

# Journal of Infant, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy

Special Issue

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## Play for a Change: Therapeutic Action in Contemporary Child Psychotherapy

**Vision:** The purpose of this special journal issue is to reexamine the role and therapeutic function of play, in the context of the current familial and cultural dialogue. Play's improvisational quality, so critical to a child's finding self-agency, and central to the enhancement of development seems to be decreasingly valued within the culture at large, and we find that reflected in some schools of child psychotherapy as well. We are interested in articles that explore the multiple aspects of play, including changes in its quality and manifestations in our culture and its current uses in psychotherapy with children, adolescents and their families.

**Background:** Winnicott recognized the inherent precariousness and the centrality of play to a therapeutic change process with adults as well as children. When playing, the potential is created to expand action in the present moment, to create metaphors to formulate experience, sort out contradictions, link body and mind and heal from trauma. In light of cultural changes, a reconsideration of the value of play to psychotherapy and development is in order. What is the same? What is different about the child's communication of inner dialogue? In light of theoretical advances, how do we reflect on the transmission of intergenerational trauma within a play modality? How does the child therapist use their knowledge of play's inherent vitality to strengthen the attachment context?

**Call for articles:** We encourage submissions that explore the importance of play from both research and clinical perspectives. We are interested in considering aspects of play as manifested in our current culture, refined in light of theoretical and research advances, and inclusive of parent child play.

We invite discussions of training issues, including the pedagogical approach to child therapy that considers the role of play in the work. How is the child able to (re) integrate subsequent to trauma or secondary generational effects of trauma through the use of play? What is the role of play in organizing the disorganized attached dilemma? How do we help parents reflect upon their child's experience via the play modality, in fact, how do we help the adults in their lives appreciate the importance of play to healthy development?

Submissions:

We accept submissions via our editorial manager system found through the journal website. <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/hicp20>

Deadline for submission of proposals October 30 2019, and if proposal accepted, for full articles January 30, 2020

