

Working with Prepubescent Transgender Children

Presented by Dr. Kai Gunty

8-hour training

Description: Transgender children and their families need specialized care and support. This is also a growing population, particularly with Minnesota moving forward toward becoming a refuge for transgender people surrounded by states with increasing anti-trans legislature. The need for clinicians who are competent and confident in treating these children and supporting their families is intense and growing. This training will cover the basics of what clinicians need to know to work with *prepubescent* transgender and gender nonconforming children and their families.

Topics:

1. Assessment and diagnosis:
 - a. How to differentiate gender identity and gender expression – what is showing up in your office?
 - b. Gender spectrum – cisgender, transgender, genderfluid, non-binary, and all the others
 - c. How do we know a child is transgender?
 - d. Gender dysphoria: to diagnose or not?
2. Child support needs
 - a. A review of myths and facts
 - b. Play themes and how to respond
 - c. Emotion regulation
 - d. Resources for supporting identity development and gender euphoria
3. Parent and family support and communication
 - a. Common questions and fears and resources to help respond to them
 - b. How to get to the heart of parent responses
 - c. Matching the family while being unwavering in support of the child
 - d. The difficult realities and how to discuss them with parents
4. Coordinating with medical professionals and schools
 - a. WPATH SOC 8.0
 - b. When to refer to medical professionals
 - c. What to support families in watching for if puberty blockers are going to be part of a child's path
 - d. Common challenges at school
 - e. Letter-writing for school, medical providers, and insurance companies

Objectives:

Attendees will be able to:

1. Recognize differences between gender identity and gender expression.
2. Know how to assess transgender children and decide on possible diagnosis of gender dysphoria.
3. Understand how to best support transgender and gender-nonconforming children one-on-one in individual play- and talk-based therapy.
4. Understand how best to support these children's parents and families from a systems-based perspective.
5. Have knowledge of the current WPATH standards of care for transgender and gender nonconforming children.
6. Know how to best advocate for transgender and gender nonconforming children in school and medical settings.
7. Be able to write letters of support as needed.

Who is Dr. Kai?

Kai has his PhD in Family Social Science and has been working with children and families in a variety of capacities for over 15 years. He is currently an LPC (#2673) in the state of Minnesota and an AAMFT Supervisor Candidate. He works primarily with transgender children under 12 and their families. He has supported dozens of transgender and gender nonconforming children and their families from a strengths-based and family systems perspective. He focuses on advocating for the individual child at practical levels, while helping the child build their own sense of identity and allowing it to unfold over time as they grow. He also enjoys connecting children and families to resources at all levels of complexity. Beyond all of that, he recognizes that all children are children first, and he works to meet them where they are on any given days – he works with them through all the normal things kids face (while paying attention to how gender identity does or does not impact those things).

Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Approved CEUs

FROM: Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy
DATE: March 28, 2023
RE: Review of Continuing Education Application

Approval #	Course Title	Course Sponsor	Approved CE Hours	Approved Cultural Competency, Ethics & Supervision Hours (if requested)
2023-162	Working with Prepubescent Transgender Children	Dandelion Spirit Psychotherapy	8 hours	3 Ethics, 4 Cultural Competency
This approved program may be used to satisfy the Ethics CE requirement for LMFTs.				
This approved program may be used to satisfy the Cultural Competency CE requirement for LMFTs.				

Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy 8.0 hours Approved CEUs