
Is the Child Ready for Termination?

Determining when it is time for termination in Child-Centered Play Therapy is a difficult task. Accurate determination requires that the therapist has paid close attention to themes and firsts. A child who is ready for termination will no longer display themes that were evident previously in therapy and the child will consistently demonstrate prosocial firsts. The child may seem bored, may leave the session before their time has run out and the child may even say, "I don't want to come see you anymore." Child-Centered Play Therapy is Child-Centered to the end ideally. Some changes in the child to consider are:

- Child is less dependent.
- Child is less confused.
- Child expresses needs openly.
- Child is able to focus on self.
- Child accepts responsibility for own actions and feelings.
- Child limits own behavior appropriately.
- Child is more inner directed.
- Child is less rigid.
- Child is consistently demonstrating pro-social behavior outside of sessions.
- Child is more tolerant of the unpredictability of life.
- Child initiates activities with assurance and confidence.
- Child is cooperative but not conforming.
- Child expresses anger appropriately, pro-socially.
- Child is consistently in a relatively good mood.
- Child is more accepting of self even when she makes mistakes.
- Child is able to play out story sequences, the play has direction, and makes sense.
- Child's play has light-heartedness about it; the play is playful.

Adapted from: Landreth, G. (2002). *Play therapy: The art of the relationship* (2nd ed.).

New York: Brunner-Routledge.

What about... Commonly asked questions about the practice of Play Therapy

Directions: Attempt to answer each question on your own.
Answers and discussion can be found in the answer key in Appendix A.

1. What if the child will not talk?
2. What if the child wants to bring in a friend, parent, sibling?
3. What about sand, paint, water, MESSSES?
4. What do you do when the child won't leave the playroom?
5. What about swearing, cussing, hate language?
6. What about having toy guns in the playroom?
7. What if the child wants to leave the session early?
8. What about settings where noise in the playroom is a factor to others in close proximity?
9. What if the child is being rude to the play therapist?
10. What if the child tells others she can use bad words in session?
11. What about children putting toys in their mouths?
12. What about children breaking toys?
13. What if they want to bring in a toy from home?
14. What about interruptions from others during play therapy sessions?
15. What if a child discloses abuse during a session?
16. What if a child doesn't feel well and does not want to play or participate?
17. How can play therapists honor diversity?
18. What do you do when a child tells you they love you?
19. What should you do if the child-client falls asleep in session?