

09-213b Helping the Traumatized Child in the Classroom -- 6 Hour Seminar

Bonnie L. Atkins, L.I.C.S.W and Alice Barber, M.S., L.M.H.C., A.T.R.-B.C.

Thursday June 18, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Course Description

For the traumatized child, the tasks of cognitive and social/emotional learning in a school environment can be overwhelming. For the school staff, understanding the complex needs of and providing the supports necessary for this child to grow and learn successfully can be challenging. This course is designed specifically for school-based therapists and for therapists who provide consultation to classrooms. Included in this course is an overview of childhood trauma, how trauma visibly and invisibly manifests within the classroom, how trauma impacts the body and brain (and therefore the learning) of the child, and how teachers and other staff can ease the school day, both physically and emotionally, for this child. Special attention will also be given to the position of the school-based therapist and his or her role as teacher of the teachers around this important topic.

Faculty:

Bonnie L. Atkins, L.I.C.S.W. – Clinical Associate, James Levine and Associates, South Hadley and Westfield, MA; Psychotherapist, Behavioral Health Network, Holyoke, MA; Co-Coordinator, Smith College School for Social Work Community Internship Program, Northampton, MA; Volunteer, Aditus, Inc., East Longmeadow, MA.

Alice Barber, M.S., L.M.H.C., A.T.R.-B.C. – Clinician, James Levine and Associates, P.C., Westfield, MA; former Clinician Mt. Tom Mental Health Center, Holyoke, MA

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will be able to identify three ways in which trauma impacts cognitive development in children.
2. Participants will be able to identify three ways in which trauma impacts social-emotional development in children.
3. Participants will be able to identify three specific classroom interventions aimed at assisting the traumatized student.
4. Participants will be able to identify key issues necessary for their own future training of teachers and other school staff around the needs of traumatized children.

References

- Levine, Peter., & Kline, Maggie. (2007) *Trauma Through a Child's Eyes*. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books.
- Perry, Bruce., & Szalavitz, Maia. (2006) *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*. New York, NY: Basic Books.
- Terr, Lenore. (1990) *Too Scared to Cry: Psychic Trauma in Childhood*. New York, NY: Harper & Row.