



Add Play To Your Work.... Fall 2008

New England Association for Play Therapy.



Hello all...

Fall is here again already. Time for school, schedules, activities, colder weather, beautiful leaves, and shorter days. Hopefully this time of year feels refreshing, active and inspiring as we prepare our lives for winter nesting.

Personally, I am looking forward to seeing you all in Boston for our 5th Play Therapy Conference. Remember our annual meeting will be held at lunch on November 7th. All members are welcome to the meeting, whether you are attending the conference or not. But do take the opportunity to get 6 ceu's for only \$75. What a bargain. If you are not a member, or your membership has expired, please take this opportunity to renew your membership now online at www.a4pt.org. We will network, learn, share and have a good time. Hope to see you there.

Sarah

Just a reminder ... our fall annual conference is November 7th at Boston University. The presenter is Helen Benedict, PhD, RPT-S and she will teach us about play themes. Learn more about Helen in the adjoining article and spread the word.... Also take a moment to renew your membership and ask a colleague to join us as well. As you can see, members receive a significant discount at many events.

Keep Playing. Enjoy,

Sarah O'Brien, President, NE-APT

Helen Benedict, PhD, RPT-S to present at 5th Annual New England Play Therapy Conference:

Register now because we are in for a rare treat as the esteemed Psychology and Neuroscience professor from Baylor University, Helen Benedict is scheduled to present on the topic of **Metaphors in Play: What Does it all Mean? Using Themes to Decipher the Child's Play Therapy Process.** "You may have explored thematic play before, but Helen is truly unique and so is her approach.

Learning objectives:

Participants will be able to:

- 1) Describe the ways children use metaphoric themes and relationships in play therapy and be able to list several common themes seen in children's play.
- 2) Describe the different patterns of themes for boys and girls and how the patterns vary according to the various interpersonal stress or trauma the child has experienced.
- 3) Describe the use of play themes in assessment.
- 4) Describe several therapeutic responses to children's play themes based on cognitive-attachment theories.

Registration is at www.bu.edu/ssw

NE-APT Training Guide: Upcoming Training Announcements:

The following workshops (unless otherwise listed) are offered by or in conjunction with the New England Association for Play Therapy. NE-APT is APT Provider #02-123.

Oct 24th, 2008 Ethical Play Therapy Communication and Documentation with Kay Edwards, MEd, LMHC, RPT-S. Londonderry, NH 3 hrs. contact kayeedwards@comcast.net. (603)296-4087.

Nov 1st, 2008 Sandplay Therapy: Applications for the Treatment of Complex Trauma with Jayne Dean, LMFT, LADC, RPT-S. Hartford, CT jaynedean@hotmail.com.

Nov 7th, 2008. ANNUAL NE-APT CONFERENCE Metaphors in Play: What does it all mean? Using themes to decipher the child's play therapy process. Learn to link a child's play behaviors to interventions that address the child's therapeutic needs and goals. Helen Benedict, PhD, RPT-S. Boston University, Boston, MA. 6 hrs. \$100 Non-member professionals, \$75 NE-APT members and Students. <http://www.bu.edu/ssw/training/pep/conferences/play/index.shtml>.

Nov 12th, 2008 Play Therapy: Tools of the Trade. With Beverly Conant, MA, LPC, RPT-S. Warwick, RI. www.crosscountryeducation.com 6 hours.

Nov 13th, 2008 Play Therapy: Tools of the Trade. With Beverly Conant, MA, LPC, RPT-S. Worcester, MA. www.crosscountryeducation.com 6 hours.

Nov 14th, 2008 Play Therapy: Tools of the Trade. With Beverly Conant, MA, LPC, RPT-S. www.crosscountryeducation.com 6 hours. East Hartford, CT.

Dec 4th, 2008 Play Therapy: Tools of the Trade. With Beverly Conant, MA, LPC, RPT-S. Natick, MA. www.crosscountryeducation.com 6 hours.

