
Abstract

An examination of the play therapy process for visually impaired children with selective mutism

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Previous studies have indicated that visually impaired children experience a certain degree of developmental limitations. Visually impaired children may face psychological problems when they interact with those who have clear vision, because of the differences in their expressions. However, only a few case studies about psychotherapy for visually impaired children exist. In this paper, a therapist examines the play therapy process with a client and discusses selective mutism in visually impaired children based on their communication characteristics. The therapist found that the client's verbal and physical expressions increased when the sighted therapist shared with the client their physical condition and facial expressions. Thus, it indicates that "asymmetry" occurs when visually impaired children cannot cognize what sighted persons can cognize. This understanding of "asymmetry" may facilitate more expressions. This suggests that visually impaired children need to internalize others' points of view and identify themselves subjectively when expressing themselves. Furthermore, communication that focuses on the physical senses is effective in helping visually impaired children express themselves.

Keywords: visually impaired children, selective mutism, asymmetry of interrelationships, somatosensory
