

*Curriculum Vitae*

**ELSA PELIER, MA, ATR-BC, LCAT**

**CLINICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

**9/12-Present.**

**CLINICAL PSYCHOTHERAPIST**

The Johnson Counseling Center- PS 102 School Based Mental Health Clinic,  
Union Settlement Mental Health Services.  
NEW YORK, NY

***School based psychotherapist:*** Specializing in the clinical treatment of children and families within the public school setting.

- Coordinator of program services: assuming leadership role in program development and as liaison between PS 102 and the Johnson Counseling Center.
- Responsible for all initiatives in client care, treatment, planning and assessments.
- Consultant to educational staff to promote and provide psycho-education and serve as advocate for the child's emotional needs and promote understanding of behavioral responses.

**8/96-Present.**

**PRIVATE PRACTICE**

NEW YORK, NY

- ***Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy***, art therapy, play therapy and hypnotherapy with children and adolescents, including parent guidance. Psychotherapy with adults. Specializations include: separation and adjustment disorders, medical illness and related disorders, trauma, and bereavement work.
- ***Postgraduate individual and group clinical supervision*** of art therapists for credentialing purposes, clinical practice and program development.

**4/99-Present.**

**ART THERAPIST SUPERVISOR**

THE ITTLESON CENTER,  
JEWISH BOARD OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES.  
NEW YORK, NY

***Primary Therapist:*** Specializing in the clinical treatment of children and families through psychotherapy, play therapy, art therapy, and family therapy. Clients served with severe psychiatric vulnerability and traumatic histories involving physical and sexual abuse, neglect, multiple separations and placements, complicated ambiguous losses and abandonment, and related attachment disorders.

- Case Management responsibilities assuming leadership role in all initiatives in client care, treatment, planning and discharge.
- Provide crisis response and therapeutic interventions for children and families after traumatic events, including WTC disaster, incidents of abuse and domestic violence, loss and bereavement.
- Coordinate all collateral services with ACS, planning agencies and law guardians, preparing testimonials for court and testifying as an expert witness.
- Consultant to milieu staff to promote and provide psycho-education to non-clinical staff and serve as advocate for the child's emotional needs and promote understanding of behavioral responses.
- Co-lead monthly case conferences with treatment team.
- Clinical Supervisor of Volunteers in the JBFCS Big Brother/ Big Sister Program

**Art Therapy Program Supervisor:** Organization of all aspects of The Ittleson Center, Clinical Art Therapy Program, as part of clinical services offered for children in residential care.

- Clinical Supervision of art therapy interns in Masters-level Art Therapy internship programs, in the New York area, including: New York University, Pratt Institute, Hofstra University and The School of Visual Arts. Training integrates theoretical and clinical knowledge of art therapy within the context of long-term individual and group therapy treatment.
- Coordinator of the Annual Art Therapy Program Art Show and Opening.
- Coordinator, Art Therapy Department of the Residential Treatment Facilities and liaison for creative arts at Ittleson. Provides individual clinical supervision and program guidance for art therapists within the residential treatment facilities.
- Committee member, of the JBFCFS Licensed Creative Arts Therapists initiative.

**Clinical Coordination and project design:** The Ittleson Phased Approach Trauma Treatment Initiative [PATTI]. An interdisciplinary trauma focused program, informing and integrating an understanding of the interpersonal, psychological and developmental needs of traumatized and psychiatrically vulnerable children, as well as their caregivers. Evolved into four psychosocial group interventions.

- Responsible for all written and visual materials, handouts.
- PowerPoint two hour presentation workshop and two one hour group meetings for school personnel.
- Children's 10-week group design template.
- Caregiver's three-week group outline.
- Three group gathering and celebration.
- Survey design: Questionnaire and feedback questions.

