Contents

Ackn	owledgements	X
Part	I Towards a Cultural Politics of Childhood	1
Intro	oduction	3
1	Constructing Children, Childhood and the Child	10
	Childhood as a social construction	12
	Childhood, children and the child	14
	Childhood as a 'natural' temporal space	18
	Childhood as a generational space	20
	Children as social agents	23
	Conclusion	26
2	Key Constructs: Politics, Policies and Process	29
	Politics, children and childhood	30
	Childhood as an institution	33
	Children as citizens?	35
	Childhood's structure and	
	children's agency	37
	Childhood change and continuity	41
	Childhood as an interdisciplinary field	43
	Conclusion	45
2	The Dundunting and Demonstration of Childhead	40
3	The Production and Reproduction of Childhood	48
	Law and social change	51
	Theorising children and childhood	58
	Children, childhood and social order	61
	The role of law in constructing childhoods	64
	History, continuity and change	70
	Conclusion	74

4	The Universalisation of Law?	78
	Children, childhood and	
	international law - the UNCRC	81
	The nature of children's rights	83
	The UK and the UNCRC	86
	The international response	
	to the UNCRC	90
	Law and social policy	96
	Law, social policy and the cultural	
	politics of childhood	104
	Conclusion	106
Par	t II Case Studies in the Cultural Politics of	
	Childhood	109
Int	roduction	111
5	Education	117
	Schooling the school child	120
	The national curriculum for a	
	national childhood	124
	Special needs and deviant children	128
	Children's citizenship participation	132
	Conclusion	138
6	Health	140
	Childhood: a process of natural	,
	growth and development	142
	Health policies for children?	146
	Children's diets	150
	Sex and drugs	152
	Competent children	156
	Health and the special needs of children	161
	Conclusion	165
7	Crime	167
	Crime, youth justice and the community	169
	Children in court and in custody	178
	Current and future developments	182
	Conclusion	187
	Conclusion	107

CONTENTS

8	The Family	189
	Emerging family policy in the UK	191
	Communitarianism, children and childhood	194
	Children and divorce	196
	Children and family mediation	201
	Conclusion: culture, politics and childhood	209
Co	ncluding Thoughts – Continuity and Change	213
References		219
Index		232