

CAPA: Child Attachment Play Assessment

The Child Attachment and Play Assessment (CAPA) assesses attachment and complex trauma in children aged 3 – 11 years.

This is a doll-play procedure which is filmed. It uses the established narrative story stem procedure in which children are given the beginning of a story (the stem) and then asked to 'show and tell me what happens next?' All the stories pull for attachment issues, e.g. the child burns his/her hand on the stove, there is a loud noise in the night when everyone is asleep, little piggy goes for a walk and gets lost. There are two sets of stories, one for children aged 3 – 6 years using the established story stem batteries and another for 7 – 12 year olds using stories developed for the CAPA.

The CAPA is designed for use with clinical and maltreated populations and has proved a reliable and non-intrusive method for examining young children's mental representations of attachment and relationships. It is a particularly good procedure for assessing the impact of developmental trauma.

Process:

- » Referral form
- » Intake paperwork – caregiver
- » CAPA Session
- » Summary Report + recommendations
- » Feedback session

Assessment completed by an experienced Child Therapist/Clinical Social Worker. Suitable for 3- 11 years.



www.childrenstherapy.online

info@childrenstherapy.online

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