**Coordinator, The Trauma and Loss Groups,** for milieu caregivers and children at Ittleson.

- Liaison between the Loss and Bereavement Program of JBFCFS.
- Liaison with clinical and milieu programs at Ittleson.
- Meets with interdisciplinary administrators.
- Conducts presentations and inservices.
- Coordinates scheduling of groups and consultations.
- Co-leader of children and milieu groups.

**Coordinator, clinical meetings: including inservices, presentations and trainings for clinicians, students, support staffs, agencies and visitors.**

- Designs, schedules, and hosts presentations and lectures for clinical interdisciplinary group.
- Provides clinical and administrative training to all students in the internship and externship programs
- Conducts clinical presentations for The Ittleson Center Divisional Committee meetings and fund raising events.

**Committee Member:** Office of Mental Health, Continuous Performance Improvement Project: Ittleson's "Therapeutic Communities"

- Co-creator of the therapeutic treatment model consisting of "an integrated system comprised of the treatment team, family and community working towards trauma resolution and recovery" to standardize practice measures.
- Implementation of the Trauma and Loss Groups as keystone to the Ittleson initiative.
- Advisor for the Art Therapy Program as part of the performance improvement plan.

**JBFCFS Instructor:** Loss and Bereavement Training Program: The Ittleson Center Trauma and Loss Child and Counselors Parallel Group.

9/00-6/05

**ADJUNCT FACULTY**  
SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS, (SVA).  
GRADUATE ART THERAPY DEPARTMENT  
NEW YORK, NY

**Instructor, Art Therapy in Disabilities Track:** Development and writing of a two-semester course.

**Instructor, Clinical Practicum Internship Seminar:** Collaborator on the development of academic standards for SVA's Supervision in the Studio, (SIS). Focused on the students' professional and personal growth through the support and guidance of the supervision process.

**Instructor, The Second Year of Study, SVA Art Therapy Department, Continuing Education Certificate Program:** Lectures, class discussions, presentations, role play and experientials, offered to augment the student's comprehension of art therapy as a treatment modality.

**Instructor, Practicum Seminar: Group supervision,** for students in psychiatric, rehabilitation, medical or educational, Art Therapy Fieldwork placements.

**Presenter, SVA Open House: Introduction to the Field and Study of Art Therapy.**  
Presentation, Discussion and Experiential exercise offered to prospective students.

7/99

**GUEST INSTRUCTOR**  
THE AZZOCIANZIONE EDITH KRAMER ONLUS  
ART THERAPY PROGRAM,  
TORINO, ITALY.  
IN AFFILIATION WITH NYU ART THERAPY DEPARTMENT.

**Instructor: Medical Art Therapy with Chronically Ill Children and Adolescents.** Writing and Development of the 36 hour, five-day course. Art therapy, play therapy and therapeutic suggestion serve as creative approaches that resonate with the child's emotional needs and allow for expression while preserving necessary defenses. Case examples and patient artwork illustrate themes, Experiential: Creation of an art mural throughout the week as a parallel process.

**GUEST INSTRUCTOR:** New York University Graduate Art Therapy Department, Columbia University School of Social Work, Fordham University Psychology Department, Hofstra University Graduate Art Therapy Department.

10/89-3/99.

**ART THERAPIST and CHILD LIFE SPECIALIST**  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILD LIFE  
MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER,  
NEW YORK, NY

**Coordinator of Child Life Art Therapy Program, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Service.**  
Responsible for Child Life and Art Therapy clinical services provided on the inpatient floors, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, and out patient clinics.

- Art therapist working with clients in individual treatment sessions.
- Offered procedural support in preparation and during invasive procedures.
- Crisis and support intervention for families and for siblings of dying children.
- Provided bereavement support for siblings and parents.
- Creation and Implementation of Hypnotherapy Program for pain and stress management as part of clinical services for Pediatric Hematology Oncology Clinical Services.
- Organized therapeutic group activities for outpatient clinic programming for children, adolescents, and families.
- Supervisor for graduate art therapy interns, doctoral candidates, medical interns, and volunteers.
- Mount Sinai Employee Recognition Award "Child Life Staff Team Award."

