

HOW COGNITIVE AND SENSORIMOTOR DIFFICULTIES AFFECT SOCIOEMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES



Stephen Seligman Ph.D., MFT,

DMH is a child and infant-parent psychotherapist and a psychoanalyst. He works to develop the applications of psychodynamic concepts to work with infants and older children—by “making them real.” A

faculty member at the UCSF Infant-Parent Program for the last three decades, he is a frequent teacher, consultant and evaluator for practitioners, public agencies and courts. Dr. Seligman has written over 70 papers, chapters and other publications in both the psychoanalytic and infant mental health areas, including co-editing ***Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health: Core Concepts and Clinical Practice***, recently published by the American Psychiatric Press next month. He is Joint Editor-in-Chief of *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* and associate editor or a member of the editorial board of many other journals. He is also a personal and supervising analyst and/or on the faculty of several psychoanalytic and infant mental health training programs.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

We are often unsure how to be therapeutically effective when children present with developmental and processing challenges. These include neurodevelopmental deficits in the sensory, motor, affective, verbal, memory-oriented and organizational/executive areas. Although these issues are increasingly considered in cases on the autistic and PDD spectrum, their significance in cases of toddlers and children with less severe presentations is often underestimated. But they nonetheless have a fundamental effect on the child’s sense of his/her own body, of self, and of social relationships. Psychotherapeutic strategies will be presented to help such children find ways to better organize and reflect on their feelings and behavior. Intervention strategies to be covered include play, games and other forms of lively interactions. Techniques of helping parents will be offered, both in helping them understand the child’s unique difficulties and strengths and in working constructively with emerging projections. The importance of multidisciplinary collaboration and of paying attention to therapists’ feelings will be stressed. The value of using detailed observations of short-term changes in child and family behavior in goal-setting will be considered.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Demonstrate knowledge from several disciplines that illuminate what can go awry in children’s development.
- Use moment-to-moment interactions to diagnose and treat children with complex socio-emotional & sensorimotor difficulties.
- Demonstrate their use of play in psychotherapy in such situations.
- Identify their interdisciplinary-collaborative skills.
- Use their own emotional reactions in treatment planning and intervention.

***** This course meets the qualifications for 6 hours of continuing education LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and /or LEPs, as required by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences. The California Association of Marriage and Family Therapist is the BBS recognized approval agency-Provider # 131775.**

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Target Audience: Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services staff and contracted agencies.

February 28, 2017

9:00 am-4:30 pm

Registration begins at 8:30 am

Learning Partnership

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