

**\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\***

# Meeting with Children

For Hear the Child, PCs and Family Law Practitioners

**DECEMBER 1, 2017**



## **PRESENTER:**

Lorri Yasenik Ph.D., works in Calgary Alberta Canada and is a Registered Child Psychotherapist and Play Therapist, Registered Family Mediator and Parenting Coordinator-Arbitrator. Lorri works with high-conflict families experiencing separation and divorce and she is interested in safe and authentic ways to forward the voice of the child in family law matters. Lorri teaches nationally and internationally related to children and family law, child psychotherapy and play therapy.

Lorri's Ph.D. research was entitled Including the Voices of Children of Separation and Divorce in the Legal System and her post-doctoral work is focused on the development of non-evaluative standard approaches to meeting with children.

**DATE:** December 1, 2017

**TIME:** 9:00 to 4:30 (6.5 hours)

**LOCATION:** Vancouver -TBD

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This one-day training will focus on non-evaluative meetings with children. How do we **create opportunities** for children to describe their experiences of family and social life post separation? **How** do children and young people want to speak with us? **How** do we get out of the way of leading the child and hear what **children** have to say?

The course will focus on play-based and expressive techniques to create a safe space for sharing through metaphor. The use of metaphor allows children to express thoughts, feelings and concerns that come directly from the child rather than driven by pre-determined interview questions. Participants will examine the process of “inquiry” and identify important questions when using metaphors for use in child meetings. The focus is on knowing more about what is important to the child than what is important to third parties such as parents and systems. The workshop will differentiate “meeting with children” from “interviewing children”. Child development and ethical issues related to child meetings will be highlighted.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Introduce a structured approach to *meeting* with children
- Differentiate “meetings from interviews” with children
- Present a tool (Child and Youth Concerns Scale) for organizing children’s thoughts, feelings and concerns
- Identify effective structured 3<sup>rd</sup> party feedback strategies
- Identify ethical considerations
- Identify important child development considerations

## PARTICIPANTS

- Hear The Child Roster members
- Parent Coordinator Roster members
- Mediators
- Family Law Therapists / Assessors
- Children’s Lawyers

## PARTICIPANT FEE

\$TBA



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