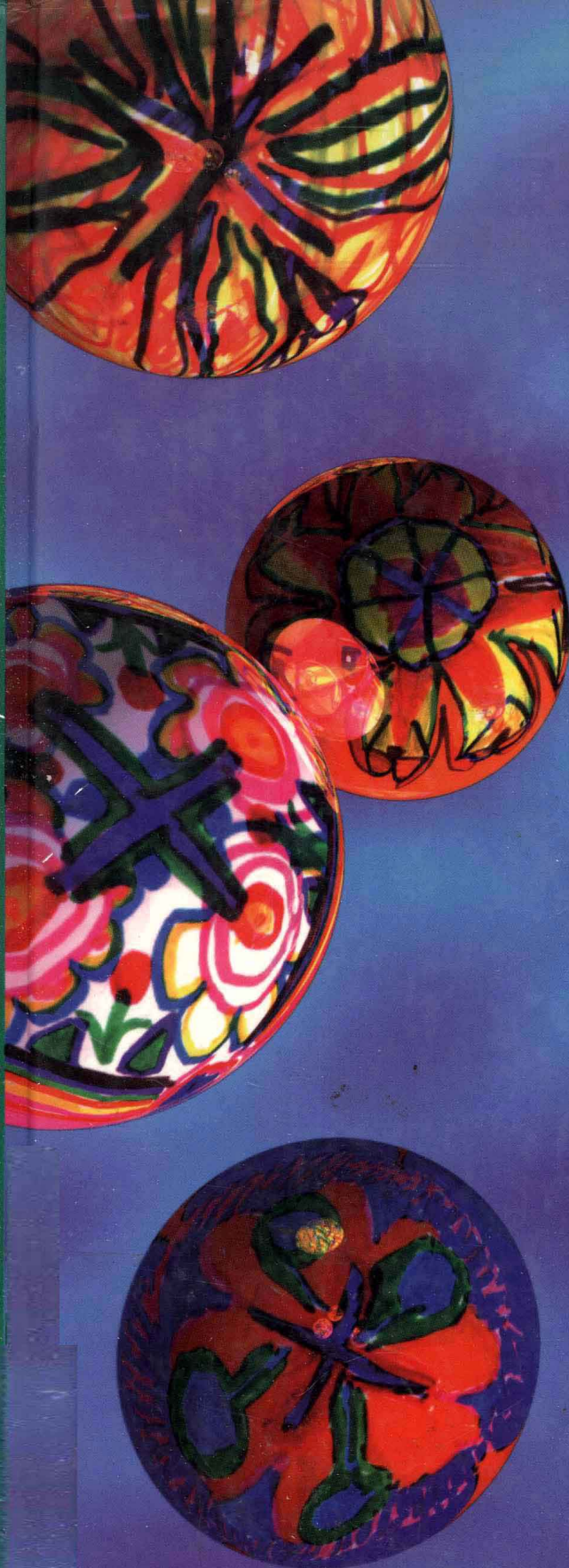


Mental Retardation

MARY BEIRNE-SMITH
JAMES R. PATTON
RICHARD ITTENBACH



FOURTH EDITION





Mental Retardation

Fourth Edition

MARY BEIRNE-SMITH
The University of Alabama


JAMES PATTON
The University of Texas at Austin

RICHARD ITTENBACH
University of Mississippi

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TO
Those who helped prepare the way:
Our parents,
Harold Beirne and in memory of Mary Beirne
Dorothy and John Patton
Mary Ittenbach
Our mentor,
James S. Payne

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Editor: Ann Castel Davis

Production Editor: Mary Irvin

Photo Editor: Anne Vega

Cover Designer: Cathleen Carbery

Production Manager: Pamela Bennett

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Preface

For the last 200 years, a considerable body of knowledge has been compiled about people who are mentally retarded: how they learn, how and what to teach them, and how society treats individuals who are retarded. Recent developments in the field of special education and the area of mental retardation, such as community-based instruction, transitional planning, supported employment, and inclusion, have made critical the need for informed, educated professionals in this area.

The fourth edition of *Mental Retardation* was written with the intent of providing educators and other service providers with up-to-date information on the many facets of mental retardation from a life-cycle perspective. We have tried to digest the literature and add what we have learned through our own experiences. We believe that it is exciting to be involved in the field of mental retardation and we hope that our interest and enthusiasm about individuals who are retarded, their families, others with whom they come in contact, and the society in which they live comes through in this book.

Revising a textbook is always a challenge. One must try to retain what is valuable from earlier editions, emphasize what has changed, add what is current, and integrate it all into a meaningful whole.

Revision starts out as a seemingly manageable task but always develops into a formidable endeavor.

