

Building Parents' Empathy Through Therapeutic Assessment: Four Types of Children and Families

April 28-29, 2019, Tokyo

Sponsored by the Asian-Pacific Center for Therapeutic Assessment

Therapeutic Assessment with Children (TA-C) creatively combines psychological assessment with family therapy to help children and parents resolve psychological problems and improve family functioning. In this workshop, Drs. Finn and Nakamura will demonstrate how to use Therapeutic Assessment to help shift a family's "story"—from one where the child is seen as "the problem"—to one that is more systemic and less blaming of the child. Four types of children and families will be considered: 1) the "Scapegoated Child," who is seen as bad and disobedient, 2) the "Sick Child," who is viewed as fragile and helpless, 3) "Solomon's Child," who is the center of intense parental conflict, and 4) the "Orphan Child," who seems emotionally forgotten by parents. For each family prototype, the presenters will discuss specific techniques of Therapeutic Assessment and then illustrate them with extensive video excerpts from actual clinical cases. This training will be valuable for two groups of participants: 1) experienced psychological assessors and students wishing to learn the method of Therapeutic Assessment with Children, and 2) child and family therapists interested in knowing when to refer children and families for Therapeutic Assessment.

The workshop will be in English and Japanese.

Objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants will:

- know the steps involved in Therapeutic Assessment of children under age 12
- be familiar with Therapeutic Assessment techniques that help families develop new understandings of children's problems
- learn how to modify an assessment depending on the presenting issues of a child and family
- know concepts useful in conceptualizing child and family problems
- recognize how assessment feedback to a family can be a powerful intervention that promotes positive change
- learn methods of written assessment feedback that are therapeutic to children and parents

Schedule

April 28, 2019

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Principles of Therapeutic Assessment with Children and Families
- 10:30 Flow Chart of Therapeutic Assessment with Children
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Initial Sessions: Gathering Questions & Family Typologies (videos)
- 13:00 Lunch (on your own)
- 14:00 Early Testing Sessions: General Principles (lecture)
- 14:30 Constructing Individualized Sentence Completions (small group exercise)
- 15:15 Extended Inquiry & Parent Observation (videos)
- 16:00 Break
- 16:15 Extended Inquiry & Parent Observation (videos cont.)
- 17:45 Comments and Discussion
- 18:00 Adjourn

April 29, 2019

- 9:30 Case Conceptualization (lecture)
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Family Intervention Sessions (lecture and videos)
- 12:30 Lunch (on your own)
- 13:30 Summary/Discussion Sessions
- 15:00 Written Feedback to Children: Therapeutic Fables
- 16:00 Follow-up Sessions
- 16:30 Comments and Discussion
- 17:00 End