



Edmonton, Canada, January 24 to 27, 2018
Sydney, Australia 26 February to 1 March, 2018



Meeting with Children Skills for Family Law Professionals

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In this course Dr. Lorri Yassenik and Jon Graham explore the skills necessary to meet with post separation children and youth.

- For practitioners: the approach is highly structured
- For children/youth: the approach is unstructured, non-directive and non-evaluative
- Practice based, experiential, expressive and play based

Lorri, a child specialist and registered play therapist, family mediator and Jon, a specialist in complex family mediation, combine to bring an multi speciality skill set into this training.

www.yassenik-graham.com

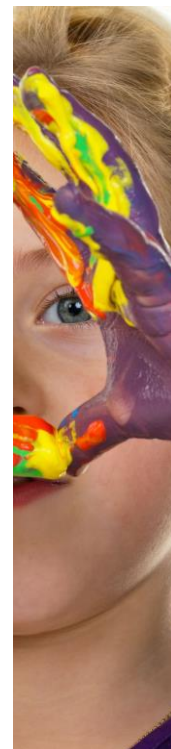


HEARING CHILDREN

The question is not **WHETHER** children should be heard, but rather **HOW TO** ensure children's voices are safely and effectively heard as part of an ADR process.

A child-centred approach views the child as central to the family system, and provides strategies for working with parents to include the child's concerns.

The challenge that practitioners face is how and when to include children **AND** how to increase the readiness of the parents to hear their children's concerns.



COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course participants will be able to:

- Identify what it means to be child centred and non-evaluative when including children and youth of separated families and in child protection environments
- Engage in directive and non-directive ways of meeting with children and understand metaphor and projection as ways children *show* and *tell* you about their lived worlds
- Identify the four levels of child involvement and the cases in which each level is most appropriate
- Apply a methodology for each of the four levels to compare and contrast the presentation of cases at each level
- Make use of the Child and Youth Concerns Scale, the Parent Readiness Scale, and the Child and Youth Readiness Scale
- Be able to effectively provide feedback to parents and other third parties
- Understand the ethical implications of child-centred practice, and the challenges of child-centred strategies



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COURSE CONTENT

Topics Covered Over 4 Days; Theory And Role Play Embedded Each Day.

1. Introduction

- What does it mean to be Child Centered?
- The Child Centered Continuum Model
- Complexity and Meeting with Children

2. Meeting with Children Theoretical Overview

- Speaking the language of the Child
- Symbols
- Metaphors
- Distancing Techniques
- Why Direct Interviewing Fails

3. Meeting with Children Skills

- Funnel Technique
- Questioning Technique
- Deeper Questions
- Providing information to children

4. Meeting with Children Program: Phase One: Preparation

- Receipt of referral
- Parent Meeting

5. Meeting with Children Program: Phase Two: Meeting with Children

- Activity 1 to 6

6. Meeting with Children Program: Phase Three: Feedback

- Feedback with Parents and others
- Feedback with children



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WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Child Consultants/Specialists
- Parenting Coordinators
- Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners
- Assessors/Family Court Report Writers
- Family Mediators
- Child and Family Counsellors
- Family Lawyers
- Children's Lawyers

COST

Study two ways:

- Course with Certificate of Attendance only **\$1,250.00** plus GST
- Course with Assessment Tasks and Feedback **\$1,500.00** plus GST

LORRI YASENIK AND JON GRAHAM

Lorri Yasenik Ph.D., RSW, CPT-S, RPT-S (Canada)



Lorri Yasenik is a Registered Family Mediator, Registered Parenting Coordinator-Arbitrator, Registered Clinical Social Worker, Registered Play Therapist and Child Specialist based in Calgary, Alberta Canada. Lorri provides child psychotherapy and play therapy and is the Co-Director of Rocky Mountain Play Therapy Institute. She delivers national and international training related to children's issues and specialized child psychotherapy and play therapy. Her doctorate dissertation focused on "Including the Voices of Children of Separation and Divorce in the Legal System".

Jon Graham B.A (Psych), B.Com, LLB, Grad Dip Family Dispute Res (Australia)



Jon Graham is a Registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (Family Mediator) based in Sydney Australia. Jon has qualifications in law, psychology and commerce as well as post-graduate qualifications in Family Mediation. Jon combines over 20 years of clinical experience with families affected by separation and divorce with a substantial training calendar across Australia. Jon is the Clinical Director of the Institute of Specialist Dispute Resolution, a provider of tailored family dispute resolution processes for families presenting with complex issues. The Institute also provides training and clinical supervision for mediators in Australia.

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