

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Enquiry into parent and carers perceptions of the relationship between Theraplay experiences and placement stability for looked after and adopted children.

Thank you for considering taking part in this piece of research.

I am a BACP Senior Accredited Counsellor and Certified Theraplay® Therapist working in independent practice. I am mostly commissioned by Local Authorities to work with children who are Looked After or Adopted and who have had relational trauma/attachment issues in infancy or early childhood. I also work part time as a Teaching Associate at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge.

In my private practice commissioners often ask me about the evidence base for Theraplay supporting placement stability. The reality is that there is no research into this and I can find very little UK based research into Theraplay at all. At the University I supervise many students undertaking research for their Master's studies and it seems a good opportunity to bring these two interests together.

I am, therefore, undertaking this small scale piece of research to explore how you and many other parents/carers might have experienced Theraplay in relation to the stability of the placement for your child/ren and would like to invite you to participate. I am undertaking this research out of my own interest and in my own time. It is not specifically part of my role at the University or my private practice but would inform both parts of my professional life.

To take part in this research you need to have had your child/ren in placement for at least one year and have received formal Theraplay intervention starting with a Marschak Interaction Method (MIM). The person delivering the Theraplay needs to have at least attended the Level 1/Introductory Theraplay training. As I am expecting most of these questionnaires to be handed out by the professionals who provided the input I hope this will be easy to verify.

If these conditions do apply then please complete the short questionnaire attached and return it to me at research@peacockcounselling.com or by post to Fiona Peacock, Teaching Associate – Counselling for Children and Adolescents, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge at the address below. If you have any queries about the research then you are welcome to contact me on the above email address. If you are returning the questionnaire by e-mail you will need to print it, complete it, scan it and then send it back to me.

Your responses will be treated as confidential. I am not asking for you to identify yourself except by postcode so I have an idea of the geographical spread of responses. I do intend to publish a report based on my findings. By completing the questionnaire you agree to me using your data, which is not identifiable, in any research paper that arises from the research.

When you answer the questions don't think about them too much. I am mostly interested in your immediate and non-conscious responses. There are no right or wrong answers. My hope is that people's responses will enable me to identify more specific areas of research for the future, maybe even find some funding for such research to be more comprehensive and in-depth.

Many thanks for your help.

Kind regards.

Fiona Peacock
BACP Senior Accredited Counsellor
Certified Theraplay® Therapist

Enquiry into parent and carers perceptions of the relationship between Theraplay experiences and placement stability for looked after and adopted children.

Please read the accompanying letter before completing this questionnaire.

Post code

(This will be used to identify any duplicate questionnaires and the general geographical distribution of the sample – not personal identification.)

Is your child Adopted
 Male

Fostered?
 Female

How old was your child at the start of the Theraplay?

Who provided the Theraplay for you and your child? (Please tick)

Fostering social worker	
Adoption social worker	
Childcare social worker	
CAMHS worker	
Education worker	
Independent worker	
Other	

How long did the Theraplay input last? (Please tick)

Less than 10 sessions	
Between 10 and 26 sessions	
More than 27 sessions	

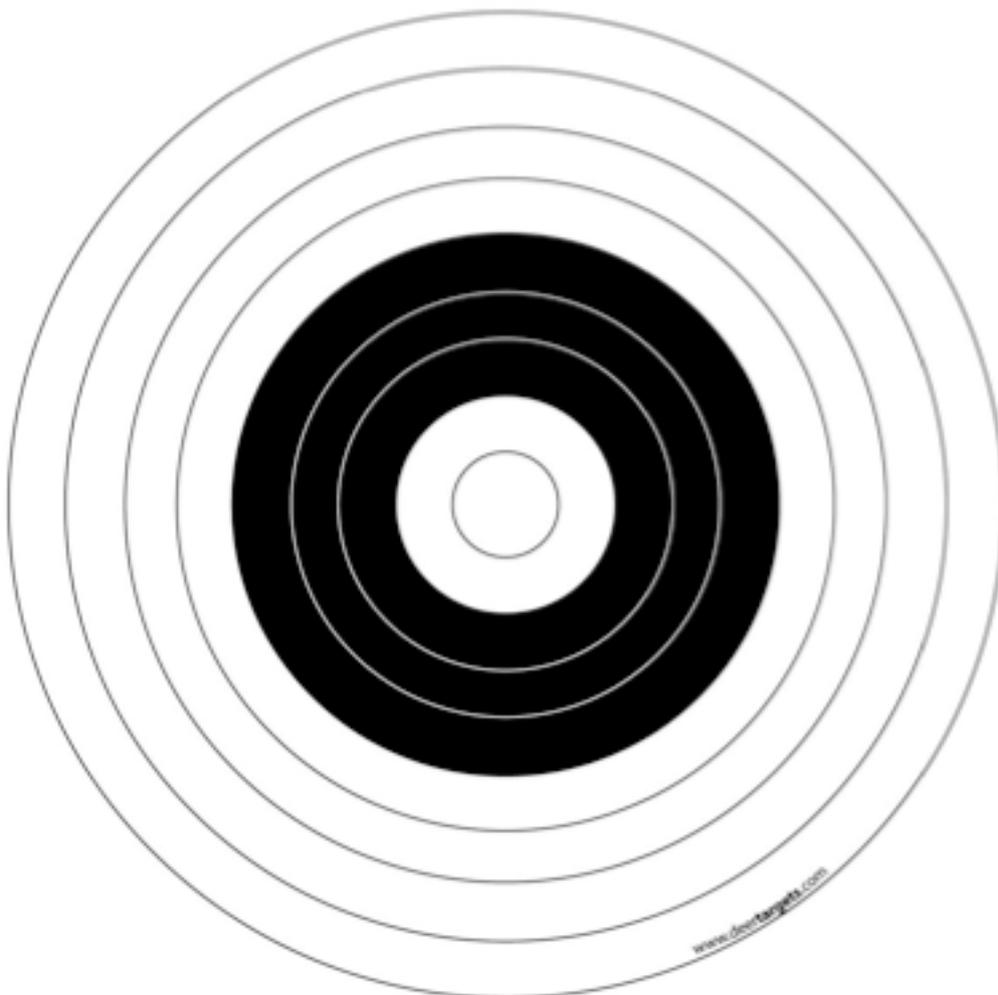
How stable do you feel the placement was before the Theraplay input? (Where 0 is breaking down and you were asking for the child to be removed and 10 is absolutely stable. Please mark the line with a cross)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

How stable do you feel the placement was following the Theraplay input? (Where 0 is breaking down and you were asking for the child to be removed and 10 is absolutely stable. Please mark the line with a cross)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

How central to the stabilisation of the placement do you feel the Theraplay was? Please put a cross on the target. The centre of the target denotes that Theraplay was the only thing that stabilised the placement, and the outer edge of the target is where Theraplay contributed nothing to the stabilisation of the placement. Don't think about this too much, just trust your gut.



What five words would best describe your experience of Theraplay?

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

If you feel that Theraplay did contribute to the stability of your child's placement with you then, in your own words, please could you write a couple of paragraphs that summarise how you feel Theraplay and placement stability connect.

Thank you for taking time to fill in this questionnaire. Your responses will help me identify how we can best support children who are looked after or adopted.

Please return the completed questionnaire to me at the address on the accompanying letter or scan and email it back to me at research@peacockcounselling.com. Alternatively if a professional gave the questionnaire to you then you can ask them to return it to me.