
ABSTRACT

The expansion of psychological support by applying play therapy to the infant's nursery: A study of a child abused by a mother with Borderline Personality Disorder

FUCHINO, Shunji

Hamamatsu City Child Psychiatric Clinic

This paper discusses the referral of a parent and her infant in a nursery. The process and the practical use of play therapy was discussed by presenting a case of a child abused by the mother with Borderline Personality Disorder. The therapeutic engagement in daily life environment is necessary for healing the child's psychological trauma and relationship with the parent through play therapy. The key relationship is provided by the child-care worker for the therapeutic engagement. The reconstruction of positive child-parent relationship is required. The information from the play therapy process could also support the therapeutic engagement by care workers and a reconstructive meeting with the parent. Sharing the information openly with care workers and the parent could provide an opportunity for care workers to understand his/her relationship with a child multi-dimensionally, and for the parent to reflect on her own traumatic history. This understanding and awareness facilitated the child's therapeutic process, and motivated the expansion of psychological support in the infant's nursery.

Key Words: infant's nursery, infant abuse, play therapy, Borderline Personality Disorder, connection
