

## Assessment of Non-Academic Outcomes (Fall 2003 and Spring 2004)

Unit: **Center for Play Therapy (CPT)**

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**I. Mission:** The Center for Play Therapy's mission is to encourage the unique development and emotional growth of children through the process of play therapy, a dynamic interpersonal relationship between a child and a therapist trained in play therapy procedures. The therapist provides the child with selected play materials and facilitates a safe relationship to express feelings, thoughts, experiences and behaviors through play, the child's natural medium of communication. To fulfill its objectives, the center has six major areas of focus:

- Goal 1: Provide **training** in the field of play therapy
- Goal 2: Conduct play therapy **research**, establish funding for play therapy research, and provide laboratory facilities for conducting research in play therapy.
- Goal 3: Maintain a national **clearinghouse** for play therapy literature.
- Goal 4: Encourage research, training, and professional development in play therapy through unique **training products/resources** the field.
- Goal 5: Promote and provide high quality **play therapy services**, including filial/family play therapy, and parent consultations to the greater University and Denton communities.
- Goal 6: Assist graduate students in obtaining play therapy graduate training and promote diversity among students seeking training through the provision of **scholarships**.

**II. Previous Evaluations of the Unit:** A Sunset review was conducted in 1998 by the University of North Texas. In this review it was recommended to continue as the Center is one of UNT's strongest research units.

**III. Statement of Expected Outcomes for 2003-2004:** In order to fulfill its mission, each year the Center for Play Therapy focuses its activities on the 6 goals stated above. The provision of the highest quality play therapy training is CPT's primary focus. The center works collaboratively with the Counseling Program to support a diverse offering of semester courses in play therapy and provide high quality supervision to play therapy interns. In addition, CPT annually conducts a 7-day Summer Play Therapy Training Institute, a 3-day Intensive Play Therapy Supervision Workshop, and a Fall Play Therapy Conference. The leading authorities in the field of play therapy and child counseling are brought in to provide diversity in training. These workshops consistently attract students and professionals from across the nation and from several countries around the world. Specific expected outcomes related to training, as well as research, maintaining a national clearinghouse, developing and providing quality training products and resources, providing play therapy services to the community, and assisting graduate students through scholarships are listed below. All activities of the Center are designed to ultimately enhance the learning opportunities and experiences of UNT students.

### **TRAINING: Expected Outcomes and How These Activities Support UNT Student Learning:**

1. In 2004 we expect to have 300 participants each day during the 7 day Summer Institute. Various speakers who are well-known in the world of play therapy conduct workshops each day during the Summer Institute.
2. The 3 Day Intensive Supervision experience is intended for a small group of professionals to get extensive supervision in a short period, this group is usually limited to 12 participants.
3. The Fall Conference is a one-day workshop with a featured speaker or a collection of speakers focusing on a specific topic, 350 participants are expected in 2004.

4. Each of the educational opportunities give students from the UNT campus the opportunity to be exposed to various experts in the field of play therapy.
5. Participants in these events include professionals who often become interested in the Doctoral Program in Counseling as well as undergraduate students who become interested in the Master's program at UNT as well.

**RESEARCH: Expected Outcomes and How These Activities Support UNT Student Learning:**

1. The Center for play therapy has begun a study looking at various cultural needs in play therapy including cultural needs of Hispanic children (A grant has been secured by the Center director to support this research)..
2. A study focusing on the effectiveness of play therapy with students identified by their teachers and parents as aggressive is currently underway in the Denton Independent School District.
3. Another study currently supported by the Center for Play Therapy is investigating the therapeutic healing process of play therapy with traumatized children.
4. The Center for Play Therapy is also involved in a study looking at the effectiveness of filial therapy with parents of terminally ill children.
5. Completed studies through the Center for Play Therapy include a study of filial therapy with Israeli parents residing in a domestic violence shelter. A Comparison of an intensive 4 week format of the Landreth 10 week filial therapy training model with the traditional Landreth 10 week model of filial therapy was also completed in 2003.

**CLEARINGHOUSE: Expected Outcomes and How These Activities Support UNT Student Learning:**

1. The Center for Play Therapy expects 100 graduate and undergraduate students to utilize the library of play therapy literature located in the Center for Play Therapy.
2. The Center for Play Therapy expects 60 people each year to purchase a subscription to the online bibliography of play therapy literature. The library of literature and the online bibliography of play therapy literature is the largest collection of play therapy literature in the world. Students are free to utilize the library for research or further reading on play therapy.
3. The Center for Play Therapy expects approximately 50 calls or emails each month inquiring information about play therapy from students and professionals in the United States and around the World. Professionals in the field of play therapy consider the Center for Play Therapy as one of the foremost resources in the field of play therapy. Students at UNT have full access to the resources at the Center for Play Therapy.

**TRAINING PRODUCTS/RESOURCES: Expected Outcomes and How These Activities Support UNT Student Learning:**

1. In response to an assessment of need in the field of play therapy, The Center for Play Therapy produced a number of training videos, which are available for students to view in the Center for Play Therapy library or purchase through the Center for Play Therapy. The Center for Play Therapy expects to sell over 600 play therapy videos in the 2003-2004 academic year. The Center sells 11 different play therapy videos featuring 3 different experts in the field.

**IV: Measuring Expected Outcomes:**

At the end of each presentation during the Summer Institute and the Fall Conference, participants fill out a conference evaluation form designed by the Center for Play Therapy staff.

Students and professionals provide verbal feedback on the ease of using the library and the online bibliography. (The development of the webpage and the online bibliography was a result of feedback.)

One of the Center's play therapy video's "Relationship Play Therapy" won the New York Festival award in 1998. The continual sales of videos also contribute to the Center's ability to evaluate the popularity of these videos.

**V: Use of Assessment Results:**

The Conference evaluations are used to evaluate the effectiveness of the presenter and the Conference in general. The evaluation forms are tabulated and feedback is taken into consideration in choosing future speakers and presentation topics. Feedback from students regarding the Center for Play Therapy library is also generated in order to better accommodate the research and educational needs of students and professionals. The Center for Play Therapy strives to provide the most professional and educational conference in this area. This unique conference provides students and professionals with accessibility to leading authorities in the field of play therapy.

Based upon the results of student feedback, the Center for Play Therapy strives to exceed educational expectations in the area of conferences, resources, and educational materials. In an effort to better accommodate students' needs and produce significant resources to our students, the Center for Play Therapy recently produced an on-line version of the World of Play Therapy Literature, a bibliography of all play therapy literature every published, which can be accessed by students from remote locations, 24-hours a day.

**VI: Changes Made Based On Assessment Results:**

Each year in making decisions about the upcoming conference, the previous year's conference evaluations are closely considered. The evaluations are valued in making decisions about the topics, speakers and the physical room arrangements for each conference. As stated earlier, the development of the CPT webpage and the resulting enhanced availability of resources to students was a substantial change made based on student assessment of CPT's effectiveness in serving student's needs.

Signature of Person Completing the Form:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Unit Head after Reviewing the Form:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_