Dec 5th, 2008 Play Therapy: Tools of the Trade. With Beverly Conant, MA, LPC, RPT-S. Natick, MA. www.crosscountryeducation.com 6 hours.

Remember, regardless of whom the presenter is, if the workshop announcements do not state APT approval with a provider number, APT will not approve it for RPT/RPT-S application or renewal. If you are not a member, please join to receive the member discounts plus many more benefits outlined on www.a4pt.org Check for updated announcements on www.NewEnglandPlayTherapy.org

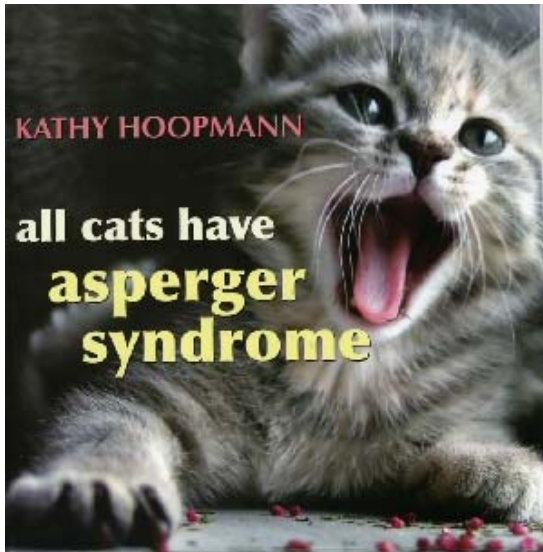
Announcing a new free resource:
Favorite Therapeutic Activities for Children and Teens: Practitioners Share Their Most Effective Interventions. It is a collection of play therapy techniques. This resource is available in E-book format for free at www.lianalowenstein.com

The Southern New Hampshire (Londonderry) Supervision Group is now active again. Contact kayeedwards@comcast.net for more info.

Seeking Newsletter contributions. We love technique ideas, book reviews, giggles, announcements and job listings. Please submit to Sarah at nea4pt@yahoo.com

Anyone interested in re-starting the Providence, RI supervision group contact nea4pt@yahoo.com with preferred times for the fall.

Book Nook:



He likes to be near those he loves,



but doesn't want them to hold him,

ALL CATS HAVE ASPERGER SYNDROME by: Kathy Hoopmann.

All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome is a delightful find. It is written by Kathy Hoopmann who is the author of a wonderful Asperger Adventure series with the titles: Blue Bottle Mystery, Of Mice and Aliens and Lisa and the Lacemaker. The book is essentially a picture book with exceptional photographs of kittens. The book is touching, insightful and humorous. It can be used for parents or children and adolescents with the syndrome. One of the therapeutic issues parents often must decide is whether to tell the children they have the syndrome, or let them deal with the anxiety, sensory issues and social perceptual issues without a label. This book is a gentle and funny way to introduce the syndrome to a child or teenager. It begins by prefacing that "The first signs of Asperger Syndrome are usually picked up very young". The picture shows a tiny kitten. It continues with "An Asperger child looks at the world in his own unique way". Children enjoy identifying the qualities they most relate to in themselves, and the book gives teenagers and parents a more positive way to look at the Asperger issues. The book suggests that there is a "little bit of Asperger in all of us". Clients can use the book to identify which of the qualities their parent or siblings might have and display.

In my practice, I have found the children with the Syndrome often feel different from others. Why do all their classmates remember children's names, but they remember the boy with brown hair and a red sweater? The book helps them see that they are not alone, and after all "everyone likes cats". It helps them see the behaviors as unique, rather than a handicap and may assist the therapist in providing coping strategies, especially with social perceptual skills.

I thoroughly enjoy all my Asperger clients. I find them intellectually challenging as I am always searching for an "out of the box" strategy to match their behaviors. Ms. Hoopmann's book celebrates these fascinating clients and gives them the respect they deserve.

By: DeeDee Nold, LICSW, RPT-S

Ashland Family and Play Therapy Center

Available at www.selfesteemshop.com or www.amazon.com