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Working with Children to Heal Interpersonal Trauma: The Power of Play
Edited by Eliana Gil, PhD, Clinical and Educational Specialist, Childhelp, Inc., Fairfax, Virginia; Clinical Director, Gil Center for Healing and Play, Fairfax, Virginia; Adjunct Faculty, Virginia Tech University, Falls Church, Virginia

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Child Age Range Addressed: 3 to 12

CRITICAL ACCLAIM
"Gil and her contributing authors take us on an amazing journey that captures the creative ways traumatized children find to heal when we meet them in their world, not with language, but with play. The richly detailed cases are filled with unforgettable lessons about how to help children express their private, complex experiences. The book also provides substantial support for those needing to validate the healing power of creative interventions within a trauma-informed context. We will definitely recommend this book to the thousands of professionals the Institute trains yearly. It will be useful for both new and seasoned practitioners."
—William Steele, PsyD, MSW, Director, National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children, Starr Commonwealth Institute for Training

"Play therapy, the oldest and most popular form of child therapy, is widely considered by practitioners to be uniquely responsive to the needs of children who have experienced interpersonal trauma. This volume offers a wealth of information about the effective use of play-based interventions that honor children’s self-healing strategies. From a renowned expert in the field, this is a valuable resource for beginning and experienced therapists who work with child victims of interpersonal trauma, such as abuse and neglect."
—Charles E. Schaefer, PhD, RPT-S, Department of Psychology (Emeritus), Fairleigh Dickinson University

"Gil and colleagues provide a warm and insightful description of play-based healing for traumatized children. Compelling case examples illustrate therapeutic principles such as the need to decode children's play behavior and the ways in which play facilitates natural healing processes following trauma. I highly recommend this book for clinicians working with children who have experienced interpersonal trauma—the hope and healing are heartening! As a classroom text, the book would offer students cutting-edge information and clear examples that model advanced clinical skills."
—Jennifer Baggerly, PhD, Counselor Education Program, University of South Florida

DESCRIPTION
Featuring in-depth case presentations from master clinicians, this volume highlights the remarkable capacity of traumatized children to guide their own healing process. The book describes what posttraumatic play looks like and how it can foster resilience and coping. Demonstrated are applications of play, art, and other expressive therapies with children who have faced such overwhelming experiences as sexual abuse or chronic neglect. The contributors discuss ways to facilitate forms of expression that promote mastery and growth, as well as how to intervene when play becomes stuck in destructive patterns. They share effective strategies for engaging hard-to-reach children and building trusting therapeutic relationships.

KEY POINTS
> New, needed work edited by a bestselling author (The Healing Power of Play has over 85,000 in print) who is a leader in the field.
> Child trauma is notoriously difficult to address in therapy: this book deals in particular with abuse, domestic violence, and parental loss.
> Case-based chapters offer detailed depictions of therapeutic techniques.
> Will be used by the full spectrum of professionals working with traumatized children.

AUDIENCE
Mental health professionals working with children, including child psychologists, social workers, play and art therapists, counselors, family therapists, and psychiatrists.

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