

PLAY AND CURE: THE THERAPEUTIC USE OF CHILDREN'S PLAY-- AN INTERPERSONAL PERSPECTIVE ON CLINICAL TECHNIQUE

STEPHEN SCHLEIN, PH.D.

With play as the basic mode of communication, this seminar will focus on establishing an interpersonal clinical technique for the treatment of children. With an emphasis on the child's experience of this engagement and the discovery of self, we will highlight the restorative and self-healing power of children's play, the critical role of countertransference and self-disclosure and the experience of the analyst as a real person. Essential is the recognition of the mutative and transforming nature of this encounter that fosters new experience.

This seminar is designed as a clinical practicum focused on the refinement of psychotherapeutic technique with the treatment of children and the centrality of the evolving interpersonal relationship and its transformative impact. We will utilize a continuous clinical case format.

6 Mondays: October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20.

7:00 to 8:30 PM

3 Wallis Court, Lexington Center.

Enrollment limit: 8 participants

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to critique the usefulness and complexity of children's play as a clinical technique and restorative experience.
2. Participants will be able to assess the essential role of countertransference and self-disclosure.
3. Participants will be able to apply essential interpersonal ingredients, such as relatedness, authentic engagement and mutuality.

Readings:

1. Winnicott, D. W. (1980) *Playing and Reality*. NY: Penguin Books.
2. Erikson, E. (1950) *Childhood and Society*. NY: WW Norton.
3. Brandell, J.R. (1972) *Countertransference in Psychotherapy with Children and Adolescence*. NJ: Jason Aronson.
4. Schlein, S. (2016) *The Clinical Erik Erikson: A Psychoanalytic Method of Engagement and Activation*. London: Routledge.

Stephen Schlein, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, received his clinical training at The Austen Riggs Center where he first met and studied with Erik Erikson and Otto Will. He taught with Erikson at the Erikson Center of Cambridge Hospital and collaborated with him as the editor of Erikson's selected papers: *A Way of Looking At Things*. He lectures on Erikson's writings throughout the United States and abroad. He recently published another Erikson book entitled, *The Clinical Erik Erikson: A Psychoanalytic Method of Engagement & Activation*. Currently he's on the teaching faculty at MIP and is a guest faculty at BPSI. He maintains a clinical practice in Lexington, Massachusetts.