**Child Life Consultant and Art Therapist:** Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT), and Hemophilia Services.

- Designed interdisciplinary treatment protocol model for preparation of BMT patients and sibling donors throughout all phases of BMT process.
- Conducted Assessment for and Preparation sessions for BMT for children and donor siblings.
- Collaborated with BMT Unit staff around psychosocial understanding and care of pediatric patients.
- Offered individual therapy sessions, family supportive counseling, procedural support, and hypnotherapy sessions and medical play therapy to clients undergoing BMT.
- Supervised students and volunteers working with BMT patients.

**Co-chair of The Coping Committee,** A multidisciplinary effort to address the needs of children, adolescents and their families in relation to their hospital experiences, specifically perceived painful or invasive procedures or treatments.

- Co-writer Committee's mission, to establish a universal, interdisciplinary approach towards children and families, promoting the utilization of coping strategies based on an understanding of children's developmental needs, incorporating therapeutic language, anywhere in the medical center where children are being treated.
- Created a policy and a procedure for pediatric patients requiring invasive and/or painful procedures.
- Created an inservice training to educate hospital staff, facilitate the use of the treatment rooms, to encourage coping strategies for children and adolescents, parents and staff during stressful or painful medical events.
- Provided inservicing to the following Pediatric areas: inpatient nursing, social work, phlebotomy, child life, interns and residents, support associates, adolescent health center, PICU, PCICU, the ER and the outpatient clinics.
- Supervised Projects such as graphically illustrating treatment rooms to create soothing environments and equipped them with "coping kits" for procedural distraction.
- Mount Sinai Employee Recognition Team Award for "The Inservicing Initiative of the MCM Pediatric Coping Committee."

**Coordinator of Art Therapy Internships for entire Child Life Program:**

Responsible for maintaining internship art therapy affiliations, initial interviews and referrals of students to Child Life Art Therapy Program supervisors within the various pediatric programs, including: Pediatric ER, General Outpatient Services, Weekend Inpatient program, Inpatient Pediatric floors, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit, Liver and Renal Transplant services.

**Acting Coordinator of Child Life Program of Volunteers:** Liaison with Volunteer office, screening of volunteers and referral to Child Life program specialists (80-90 volunteers) 1997-1998.

**Presenter and workshop leader:** for seminars, inservices, inpatient teaching to psychiatry fellows, child life staff and interns, medical, nursing and support staffs throughout the medical center.

**Organization and Installation of the "Children and Healthcare Week" Annual Art Therapy Show and opening:** Featuring over 400 pieces of art works and mural pieces.

9/88-9/89.

**ART THERAPIST**  
CHILD LIFE PROGRAM.  
ST. LUKE'S/ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL CENTER,  
NEW YORK NY

Developed an Art Therapy Program as part of Child Life Programming within the pediatric inpatient medical setting and to the interdisciplinary staff.

- Conducted individual sessions with child psychiatry patients admitted to the medical unit, as well as medically ill patients on the medical floor and in the pediatric intensive care unit.
- Organized and ran weekly adolescent art therapy groups.
- Administered individual long and short-term art therapy.
- Conducted Art therapy presentations.
- Provided evaluations and progress for medical charts.
- Ran medical play pre-op and post-op sessions.
- Supervised the Child Life playroom.
- Organized structured group activities and parties.
- Observed child and parent interaction.

**CREDENTIALS:** Professional Certifications and Memberships.

Licensed Creative Arts Therapist, State of New York. License Number 000504

Board Certified Art Therapist, Art Therapy Credentials Board, Certification Number 92-266

Registered Art Therapist, American Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. Registration Number 02-142

Member, Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis, 2005-Present.

Member, New York Art Therapy Association, 2007.

