

## **PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM**

This study has received Charles Darwin University ethics approval (Reference Number: H20058)

TO: Participant

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Full Project Title: An International Review of the use of Bibliotherapy by Play Therapists

Principal Researcher: Dr Michelle Moss

Student Researcher: Mrs Sarah Gentle

This Plain Language Statement and Consent Form is 5 pages long. Please make sure you have all the pages.

### **1. Consent**

You are invited to take part in this online research project.

This Plain Language Statement contains detailed information about the research project. Its purpose is to explain as clearly as possible what this project is so that you can make a fully informed decision regarding your participation.

Please read this Plain Language Statement carefully and feel free to ask for further clarification about any information provided in this document. You may wish to discuss the project with a relative or friend. Please feel free to do this.

Once you understand your involvement and if you agree to take part, you are invited to complete the online survey. By completing the online survey, you indicate that you understand the information and that you give consent for your participation in this research project.

### **2. Background**

Play Therapists use a range of toys, creative interventions, techniques and tools to engage children in the therapeutic process. One such tool used by therapists is the use of books and stories. This research project will explore the use of books within play therapy sessions by practitioners. It will examine how frequently they are employed as well as when and how they are used by Play Therapists within a session. In the current world pandemic and the increase of Telehealth due to COVID-19, it will also examine whether therapists have used books more frequently within their online sessions than they did prior to COVID-19.

### **3. Procedures**

Registered, Provisional/Student Play Therapists and Play Therapy Supervisors are invited to participate. If you agree to participate, please complete the online survey. Your consent to participate in this research project will be implied by your decision to complete and submit the survey.

On the survey, you will be required to provide basic information about practice as a Play Therapist working with children. This will include your professional standing, personal theoretical orientation, geographical location and cultural identity. All responses are non-identifiable, as your name is not recorded anywhere on the survey.

Next, you will be required to provide some information regarding your use of books (narrative texts/story books) within play therapy sessions *prior to COVID-19*. This will include questions on the frequency of use, what part of the session you use them in and how you use them with a client. You will also be asked to reflect on whether you recommend books for parents or carers to use with their child.

Lastly, you are asked to reflect your current practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. You'll be asked if the use of Telehealth has increased your use of books/story telling with child clients.

A typical question includes:

- A question about your location: "Are you located in Australia? If so, what culture do you identify as? If no, what region are you located in and what culture do you identify as?"
  
- A question about your use of books: "At what stage of a session do you use a book: beginning; middle; closing?"
  
- A question relating your current practice during COVID-19: "Within Telehealth Play Therapy sessions, are you using books (or online readings of books) within a session more frequently than you did previously in regular sessions: Yes (more than face to face sessions); same as face to face sessions; no; less?"

The time commitment involved for you to complete the online survey will be approximately 20 minutes. The survey can be completed at your convenience online. If you are unable to complete all the survey at once, you can stop at any point and return to it within 48 hours via the same link to continue from where you left. Your participation through the end would be much appreciated.

#### **4. Possible Benefits**

The expected benefit from this research is primarily to examine if Play Therapists use books within sessions with their child clients and if so, how and when they use them. It will also look at whether the current COVID-19 pandemic has increased the use of books as more Play Therapists engage in Telehealth sessions with their clients. There may not be any direct benefits for you as a participant, other than the opportunity to share your experiences. The information you provide will assist with understanding the practices of Play Therapists in Australia and across the world.

#### **5. Possible Risks**

There are no foreseeable risks for participating in this research project. It is possible that some questions may cause you to reflect on your practice and modalities with

your clients. If you are challenged by this, you may wish to seek professional supervision with your chosen supervisor.

## **6. Funding**

This research project will be funded by Charles Darwin University.

## **7. Financial or other relevant declarations**

The researchers involved in this project do not have any interests, financial or otherwise, that conflict in the conduct of this study.

## **8. Participation is Voluntary**

Participation is completely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part you are not obliged to do so. If you decide to take part and then change your mind at a later time, you have the right to withdraw from further participation prior to submitting your survey responses.

Please note that all participants are not identified. We do not know who has answered the survey. Therefore, after the survey is submitted, it is not possible to remove the responses provided by you from the larger pools of responses gathered – because we do not know which answers you provided. The analysis will be based on combined information provided by all participants.

## **9. Privacy, Confidentiality and Disclosure of Information**

Any publications will not identify you as we do not know which individuals completed the survey. All data will be managed in accordance with the Charles Darwin University Research Data and Primary Materials Management procedure.

The survey is anonymous and responses are not connected with respondents. Your individual responses will be entered as a code. Privacy and Confidentiality will be maintained in accordance with the Privacy Act, Health Records Act and the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research. Only researchers working on this project will have access to information collected from this study.

The survey will be completed using an online research survey tool Qualtrics. Charles Darwin University has licensing agreement with Qualtrics as the University's preferred platform for survey based research. Qualtrics is compliant with Charles Darwin University's regulatory requirements and has excellent security. All responses will be stored electronically on the Charles Darwin University recommended storage system, Sync and Share collection via Syncplicity. This system is synced to the Charles Darwin University Research Data Store and therefore is secure and backed up.

## **10. Results of Project**

As data will not contain any identifying personal information, only combined results from all participants will be available for reporting. No individual or their opinions will be identified in the data collected or in the resulting publications. A summary of the results can be requested by contacting the researchers.

The research findings will be submitted as part of the doctoral thesis. Researchers intend to disseminate findings of the project through publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at conferences.

## **11. Ethical Guidelines**

This project will be undertaken in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007 -updated 2018) produced by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. This statement was developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

The Human Research Ethics Committee of Charles Darwin University has approved the ethics aspects of this research project.

## **12. Complaints**

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact:

The Human Research Ethics Office Charles Darwin University

Email: [ethics@cdu.edu.au](mailto:ethics@cdu.edu.au)

Telephone: (08) 8946 6063

Toll Free: 1800 466 215

Please quote project number [Reference Number: H20058].

## **13. Reimbursement for your time**

Participants will receive no payment for partaking in this research project.

## **14. Further information, queries or any concerns**

If you require any further information regarding this research, have any concerns about participating and/or wish to withdraw your participation, or would like to request a summary of the results, you may contact researchers:

Dr Michelle Moss  
Charles Darwin University  
College of Health & Human Sciences  
Darwin, NT 0909.  
Telephone: +61 8 8946 6752  
Email: [michelle.moss@cdu.edu.au](mailto:michelle.moss@cdu.edu.au)

Mrs Sarah Gentle  
Email: [sarahnarelle.gentle@cdu.edu.au](mailto:sarahnarelle.gentle@cdu.edu.au)

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I have read and I understand the attached Plain Language Statement.  
I give my permission to participate in this project according to the conditions in the Plain Language Statement.

I can download a copy of Plain Language Statement and Assent Consent Form to keep.

I understand that by submitting my responses to online survey, it will be implied that I consent to participating in this research project.

I understand the survey is anonymous and the responses I provide will not identify me, including where information about this project is published, or presented in any public form.

I understand I can complete the survey all at once (preferred), or stop at any point and return to it within 48 hours via the same link to continue from where you left.

I understand that the responses I provide will be used for coding, scoring and analysis purposes.

I understand the researchers intend to store the data obtained for future research for which ethical approval will be sought.

I consent to the further use of my responses in future research/projects related to parents and play.

I have had the opportunity to ask any questions and have them answered by contacting the research team on the information provided.

I understand I can obtain a summary of the results of this research project by contacting the researchers on the details provided in the Plain Language Statement.

Consent Implied.