through a comparison of case and conference summary plans for children who had been randomly assigned to participate in FGMD as part of California's Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration project. This project enabled a comparative study of FGDM in the two counties of Fresno and Riverside. In Fresno case plans were written solely by the social worker whilst conference summary plans were led by the family. In Riverside case plans were created by the social worker and enforced by the court and conference summary plans were then created by the social worker and conference participants to*

supplement case plans. This research aimed to find out if the conference summary plans in the two counties reflected FGDM programme goals; if there were any differences in conference summary plans; and how the main characteristics of the two types of plans compared.

#### **Outcomes of Arizona's family group decision making program.**

Titcomb, Allison and LeCroy, Craig  
Protecting Children 19(4), 2005: 47-53

*This article reports on a three year evaluation project of Arizona's Family Group Decision Making Program. This programme prepares and encourages families to work in partnership with formal systems to create and follow through on child safety and permanency plans. The evaluation addressed legislated reporting requirements programme improvement and outcome questions and the research methodology included field observations and interviews with FGDM facilitators, case studies of families and comparative studies. Some of the key findings included: high initial rates of relative placement, high levels of satisfaction with the FGDM programme and high levels of both successful completion of meeting and plans. Includes conclusions and recommendations to promote future programme improvement.*

#### **A cohort study of Ohana conferencing in child abuse and neglect cases.**

Walker, Lorenn  
Protecting Children 19(4), 2005: 36-46

*This article looks at Ohana Conferencing: Hawaii's application of family group conferencing for select child protective services (CPS) cases. This relies upon the participation of the family in 'private family time' to develop an initial plan to deal with the report of child abuse and neglect. Includes the results from a comparative study which looked at different outcomes in 60 CPS cases: 33 of which used Ohana Conferencing and 27 of which did not. Outcomes reviewed included length of time the case was open in the CPS system; number of times the case went to court; number of times children were placed in either foster care or emergency shelter care; number of foster placements with relatives; number of permanent custody orders and participant satisfaction with the CPS system. The results showed statistically significant differences in a number of important CPS outcomes between the two groups.*

#### **Private family time: the heart of family group conferencing.**

Walton, Elaine, McKenzie, Margaret and Connolly, Marie  
Protecting Children 19(4), 2005: 17-24

*This article evaluates the New Zealand family group conference (FGC) model. This brings together the extended family to participate in developing a plan for addressing issues of child abuse and neglect and actualizes the leadership and responsibility of the family through the provision of private family time. Interviews, focus groups and questionnaires were used to evaluate this model over a six month period. Findings reflected an inconsistency in the provision of family private time and suggest that coordinators may be making subjective decisions about its inclusion. Argues that, as FGC is a family driven approach, protecting private family time is a vital professional responsibility.*

#### **Transforming relationships in practice and research: what is the Stanislaus model?**

Garcia, John A., Sivak, Paul and Tibrewal, Shradha  
Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 22-29.

*Discusses the evaluation of family group decision making (FGDM), focusing on the development of the Stanislaus County, California FGDM evaluation plan.*

#### **Using family group conferencing to protect children in Finland.**

Heino, Tarja  
Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 121-123.

*A researcher at the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Finland (STAKES) describes the key aims and findings of a project exploring family group conferencing, concentrating on the following issues: the position of the child in the process; listening and being open; empowerment of children and families; participation; implementation, organisation and legislation.*

#### **Family group conferences and child protection in a multicultural community - 1998.**

Marsh, Peter and Crow, Gill  
Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 131-132.

*Describes the aims, methods and findings of a large-scale empirical research study based in a multicultural London community, conducted to examine the use of set referral criteria for family*

group conferences (FGC) and staff response, the use of FGC after an initial child protection conference, the applicability of the process and outcomes in a multicultural and multi-language population, and the resources demanded from social services departments.

**Family group conferencing: a national process and outcome study in England and Wales - 1997.**

Marsh, Peter and Crow, Gill

Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 129-130.

*Outlines the aims, methods and findings of a large-scale study funded by the Nuffield Foundation and undertaken at the University of Sheffield, examining 80 family group conferencing (FGC) meetings in England and Wales. The study was designed to examine whether extended family could be involved successfully in FGC in high-risk cases and to determine outcomes as judged by professionals and family members as compared with other approaches.*

**Learning with families: a synopsis of FGDM research and evaluation in family welfare.**

Merkel-Holguin, Lisa, Nixon, Paul and Burford, Gale

Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 2-11.

