

FRIDAY SESSIONS

Family Involvement in the Play Therapy Setting –
Tommy Cramer, MA, APC

This presentation will focus on the benefits of involving family members in the child's play therapy. This will include how the therapist can connect with the family as well as different techniques that the family can learn to utilize in home settings.

Objectives:

1. Provide a basic understanding of the research on family involvement in play therapy.
2. Understand the multiple domains of a child's life and how family involvement can influence behavioral reactions.
3. Understanding the difference between informed consent and informed assent.
4. Provide an understanding of what family factors can influence the counseling process negatively.
5. Describe behavioral interventions for families to utilize outside of the counseling setting.

Educational Advocacy in the Clinical Setting: Understanding IEPs and 504s –
Tommy Cramer, MA, APC

This presentation will examine the best ways for counselors to effectively use IEPs and 504 plans in the school setting, as well working with families whose children qualify for these plans.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the concepts and differences of Individualized Education Plans and 504 plans.
2. Name the 12 categories that are eligible for IEPs.
3. Have a basic understanding of the parental rights in the special education process.
4. Provide an understanding of Due Process.
5. Describe the clinician's role in working with families who are having academic and behavioral difficulties in the school setting.

SATURDAY SESSION

Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Comprehensive Look at Assessment, Associated Features, Differential Diagnosis, and Intervention
Shauna Joye, PhD, Licensed Psychologist

This presentation will focus on the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of clients presenting with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Objectives:

1. Differentiate diagnostically between ASD and other developmental disorders.
2. Identify characteristics associated with ASD beyond the diagnostic criteria.
3. Learn “red flags” for ASD at different ages, how to screen for ASD, and when to refer for a full evaluation.
4. Learn about interventions offered for children with ASD and what types of children are appropriate for different interventions.
5. Understand the benefits of and limits to intervention for different severity levels of ASD.

PRESENTER BIOS

Tommy Cramer is an Associate Professional Counselor who specializes in working with families and children. He earned a B.A. in Psychology from Maryville College and an M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from South University. Mr. Cramer has experience working with children and families in an office and community setting to provide support, education, and counseling services. Mr. Cramer believes in working with families using a collaborative approach so they feel supported and empowered in all aspects of their daily lives. Mr. Cramer has experience using play therapy techniques, expressive arts techniques, and conducting parenting sessions using 1-2-3 Magic. Mr. Cramer also has experience coordinating with families and schools to support children with 504 plans or Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and help them achieve their best chance of academic success. Mr. Cramer believes in using a client-centered approach to helping families and children achieve an overall sense of wellness in their lives.

Dr. Shauna Joye is an Air Force veteran and licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in assessment and treatment of behavioral disorders. She earned a B.S. in biology from Georgia Southern University and a Ph.D. in psychology from Florida State University. She has extensive training in pediatric assessment and has been conducting comprehensive evaluations since 2006. Dr. Joye owns and operates Joye Psychology & Wellness, LCC, a Savannah-based clinic that provides comprehensive diagnostic assessments and therapy for children, adolescents, and adults in Chatham County and the surrounding areas. Although providers at her clinic offers a wide range of services, Dr. Joye herself specializes in assessment and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder, attention disorders, and learning disorders across the lifespan, including in toddlers.