Throughout the revision process, we have been mindful that students are sometimes unenthusiastic about taking an introductory course in mental retardation. To combat this attitude, we have designed the text to be useful for all professionals who work with individuals who are retarded. Whenever possible, we try to show how a given topic relates to intervention. We point out the many other valuable resources in the field. We have also “decoded” much of the terminology found in the literature, particularly that associated with the causes of retardation, and we have related these terms to the reality of the classroom, job setting, or community.

In addition, we have made a number of changes in the text.

- Each chapter begins with a list of key words and learning objectives.
- Each chapter ends with bulleted summary statements arranged by chapter headings.
- Every chapter has been updated substantially.
- One new chapter has been added: Perspectives on Mental Retardation.
- The chapters on Biological Causes of Mental Retardation and Psychosocial Causes of Retardation have been combined.
- The chapter on Family Issues has been completely rewritten.
- The Instructors Manual for the text has been completely rewritten.

In addition, we have continued to use short features in each chapter to broaden the coverage of certain topics. We used these in earlier editions of the text and feedback from instructors and students who have used the text indicates that the features often lead to lively class discussions about different aspects of the topics covered in the chapters.

Perhaps the most obvious change to readers of previous editions, and certainly a most significant one for us is that, with this edition, we bid farewell to James S. Payne as author of the text. Jim has had a profound effect on our careers and our personal lives. He is our mentor, colleague, and close friend. We stand in awe of his contribution to the field of special education and the area of mental retardation. We will miss him as our co-author but we continue to rely on his guidance and friendship.

Jim’s decision to leave the text was grounded in his dedication to mentoring “new talent.” His generosity gives us the pleasure of welcoming on board Richard Ittenbach. Rick contributed a chapter to the third edition of *Mental Retardation*. His research in the area of mental retardation is extensive and we are proud to have him associated with the text.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In revising *Mental Retardation* we were inspired by many different individuals. Our memories of Smitty, Catie, and Mark give us strength and courage and spur us on. Our family and friends offered unconditional love and the support needed to complete the task of revision.

We are deeply indebted to the individuals who have contributed their time, energies, and skills to earlier editions of this book: Diane M. Browder, Frances E. Butera, Lawrence J. Coleman, Jill C. Dardig, Robert M. Davis, Keith Hume, Allen K. Miller, Ruth Ann Payne, Janis Spiers, and Thomas J. Zirpoli and, especially, Vicki Knight.

We would also like to acknowledge colleagues who contributed to this revision: Gary Clark, Fay and David Jackson, Veda Jairrels, Eric D. Jones, John A. Nietupski, Jerry Saiz Nunnally, Edward Polloway, Greg A. Robinson, Tommy Russell, J. David Smith, and Carol Thomas. Their willingness to participate, their expertise, and their excellent work are greatly appreciated.

We are especially grateful to the people who contributed to the research and development of this edition. We could not have completed the revision without the help of Ginger Ittenbach, Janie Morrow, and Cynthia Smith.

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MBS
JRP
RFI

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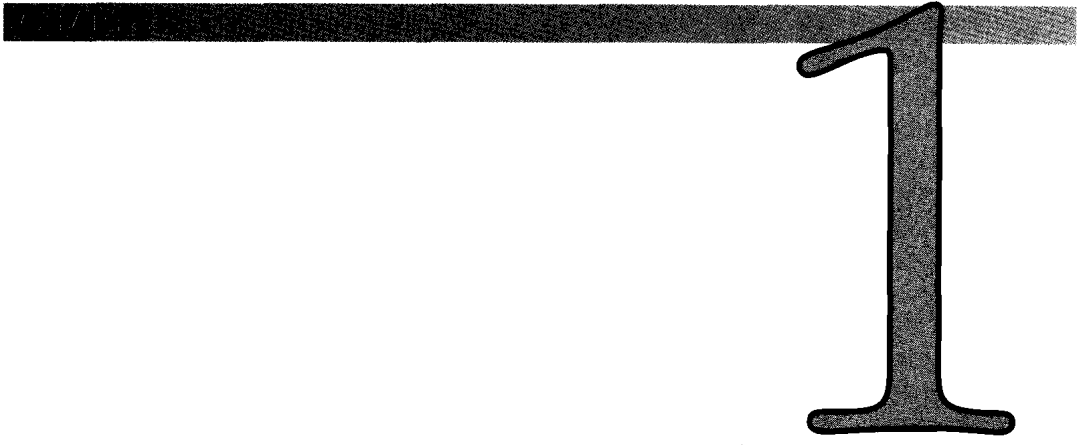
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Basic Concepts





Perspectives
on Mental
Retardation