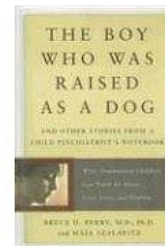


Add Play To Your Work.... Spring 2008

New England Association for Play Therapy.

Book Nook



The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog: And Other Stories from a Child Psychiatrist's Notebook, by Bruce Perry and Maia Szalavitz.

The subtitle of this fascinating book is "What Traumatized Children Can Teach Us About Loss, Love, and Healing." The book not only asks the question, how does terror, abuse, or disaster affect a child's mind? But continues with, how can that mind recover?

Dr. Perry uses each chapter to examine a case, discuss what is going on at the "brain" level, and how that knowledge can inform our treatment. The cases are sometimes well-known, for example the Branch Davidian children, but mostly they are horrific examples of the maltreatment of children. Still, it did not come off as a "sensational" book, but rather a book that gives hope. In spite of these circumstances, there is hope for these children. Not all chapters had "happy endings", but all had a point to make in the treatment of traumatized children.

One point that is consistently brought up is the need for healthy, loving relationships. In speaking about the Branch Davidian children, Perry states, "... the research on the most effective treatments to help child trauma victims might be accurately summed up this way: what works best is anything that increases the quality and number of relationships in the child's life." (p. 80) And again, when writing about a boy who spent his first three years in a Russian orphanage, Perry writes, "The more healthy relationships a child has, the more likely he will be to recover from trauma and thrive. Relationships are the agents of change and the most powerful therapy is human love." (p. 230)

This book is an "easy read". The case studies are compelling and the research gives a practical basis for treatment plans when working with traumatized children. I would recommend this book to all therapists who work with children. Dr. Perry will be one of the speaker/presenters at the national APT conference in Dallas this October, and I would encourage people to hear him speak in person. If he is half as good a speaker as he is a writer, it will be a day to remember!

Barbara van Hoff, LMFT, RPT *Please submit reviews for the Book Nook to Sarah O'Brien at nea4pt@yahoo.com.*

Happy Spring:

I know it doesn't really feel like spring here in the cold north, but I see it, smell it and feel it in my bones. The subtle awakening of new life is everywhere. Look around you, notice the details of a new bud working so hard to burst forth and be beautiful & productive; hoping not to be squashed or frozen by an ice storm in April.

It reminds me of the resilient kids we work with. They have that vitality just beneath the surface, waiting for someone to notice, protect and facilitate their growth.... that someone is often you. I for one, thank you for your efforts, attention and tireless optimism. You and your presence facilitate their working so hard in the struggle for life.... peace, beauty, wholeness, fruit. It's there, so please take the time to notice and enjoy it, to share your observations and discovery with those who complete the community for these kids. Remember although you don't always get to glimpse or enjoy the final product, you were important along the way.

So my spring mantra will be:

"take the time to notice the beauty & potential in the most unexpected places & share my appreciation with others". I hope you will join me in this walking meditation to catch the good stuff.

Enjoy,

Sarah O'Brien, President, NE-APT

**New Hampshire Supervision Group w/ Kay Edwards MEd, LCMHC, RPT-5. Second Friday of each month. kayeedwards@comcast.net
Birch Tree Counseling, 302 Rockingham Rd, Londonderry, NH**

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.

March 28, 2008: Play Therapy Techniques To Engage. with Kay Edwards, M.Ed., LCMHC, RPT-S. Birch St Counseling Center, Londonderry, NH. Cost is \$45 APT members/\$50 non-members. This workshop will have discussion and experiential exercises, and will focus on play to counteract resistance, promote engagement with therapeutic material, and further the therapeutic process. 3 hrs 9-12. \$45 members, \$50 non-members. kayeedwards@comcast.net

April 5, 2008: 'Sandtray Therapy with Couples and Families' With Jayne Dean, LMFT, RPT-S. West Hartford Counseling Center, Hartford, CT. 6 hrs, \$110. jaynedean@hotmail.com , 860/233-4830 ext. 6.

April 9, 2008: Effective Child Centered Play Therapy. With Sarah O'Brien, LICSW, RPT-S. Boston University, Boston, MA. 6 hrs. \$100. www.bu.edu/ssw or 617-353-3756. for more info.

April 25-26, 2008: NY-APT Annual Conference. Albany, NY. Larry Rubin, PhD, RPT-S. Keynote speaker. www.ny-apt.org APT Provider #98-044.

May 9, 2008: Doing Client Centered Play Therapy. With Sarah O'Brien, LICSW, RPT-S. Rhode Island College, Providence, RI. 6 hrs, \$80. www.ric.edu/socialWork/pceLicensing.php

May 16, 2008 Dealing with Parents/Families of Play Therapy Clients. With Kay Edwards, M.Ed., LCMHC, RPT-S. Birch St Counseling Center, Londonderry, NH. \$45 APT members/\$50 non-members. Difficult family systems are often the nemesis of therapists. Learn how to engage them, make them allies in the therapeutic process and involve them in the play. Discussion and experiential exercises will be presented. 3 hrs 9-12. \$45 members, \$50 non-members. kayeedwards@comcast.net

May 31st, 2008: 'Grief and Loss in the Sandtray'. With Jayne Dean, LMFT, RPT-S. West Hartford Counseling Center, Hartford, CT. 6 hrs, \$110. jaynedean@hotmail.com, 860/233-4830 ext. 6.

July 7-11 and 16th. Play Therapy: Principles and Practice Techniques. With Stannard Baker, RPT-S. 3 graduate credits. Counseling EDCO 394 Z5 (CRN: 60318) University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. stanb@howardcenter.org for info.

July 28 - August 1, 2008. Strengthening Executive Function in Children with ADHD. With Daniel Yeager, LCSW, RPT-S. 15 CEUs. APT#00-0098. www.playtherapyworks.com

August 4 - August 8, 2008. Helping Abused and Traumatized Children Through Play Therapy: Recognizing its value, optimizing its success, and prescribing directive and nondirective approaches that promote goals. With Eliana Gil, Ph.D., RPT-S. APT#00-0098. www.playtherapyworks.com

Nov 1, 2008 SAVE THE DATE..... ANNUAL NE-APT CONFERENCE. Details to be announced later

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

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant – Multicultural early childhood program is looking for an LICSW/play therapist for 3 to 10 hours per week. Responsibilities include work w/ referred children, running small groups, consulting with teachers, staff and parents, supervising graduate social work and expressive therapy interns, staff in-service trainings and parent workshops. Qualifications: Culturally competent LICSW with expertise in early child development, play therapy, expressive therapy and supervision. Compensation commensurate with experience. Send resume to: Sue Landers, NICE, Inc. 2990 Washington St., Roxbury, MA 02119.