*Describes the family group decision making (FGDM) research and evaluations presented in this special issue, identifying emerging themes and patterns .*

**Vulnerability and energy: the study of the Danish experiment with family group conferencing.**

Rasmussen, Bo Morthorst

Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 124-126

*Summarises the methodology and findings of the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs' nationwide trial on family group conferencing undertaken in 1999 to test, develop and adjust family group conferencing to Danish standards. An evaluation of the trial was also funded.*

**Reconstruction works? Constructing family perspectives of the outcomes of family group conferences.**

Stevens, Martin

Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 30-41.

*Describes a study of family members' constructions of the outcomes of family group conferencing.*

**A family group conference pilot project: evaluation and discussion.**

Pugh, Richard

Practice 14(2), 2002: 45-58.

*Reports on an independent evaluation of a family group conferencing pilot project, financed by the Welsh Looked After Children Development Fund. Activities and outcomes of the project are summarised and key questions are raised about the use of group conferences .*

**Social workers' attitudes towards family group conferences in Sweden and the UK.**

Sundell, Knut, Vinnerljung, Bo and Ryburn, Murray

Child and Family Social Work 6(4), 2001: 327-336.

*Findings of a study which looked at attitudes towards and actual referrals to family group conferences amongst 219 social workers from 18 local authorities in Sweden & the UK. Results reveal an overwhelmingly positive attitude towards family group conferences in both countries.*

**Advancing innovations: family group decision making as community-centered child and family work.**

Burford, Gale

Protecting Children 16(3), 2000: 4-20.

*Includes a summary of the research findings on the use of family group conferencing as community-centred child and family practice.*

**It's not too late: the use of FGDM processes to achieve family reunification.**

Wilmot, Leslie E.

Protecting Children 16(3), 2000: 34-38.

*Looks at some of the research surrounding the use of family group conferences and other family decision making models in family reunification.*

**Family group conferences.**

Marsh, Peter, and Crow, Gill

NCB

Highlight 169, 1999: 2.

*Brief overview of the research and issues involved.*

**Family outcomes: following through on family group conferences.**

Lupton, Carol and Stevens, Martin

University of Portsmouth. Social Services Research and Information Unit

Portsmouth: Social Services Research and Information Unit, 1998

ISBN: 186137089X

*The main findings of a research project on family group conferences, conducted jointly between the SSRIU and Hampshire's in-house research section.*

**Family group conferences: messages from UK practice and research.**

Morris, Kate and Tunnard, Jo (eds)

London: Family Rights Group, 1996

ISBN: 1871515300

**Family planning?: an evaluation of the Family Group Conference model.**

Lupton, Carol, Barnard, Sue, and Swall-Yarrington, Maria

Social Services Research and Information Unit

Portsmouth: Social Services Research and Information Unit, 1995

ISBN: 1861370008

*Evaluation of the Winchester pilot project.*

## Child and family participation

**'We had to be there to make sure it was what we wanted': enabling children's participation in family decision-making through the family group conference.**

Holland, Sally and O'Neill, Sean

Childhood 13(1), 2006: 91-111

*This article describes a qualitative study of family group conferences and children's participation in these conferences in Wales.*

**\*\*Only available to NSPCC staff\*\***

**Agency policy and the participation of children and young people in the child protection process.**

Sanders, Robert and Mace, Sam

Child Abuse Review 15(2), March/Apr 2006: 89-109

*This article looks at how agencies approach the participation of children in child protection through an analysis of policy documents and conference minutes and by interviews with social workers and conference chairs working in child protection in Wales. It examines relevant issues and dilemmas surrounding their participation and looks at how the child-unfriendly nature of the child protection process is a major barrier to promoting children's voices. The results found a divergence between what agencies claimed in their policy documents and the level of participation actually found with respondents pointing out the difficulties of fitting a child into a system that is fundamentally adult-orientated. Highlights the significance of the lack of children's input into service planning for child protection.*

**Family group conferences in permanency planning.**

Gill, Helen, Higginson, Lorna and Napier, Helen

Adoption and Fostering 27(2), 2003: 53-63.

