

MI-ATSA Conference 2019

Sexual Development Birth through Puberty: What is Normative? Sexualized Behavior Problems in Prepubescent Children: When is clinical intervention necessary?

Presented by: Geraldine Crisci, MSW

Workshop Description

Understanding inappropriate sexual behaviour presentations is impossible without having a clear understanding of normative sexual behaviour. This workshop will review normative sexual development – birth through puberty. Developmental expectations for each phase of sexual development will be clearly outlined.

This workshop will address the confusing issues surrounding sexualized behaviour presentation by the pre-school and school-aged, pre-pubescent child. Discussion will include the influence of culture and media on “acceptable” behaviour. Criteria will be outlined to assist in determining the necessity of clinical intervention. The role of parents, educators, health care personnel and mental health practitioners in identifying problems will be defined.

Many adults have experienced sexual trauma which may have left them with earlier developmental arrests. These issues may be identified as relationship issues; communication problems with partners, or difficulty discussing sexual issues with their children. This workshop provides a framework for identifying sexual development as we all experience it and may be useful to adult therapists working with traumatized individuals.

Teaching Objectives

1. Participants will learn the stages of sexual development birth through puberty.
2. Participants will develop an understanding of key assessment criteria when assessing sexual behaviour presentations in prepubescent children.
3. Participants will learn about 5 etiological pathways contributing to problematic sexual behaviour in children.
4. Participants will understand how to apply a developmental lens to adult presentations.
5. Participants will learn the key components to Trauma Assessment and the potential predictable developmental milestones.

Speaker Biography

Geraldine Crisci, M.S.W. is a mental health professional with over 30 years experience in the field of trauma. She is a private practitioner who provides assessment and treatment to children, youth and their families. She is also a professional trainer providing educational programs to mental health, protective services, law enforcement, medical and other helping professions. Geraldine has developed and teaches a six-day Trauma Assessment and Treatment Program which has reached 6000 professionals in the past 18 years.

Geraldine has developed protocols for the assessment and treatment of trauma, sexualized behaviour problems in prepubescent children and sibling sexual abuse. Geraldine has developed reunification protocol for families in which sibling sexual abuse has occurred. She has provided support to agencies and families in the successful adoption of children from the Protection system. She has worked extensively with residential and day treatment programs for children and youth for the past 25 years.

Geraldine specializes in addressing the impact of trauma on the behaviour of children and youth. To this end she develops clinical programs to provide children, youth and their families with corrective effective therapeutic intervention. Geraldine is a member of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC); a member of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA); a member of the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CPRO) and the Ontario Association of Social Workers (OASW). She co-authored Paper Dolls and Paper Airplanes: Therapeutic Exercises for Sexually Traumatized Children, which is currently in its 19th year of printing.