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**ABSTRACT**

Leveraging conjoint child-parent therapy in play therapy with children with poor therapeutic motivation

MATSUMOTO, Takuma

Faculty of Education, Gifu University

When we judge that play therapy (individual child psychotherapy) is beneficial for children, we tend to offer it, even if they have poor therapeutic motivation. This study discusses a case of play therapy with an elementary school boy who has been referred due to concerns about the impact of his father's suicide. I initially assessed his problems as his obsessive tendencies and limited curiosity. During therapy, when I reassessed his poor therapeutic motivation due to family problems, we shifted to conjoint child-parent therapy bi-monthly. As I could support his mother as a child therapist, family relationships began to change. With the appearance of his trichotillomania, we were able to restart play therapy with his greater motivation. These changes made play therapy more functional and enabled him to connect with his mind and to examine his ways of being. This case suggests that play therapy with children who have poor therapeutic motivation can be effective with the help of the setting, such as conjoint child-parent therapy.

**Key Words:** setting, therapeutic motivation, conjoint child-parent therapy, surviving child caused by parent's suicide, trichotillomania

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