

Brain Research and Child Development

Overview: This one day course explores current theories and research on brain development with a focus on common presenting problems encountered by play therapists, such as attachment problems, neglect and trauma exposure. This overview of the key principles of neurodevelopment will be invaluable for clinicians during the assessment process and for developing effective treatment plans. This course will also review some promising treatment approaches, such as neurosequential programming, to help inform the selection of appropriate play therapy models.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Identify key structures of the brain and nervous system, and how the brain develops;
- 2) Identify how neglect, deprivation, poor attachment, abuse, and trauma affect the brain;
- 3) Understand how play optimizes brain development;
- 4) Understand the importance of mirror neurons in developing empathy;
- 5) Apply neurosequential programming in selecting appropriate play therapy models.

Biography

Dr. Evangeline Munns Ph D, C Psych, RPT/S

Evangeline Munns Ph D, C Psych, RPT/S, is a certified clinical psychologist, who in the past, was the director of Blue Hills Play Therapy Services, which under her direction, became the largest training school in Theraplay in Canada. She is a registered trainer/supervisor with the Theraplay Institute in Chicago, the Association for Play Therapy in the U.S., and the Canadian Association for Child and Play Therapy (on the latter she serves on the education committee). She is a popular presenter and has given numerous workshops on play therapy across Canada, United States and internationally. In recent years, much of her time has been spent in training and supervising therapists in Theraplay and /or nondirective play therapy including teaching as a guest lecturer at Western University in London, Ontario and Sir Wilfred Laurier in Kitchener, Ontario.

With over forty years of experience working with children and their families, she offers a rich knowledge in the children's mental health field. She has served as a consultant to many agencies. Dr. Munns has written numerous articles and chapters on Theraplay and has edited a book entitled "Theraplay: Innovations in Attachment-Enhancing Play therapy". Her second book on Theraplay "Applications of Family and Group Theraplay" has recently been published.

In the past she received the Monica Herbert award from the Canadian Association for Child and Play Therapy (CACPT) for "an outstanding contribution to the field of play therapy in Canada" Recently, she was the first therapist described in a list of the 5 top play therapists in Canada, by CACPT.