



Understanding Children's Drawings

Cathy A. Malchiodi

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This practical resource demonstrates how all clinicians can broaden and enhance their work with children by integrating drawing into therapy. The book enables therapists to address the multidimensional aspects of children's art without resorting to simplistic explanations. Approaching drawing as a springboard for communication and change, Malchiodi offers a wealth of guidelines for understanding the intricate messages embedded in children's drawings and in the art-making process itself. Topics covered include how to assist children in making art, what questions to ask and when, and how to motivate children who are initially resistant to drawing. Assimilating extensive research and clinical experience, the book includes over 100 examples of children's work.

Understanding Children's Drawings Details

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Sara says

Great resource! It's an interesting read on its own, but is also very insightful and helpful, provides clear and concise examples, case studies, and drawings to help with comprehension of the material. It certainly inspires a lot of thought!

Jana says

A helpful resource for anyone who works with children. Though much of this book is about interpreting children's drawings, I appreciate Malchiodi's warnings against pathologizing. We can't assume we know the source material for a child's drawing. Sometimes children imitate other artwork / visual material in their environment rather than draw from internal inspiration. Also, cultural and personal differences change the meaning of similar imagery from one child to another.

jenna says

I found this to be a helpful, basic guide to working with kids and their art. It offered many useful suggestions for learning more about a child's world, both interpersonally and intrapsychically.

As with almost anything regarding psychology, the constant "it depends" aspect can get frustrating; if only interpretations and meanings were concrete and could read like a dictionary! But such is not the reality, and Malchiodi does a fairly concise job of teaching the viewer to use the art of working with kids and their drawings to learn more about the child.

Vanessa says

Nice. An informative read and reference book for people employed in childcare . Now I don't feel so sheepish about getting an adult coloring book as a valentine's gift . The fundamentals principles of art therapy apply for adults too.

Alyssa says

Great book. Although my professor had already taught me a lot of the stuff in the book it will be nice to have on hand when i'm out in a practice. Be aware it's not a step by step, but more of a book to get you thinking about children's drawings. Great for child therapists
