



Assessment Information Sheet

Each assessment and intervention will be individually tailored depending on the presenting difficulties and needs identified. These will be discussed as part of the referral process.

Our standard therapeutic assessment includes the use of psychological measures and clinical observation as appropriate and incorporates the Meaning of the Child Interview (or similar relational based interview), MIM and a child-based attachment assessment measure to provide a holistic assessment of the inter relational dynamics, family functioning, strengths and vulnerabilities within the family from an attachment and developmental trauma perspective. This can be adapted to meet the needs of the family and commissioning service.

The **Meaning of the Child Interview** was developed by Dr Ben Grey PhD (2014), out of The Parent Development Interview, or PDI (Aber, J.; Slade A; Berger B.; Kaplan M. 2003). In healthy, safe parenting relationships, the parent is processing information about their child, in order to keep themselves safe, keep their child safe and to teach the child how to protect him or herself. The Meaning of the Child Interview is based on attachment theory. Through a semi structured clinical interview process, parents are asked to talk about their child, their experience of parenting and also their own experience of being parented. The interview is then coded by trained coders. <http://www.meaningofthechild.org/>

The **Marschak Interaction Method** (MIM) is a play-based, structured technique for observing and assessing the relationship between a parent/caregiver and child. It consists of a series of simple and fun tasks designed to elicit a range of behaviours in four dimensions: structure and challenge, engagement, nurture and playfulness. The MIM evaluates the parent or caregiver's ability to set limits, engage the child through interaction while being attuned to the child's needs, to meet the child's needs for attention and soothing, and to support the child's efforts to master developmentally appropriate tasks. Simultaneously, the method allows for assessment of the child's ability to respond to the parent or caregiver's efforts. The interaction is then coded by trained coders.

The **Child Attachment and Play Assessment** (CAPA) is a developmental approach informed by Crittenden's Dynamic Maturational Model of Attachment and Winnicott's potential space. It looks at two discrete but connected behavioural systems, attachment, and play/exploration through the use of Narrative story stems. Story stems are a doll play assessment procedure in which the interviewer gives the child and the beginning of a story, and then, using a few simple props, ask the child to 'show me and tell me what happens next'. They are not simple imitative copies of reality but provide a window into the child's basic scripts for human relationships and internal world. The session is video recorded and content, nonverbal behaviour and discourse is then coded



in terms of the child's attachment strategy, unresolved loss and trauma, modifiers and mentalising ability. <https://www.the-capa.com/>

Additional assessment measures may include

- Care Index
- Adult Attachment Interview
- Child Attachment Interview
- School age assessment of attachment
- Observations in school and home environment
- Trauma index
- Sibling assessments
- Video assessments

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