Certified Child Life Specialist, American Association for the Care of Children's Health, 1991-2004

Member, Child Life Council, 1989-1999

**CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED:**

**Childhood Stress: How to Support Your Child.**

~ PS 290 Parents Association, Jan 2014.

**Ericksonian Hypnotherapy and Approaches: Therapeutic Engagement of Chronically Ill Children.**

~ Second Annual Expressive Therapies Summit. November 2011.

**Hypnotherapy Workshop: Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital**

~Hackensack University Medical Center, June 2011.

**The PATTI Project, A Phased Approach Trauma Treatment Initiative.**

~Families Together in New York State Annual Conference, May 2011. Families Together in New York State.

**Ericksonian Hypnotherapy and Approaches: Integration of Therapeutic Suggestion and Conversational Induction for art therapists working with chronically ill children.**

~Clinical Applications of Art Therapy Workshop Series: NYU Graduate Art Therapy Program, March 2011.

**Trauma & Loss Group Treatment within the Residential Milieu: An Innovative Parallel Process.**

~Grand Rounds, JBFCS- RTF Division, The Ittleson Center, March 2007

**Trauma Work within the Residential Milieu: *An Innovative Parallel Process.***

The Henry Ittleson Center, JBFCS.

~Golden Opportunities: Building on Foundations to Enrich the Future, 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting." American Association Children's Residential Centers, November 2007.

**CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED:**

**Art Therapy with Children and Adolescents Impacted by Violence, Abuse and Racism.**

~ “Community Violence: Causes, Solutions and Hope for the Future.”

JBFCFS, Bi-Annual Conference, November 2004.

**The Loss & Trauma Group Project:**

**Working with Residential Children and their Direct Care Staff in a Parallel Process.**

~ “Embracing Change in Children’s mental Health: Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities.”

Conference., New York State Coalition for Children’s Mental Health Services, November 2004.

**Art Therapy for Children in Residential Care: Building a Safe Place for Expression.**

~Grand Rounds, JBFCFS-Martha K. Selig Educational Institute, June 2002.

~ “Finding the Strengths within Us.”

Conference, New York State Coalition for Children’s Mental Health Services, November 2001.

~ “A Sense of Place: Creating Healing Environments.”

School of Visual Arts, Graduate Art Therapy Department, October 2001.

**Moderator: An Interdisciplinary Evening on Creativity, Trauma, and the Arts.**

~The Society for Psychoanalytic Training, March 2000.

**Art as Therapy.**

~JBFCFS, Martha K. Selig Educational Institute. Winter 2000.

**Ericksonian Hypnosis and Approaches with Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Patients.**

~The Institute for Child, Adolescent and Family Studies. December 1999.

**Ericksonian Hypnotherapy: Imaginal Involvement of Chronically Ill Children.**

~ “New developments: Innovations in the Creative Arts Therapies”,

School of Visual Arts, Art Therapy Department, October 1999.

**Pediatric Hypnotherapy for Pain & Stress Management.**

Pediatric Social Work Department, The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

~Developed and co-led a Six-Week Training Workshop for pediatric social workers. Winter 1999.

**Ericksonian Hypnosis with Chronically Ill Children**

~Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Mount Sinai Medical Center, March 1999.

**Ericksonian Hypnosis: A Therapeutic Process for the Clinician**

~The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, December 1998.

**How Children and Siblings Cope with Death and Dying**

~Greater New York Child Life Conference, October 1998.

~Bereavement Symposium: “Bereavement Counseling in Maternal Child Health”

Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, May 1998.

**Conversational Inductions with Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Patients**

~Greater New York Child Life Conference. October 1997.

~New York Society of Ericksonian Hypnotherapy and Psychotherapy, October 1996.

**Applications of Ericksonian Hypnotic Approaches with Pediatric Hematology\Oncology Patients.**

~ “The Past as Foundation for the Future.”

Pediatric Oncology Social Workers National Conference, April 1996.

**CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED:****How Children Experience and Perceive Pain: Coping Strategies for the Caregiver**

~Sickle Cell Disease Symposium

Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, September 1997.

**The Use of Art with Hospitalized Children: Why, When and How?**

~Greater New York Child Life, Conference, Fall 1995.

**Art Therapy with Chronically Ill Children**

~ "Life Vision and Serious Illness."

School of Visual Arts, Art Therapy Department, Fall 1993.

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Trauma Work within the Residential Milieu: An Innovative Parallel Process. Contributions to Residential Treatment 2006 Annual Meeting, American Association Children's Residential Centers, November 2007.

American Journal of Clinical Hypnosis: "Ericksonian Hypnosis and Approaches with Pediatric Hematology Oncology patients." Vol. 41, No. 2, October 1998.

New York Society of Ericksonian Hypnotherapy and Psychotherapy Newsletter: "Conversational Inductions with Pediatric Hematology /Oncology Patients." May 1997.

**POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION:**

Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis, Trauma Treatment Center: Trauma-specific psychotherapy training. Two Year Program, April 2016.

Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) Two day intensive skills-based training on the use of an evidence-based child trauma treatment method. Fall 2012.

Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Advanced Supervisor's Training, 12 hours. September 2008.

Eastern Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Learning Collaborative National Child Traumatic Stress Network, March 2007-2012. Certificate 36 hours training.

TF-CBT Web: An Online Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy 10-hour Training Course. March 2007.

Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis: One Year Program in Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy. NYS Certificate-June 2006.

Training and Certification in Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Maltreatment. JBFCS, April 2005.

JBFCS' Martha K. Selig Educational Institute. Supervisors Mini Institute: Addressing Clinical and Administrative challenges. October 2002-June 2002.

Post Graduate Advanced Training Program, JBFCS Martha K. Selig Educational Institute, Two-year intensive training and clinical supervision specializing in Child, Adolescent and Family studies. NYS Certificate June 2002.

Intensive Clinical Supervision in Hypnosis and Ericksonian Hypnotherapy, November 1995-1999.

Society for Behavioral Pediatrics, Advanced Clinical Hypnosis Workshop, September 1993.

Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, Introduction & Advanced Clinical Hypnosis Workshops. Certificates: October 1992 and January 1993.

**EDUCATION:**

New York University, M.A. in Art Therapy, October 1992.

New York University, The Gallatin Division, B.A., with emphasis on Art Therapy, May 1989.  
Recipient of the Founder's Day Honors Scholar Award.

Art Therapy Workshop Group, (Studio Workshop School), Certificate Program, Summer 1986.

The New School for Social Research, One Year Art Therapy Certificate Program, 1986.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES:** The Pratt Manhattan Center, Society of Illustrators, Art Students League, and the Fashion Institute of Technology.

**MEDIA:**

Featured Clinician: For Your Information and Inspiration, JBFCS: The Healing Power of Art.” January 2009.

Featured Clinician: “Hypnosis Gains Credence with Doctors as Influence On the Body.”

By Lisa W. Foderado  
The New York Times  
Saturday, Feb. 24th 1996

Interview and Demonstration, Hypnotherapy with Children.  
“Eye Witness News” with Jay Adler WABC-TV, December 1996.

Featured Expert, Interview: Hypnotherapy for Children with Cancer.  
“World News Tonight with Peter Jennings” WABC-TV, December 1996.

Interview and Demonstration: Hypnotherapy as a Pain-management Technique.  
“Good Morning” WABC-TV  
December 1996.

Interview and Demonstration: Hypnotherapy as a Pain-management Technique.  
“Fox 5News” WNYW-TV, May 1996.

Featured Expert and Clinician, Art Therapy.  
“Cultural Minute” WNYC-TV February 1996.

**LANGUAGES:** Fluent Spanish

**REFERENCES:** Available Upon Request