

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK**

SW-530 Seminar in Clinical Social Work: Play Therapy
Course Outline
Fall 2003

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TEXTS:

James, O'Dessie Oliver. Play Therapy: A Comprehensive Guide. North Bergen, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1997.

Oaklander, Violet. Windows to Our Children. Highland, NY: The Center for Gestalt Development, Inc., 1988.

Axline, Virginia. Dibs In Search of Self. New York: Ballantine Books, 1964.

EVALUATIONS:

Students will be evaluated in the following manner:

- Attendance/Participation: 25%
- Written assignment: 25%
- Class Presentation: 25%
- Final Examination: 25%

The grading scale for this course will be:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 75-79 = C
- 64-69 = D
- 64 and below = F

SESSIONS:

August 26, 2003

Introduction and Overview

Course outline-review of texts

Discussion of play as it relates to therapy

Class structure

Axline's 8 principles

Audio tape, *Emotional Healing*, Garry Landreth

Discussion

September 2 and September 9, 2003

The Elements of Play Therapy

READ James text Part I—Essential Elements, PG 3 – 110

The Child

The Parent(s)

The Therapist

The Ethics

The Materials and setting

Film: *Essentials of Play Therapy*, Eliana Gil

Discussion

September 16 and September 23, 2003

History, Theories, Techniques

READ James text Part II—Theories and Techniques, PG 111-170

The History of Play TX as we know it

Directive vs. Non-directive continuum

Video Collage Demonstrating Theories and techniques

Discussion

September 30, 2003

Review of Child Development

DIBS ASSIGNMENT DUE

Erickson, Piaget, Freud, Kohlberg--What they would say about PI TX

Importance of Knowledge of age-appropriate behavioral expectations

Video, *Children's Verbalizations in play Therapy*, Kevin O'Conner

Discussion

October 7, October 14, and October 21, 2003

Varieties of Children, Varieties of Techniques

Read Chapters 1-7 in *Windows to Our Children*, Violet Oaklander

Categories of Children who come to PI TX

Oaklander Techniques

Video clips of Oaklander sessions

Presentation of cases for group assignment

Discussion

October 28 and November 4, 2003

The Process

READ James text Part III, PG 171—212

Stages of PI TX

Organization and use of play room

Rules and Limit-setting

A Child's First Book of Play Therapy

Video, *Techniques of Play Therapy*, Nancy Boyd Webb

Discussion

November 11, 2003
Group Presentations 1 and 2

November 18, 2003
Group Presentations 3 and 4

November 25, 2003
Group presentation 5
Review and completion

December 4
Final examination

ASSIGNMENTS:

Based on your reading and discussion of *Dibs in Search of Self*, write about the ways in which Virginia Axline demonstrated the 8 principles of non-directive pl tx in her work with Dibs. Cite specific examples with page numbers.

Group projects will be presented to class on 11-6-02, 11-13-02, and 11-20-02. Each group will be given the case of a child with a particular difficulty/presenting problem. The group will be asked to develop and present a plan for treating the child and/or family using play therapy. The presentation should include rationale for choosing particular techniques as well as a live demonstration of the techniques used. The group members can be designated as clients or a child participant can be used.