

Bereaved Children and Children of Divorce

This workshop will familiarize participants with an innovative model for working with bereaved children and children of divorce. A brief theoretical overview will be presented and participants will be provided with structured play-based assessment strategies. The second half of the workshop will focus on creative treatment interventions to address issues related to bereavement and divorce. A variety of innovative therapeutic games, stories, and art techniques will be described and demonstrated. Interventions will be presented for use in individual, group, and family play therapy.

Workshop participants will come away with a better understanding of grief theory, and many new and innovative play therapy techniques. Although the focus of this workshop will be on grief, separation, and divorce, the assessment and treatment interventions can be adapted for use with a wide variety of other treatment populations.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Define grief, traumatic grief, and disenfranchised grief.
- 2) Articulate the continuum of parent-child relationships after separation and divorce.
- 3) Describe the impact of loss at various developmental stages.
- 4) Apply many new and innovative techniques to the treatment of bereaved children and children of divorce.