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Accardo, Pasquale J. and Whitman, Barbara Y, with Laszewski, Carla, Haake, Carol A., and Morrow, Jill D. *Dictionary of Developmental Disabilities Terminology*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., 1996, xviii, 348 pp., \$35 softcover, \$55 hardcover.

The *Dictionary of Developmental Disabilities Terminology* will be welcomed and applauded by the various professionals who provide assistance to persons with neurodevelopmental diagnoses, including mental retardation, cerebral palsy, various learning disabilities, autistic disorders, communication disorders, and others. As is the expressed purpose of this dictionary, it provides concise, clear, non-technical, but accurate definitions for terms and acronyms that often appear in case notes and reports, but are not always understood equally well by all members of interdisciplinary teams including the client's family members. It contains over 3,000 entries, and is helpfully illustrated with hundreds of drawings, diagrams, and charts. Medical terminology has received the largest share of attention. This seems appropriate to the longer history and greater volume of terms used by medical personnel, but it also reflects the purpose of the project and the predominant direction that information takes in the interdisciplinary chain of reports. From this reviewer's own experiences as a vocational and residential counselor, it seems that the social service providers (that is, counselors, case managers, educators) often utilize psychiatric or other medical reports in the construction of service plans with clients and their families, but often without the presence of medical personnel in team meetings. Though the entries do not include technical explorations of medical or psychological concepts, they will allow professionals to confirm that they understand the meanings of terms, remind themselves of concepts they have been trained to use, or allow them to identify points where they should consult more extensive textbooks or manuals. The *Dictionary* does not attempt to enter into the present discourses or review of the history of debates surrounding contested terms such as "intelligence." However, the authors were especially adept at highlighting points of debate or providing very brief descriptions of key historical figures that will allow readers to seek other sources. They have also included definitions for terms that lack present clinical status. Service providers and family members of persons with developmental disabilities should review a copy of *The Dictionary of Developmental Disabilities Terminology*.

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