
ABSTRACT

The generation of the “I” in play-therapy for a boy with intellectual disability: Through the dialectical process between the limited and the unlimited

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I report a process of play therapy with a school boy having mild intellectual disability. The purpose of this paper is to show how his subject “I” is generated. I examine how his “I” is generated from two standpoints: “the vertical motion” and “the horizontal motion”. He must inevitably live his life with limited ability. It is too painful to face the stark reality of his limitations. So he had become passive in everything and never challenged anything. Therefore his sense of being a subject was vague. In play therapy I respected and accepted his subjective play. In the first stage his feeling of security was nurtured and his confidence built. Therefore he started to challenge and get over his limitation. In the second stage the dialectical process between the limited and the unlimited appeared. In the third stage the sense of being a subject became clear. His “I” not only accepts his limitations but tries to get over them.

Key Words: intellectual disability, generation of the “I”, “the vertical motion”, “the horizontal motion”, dialectical process between “the limited” and “the unlimited”