*Discusses the family group conferences model, which offers a way of planning which ensures that children, along with parents and families, have their views listened to and are involved in decisions directly affecting their lives, and its role in permanency planning .*

**Outcomes in family group conferences for children on the brink of care: a study of child and family**

Holland, Sally, O'Neill, Sean, Scourfield, Jonathan and Pithouse, Andrew

Cardiff: Cardiff University School of Social Sciences, 2003

*A qualitative study of family group conferences, focusing on the role the child in the meetings and the general process involved. Identifies a generally positive response to the conferences among the children interviewed, with reports of improved family relationships and relationships with school, and little social work intervention.*

**Outcomes in family group conferences for children on the brink of care: a study of child and family participation. Summary.**

Holland, Sally, O'Neill, Sean, Scourfield, Jonathan, and Pithouse, Andrew  
Cardiff: NCH, 2003

*A summary of the findings of 'Outcomes in family group conferences for children on the brink of care: a study of child and family participation', written in English and in Welsh.*

**Promoting the participation rights of children and young people in family group conferences.**

Horan, Hilary and Dalrymple, Jane  
Practice 15(2), 2003: 5-14.

*Describes the experiences of a Barnardo's Family Group Conference Project in Wiltshire, in order to identify the benefits of advocacy support. Argues that all children and young people involved in conferences should have the right of access to an independent advocate to empower them and allow them to participate.*

**Family group decision making: a process reflecting partnership-based practice.**

Lohrbach, Suzanne  
Protecting Children 18(1&2), 2003: 12-15.

*Considers partnership and participatory practice in family group decision making.*

**Ask the family.**

Wilson, Kate and Bell, Margaret  
Community Care 1461, 2003: 38-39

*Looks at research into how children and young people with behaviour problems relate to family group conferences.*

**Family group conferences and youth advocacy: the participation of children and young people in family decision making.**

Dalrymple, Jane  
European Journal of Social Work 5(3), 2002: 287-299.

*Focuses on the work of a family group conferencing project in Wiltshire, which used a small grant to provide independent advocacy for children and young people involved in conferences. Draws on an evaluation of the project, arguing that distinguishing children and young people's power from parental and professional power permits their empowerment through the use of advocacy .*

**Taking care of the children: a video about family group conferences.**

White, John (dir) and Surgenor, Gael (prod)  
Family Rights Group

London: Mental Health Media, 2001

*Video (30mins) aimed at family members and young people who may be attending a family group conference. Shows two fictional family group conferences interspersed with comments from family members, co-ordinators and social workers.*

**Keeping it in the family.**

Winchester, Ruth  
Community Care 1362, 2001: 18-19.

*Looks at professional opinions regarding a Maori method of family support which is being adopted world wide. The method involves the participation of the child's extended family in a one-off meeting to come up with their own child welfare plan, and has been well received by participants.*

**Letting the family speak about violence: research findings on family group conference use in domestic violence.**

Burford, Gale  
Child Care in Practice 5(4), 1999: 350-360.

*Findings from a project carried out in Canada in which family group conferences were used to intervene into situations of family violence. Families were invited to consider how best to halt all the violence in their family, including abuse and neglect of children and adults.*

**Effective participatory practice: family group conferencing in child protection.**

Connolly, Marie, and McKenzie, Margaret  
New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1999

ISBN: 0202361071

*Contents: Family participation in child protection; The New Zealand experience; Indigenous influences in child protection; International developments; Emerging complexities of family decision-making practice; Visionary professional practice; Harnessing strengths, achieving partnerships: operationalizing EPP's central requirements; Effective participatory practice in action: Conclusions.*

**Promoting family decision making in child care practice: an overview of the use of family group conferences in child protection, youth justice, schools and with young carers.**

Nixon, Paul

Child Care in Practice 5(4), 1999: 308-327.

*Paper presented at the Northern Ireland Family Group Conference Convention entitled "Let The Family Speak", held on the 17th/18th of June 1999.*

**Family group decision making: communities stopping family violence: questions and answers.**

Pennell, Joan, and Burford, Gale

Health Canada. Family Violence Prevention Unit

Englewood, Colo.: American Humane Association, 1998

ISBN: 0662268792

*A guide to family group conferences for family members. Contents include: What is family group decision making?; What if family members are worried about taking part in the conference?; and What happens at a conference?*

**Involving children in planning their care: research review.**

Sinclair, Ruth

Child and Family Social Work 3(2), 1998: 137-142.

**Family group conferences: a guide for families.**

Wiffin, Jane, and Morris, Kate

Family Rights Group

London: Family Rights Group, 1998

ISBN: 1900133059

*A guide for family members who have been offered a family group conference, providing information on what the conference is and does, who can be invited, what happens at the meeting and afterwards, and a checklist of ways to make the best use of the conference.*

**Family involvement in decision making in child protection and care: four types of case conference.**

Campbell, Lynda

Child and Family Social Work 2(1), 1997: 1-11

**Family group decision making: a mother and caseworker's perspectives.**

Harper, Carol J.

Protecting Children 12(3), 1996: 15-16.