



Understanding the Mind of Your Bipolar Child: The Complete Guide to the Development, Treatment, and Parenting of Children with Bipolar Disorder

Gregory T. Lombardo

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"Bipolar disorder is a manageable condition, one that is more manageable the earlier it is recognized and the more comprehensively it is treated. The better parents understand how Bipolar disorder affects their child's mind, affects how a child takes in the world, and affects how a child reacts to its complex demands the better parents can help their child.

I have been diagnosing and treating children with Bipolar disorder for many years, and have seen a great many of these children go on to live happy and productive lives--not just children who were bright and personable but also those who struggled with learning disorders, intense anxiety, isolation from peers, substance abuse, enormous irritability, and overwhelming anger. Despite their many difficulties, most of these children also have powerful gifts for empathy, imagination, inventiveness, and productivity that they have learned to use to their best advantage.

The greatest gift you can give your child is understanding. Yet a child with a Bipolar disposition is sometimes very difficult to understand. My goal in writing this book is to increase your knowledge of the disorder, its treatments, and how you as a parent can be most helpful to your child. I'll explain both the biological and developmental aspects of the disease, because if you can grasp the link between your child's biology and his development you can help him cope with the impact the condition has on the growth of his personality and of his mind.

When you have finished reading this book you will have a complete picture of Bipolar disorder, ranging from infancy through adolescence including the impact of Bipolar disorder on your child's development, as well as the need for professional diagnosis and psychiatric and psychotherapeutic treatment. This book will enable you to better understand your child and provide effective support every step of the way."

-from the Introduction

Bipolar disorder is one of the most frequently diagnosed youth mental health diseases. Up to one-third of the 3.4 million children and adolescents with depression in the United States may actually be experiencing the early onset of bipolar disorder. Also, up to 15% of US Children diagnosed with ADHD may actually be suffering from early-onset bipolar disorder instead. Bipolar disorder has an effect not only on a child's mood and behavior but on the way the world comes at them and, consequently, on the way they think. The intensity with which a bipolar child perceives things can be the source of creativity and artistic talent, but it can also be a source of confusion and disorganization. If parents can understand the effects of bipolar disorder on their child, they can help him to better navigate school, friendships, and family relationships.

Dr. Lombardo provides comprehensive information on:

Diagnosis

Developmental Issues

Disorders that go hand-in-hand with Bipolar including ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Treatment - including psychotherapy and medication

Understanding the Mind of the Bipolar Child is essential reading for any parent who wants to best help their child who has received this diagnosis.

Gregory T. Lombardo, M.D., Ph.D. is board certified in adult and in child and adolescent psychiatry; and a Diplomate of the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology. He is highly trained in and practices both the biological diagnosis, the clinical psychopharmacology, and the psychotherapeutic treatment of children with bipolar disorder. Additionally, he has a background in teaching and writing literature at the college and secondary school level. His experience treating bipolar children psycho-pharmacologically and psychotherapeutically is a crucial source of his understanding of the mind of the bipolar child. He also collaborates closely with psychologists and other therapists in the treatment of children with this disorder.

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Elmira McGraw:

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Arturo McDaniel:

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