This book is a consolidation of current knowledge and clinical applications, bringing together a group of international experts who have been on the ground floor of theory and research to clarify the concept, review pertinent neurobiological and psychosocial research, and explore its diverse clinical applications.

Pioneering research has been carried out over the last decade on mentalization and the promotion of mentalizing capacity - the ability to interpret the behavior of oneself and others as based on intentional mental states, such as needs, desires, feelings, and beliefs.

Four sections cover conceptual foundations, developmental psychopathology, intervention and prevention. A biopsychosocial approach is used, integrating new research in neuroimaging with psychodynamic and cognitive perspectives. Clinical issues covered include parent-child interactions, personality disorders, traumatic brain injury, bullying and at-risk children.