
ABSTRACT

Creation of individuality by separation: Play therapy for a girl who would not separate from her mother

HASHIMOTO, Naoko
Kyoto Gakuen University

This is a case of a 5-year-old girl who was unable to play with other children due to difficulty in separating from her mother. In this case the therapist forcibly separated the girl who was clinging to her mother, after which the girl immediately became able to play freely even though separated from her mother. As a possible reason for the quick resolution of this case there is a possibility that the mother-child binding itself might have been produced secondarily. It was thought that therapy was also a process of breaking this secondarily produced neurotically bound state. The girl never walked in or out of the playroom by herself during the therapy process, but moved being held by the therapist. The significance of such forcible separation, why the separation could lead to individuality and whether there is a connection with development of the ability to play freely are examined.

Key Words: separation, mother-child bound, creation of individuality
