



Chapter 12 – Interviewing Young Clients

- Special Considerations in Working with Children
 - It is easy to overidentify or underidentify with children
 - Children are not “just like us” and so it requires study and work to bridge the cultural divide
 - It may be tempting to rescue children and view yourself as an alternative parent

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- The Introduction
 - Most young people do not seek therapy willingly
 - Arranging an initial interview can be challenging
 - Decide consciously whether to meet with parents/caretakers or not

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- The Opening
 - First impressions
 - Office management and personal attire
 - Discussing confidentiality and informed consent
 - Handling referral and background information

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- The Opening (Cont.)
 - Wishes and goals
 - Assessing parents/caretakers
 - Discussing assessment and therapy procedures

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- The Body
 - Meeting separately with parents or caretakers
 - User-friendly assessment and information gathering strategies
 - What's good (bad) about you
 - Using projective drawings

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- 10 Minute Activity
 - Get with a partner and engage in the “What’s good about you?” activity.
 - After both partners have finished the activity, discuss the process and outcome with the whole group

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- General Considerations for the Body of the Interview
 - Arts and crafts
 - Nondirective, interactive, and directive play options
 - Fantasy and games
 - Storytelling

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- The Closing
 - Reassuring and supporting young clients
 - Summarizing, clarifying, and seeking involvement
 - Empowering young clients
 - Tying up loose ends

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- Termination
 - Terminating with youth can be sudden
 - Sometimes parents or caretakers terminate before you or your client is ready
