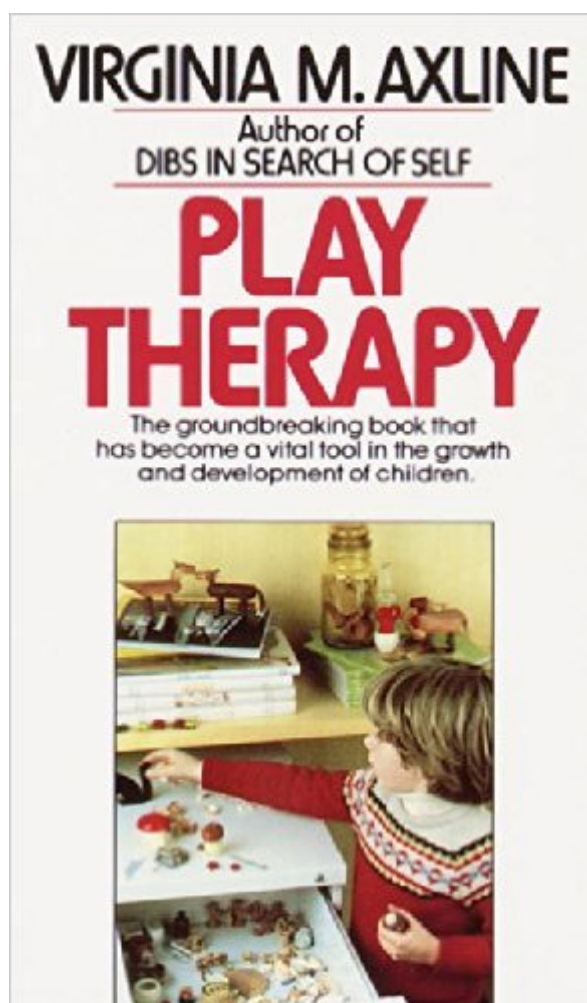


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# Play Therapy: The Groundbreaking Book That Has Become A Vital Tool In The Growth And Development Of Children



## Synopsis

"The most brilliant and intuitive, as well as the clearest written, work in this field. It is unpretentious yet clearly the most authoritative work that has been published."NORMAN CAMERON, Ph.D.Professor of PsychiatryYale University School of MedicineHere is an intensely practical book that gives specific illustrations of how therapy can be implemented in play contacts, and tells how the toys of the playroom can be vivid performers and aids in growth. As she did with DIBS IN SEARCH OF SELF, Dr. Axline has taken true case histories from the rich mine of verbatim case material of children referred for play therapy, choosing children ranging in age, problem, and personality. It's all here in an important and rewarding book for parents, teachers, and anyone who comes in contact with children.

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books; Reprint edition (December 12, 1981)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345303350

ISBN-13: 978-0345303356

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 1 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (27 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #60,366 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Reference](#) #170 in [Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Child Psychology](#) #218 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Child Psychology](#)

## Customer Reviews

Dr. Axline uses a series of recorded sessions with different children ranging in age from 5 to 12. Histories of each child is given and the course of action taken during the sessions. Group and individual sessions of the children is recorded in playwright tone; that is, T: C: (therapist, child) so that one sees how the communication flowed during the sessions. These sessions were conducted during the 1940s when psychiatry was breaking new ground in the U.S. Issues such as extended hospitalization, foster care, death and physical challenges and the natural expressions of each child regarding such issues were explored. During this period in history, this was pioneer work. This book is interesting, flowing and a very satisfying read. It is a work that is still applicable.

For anyone interested in children. There is no one quite like Axline. Using the theories of Rogers, Ainsworth and Bowlby Axline has devised a set of therapy principals that will live forever. If your child needs a therapist your questions should begin with....what do you think about Axline?

Every person int in play therapy should read this book as it's a classic, but for tech the 101 play therapy book is better. to see playtherapy in a ction I'd recomend Dibs in search of self.

This is a classic chestnut of a book from a simpler time. I am a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and a practitioner of play therapy for 25 years and I use this book in introductory teaching of play therapy to psychiatry residents and psychology interns when given the chance. Axline is really strong at helping the beginning practitioner focus on creating a beneficial therapeutic process for the patient and helping the therapist resist the intrusiveness of treatment systems, cultural expectations, problems with parents and caregivers and other external demands made upon the therapist. Behavioral therapies are a bit more popularized and seductive these days due to their measurability and trainability. Learning play therapy is a bit more like becoming an impressionistic influenced oil painter and becoming a behavioral therapist is a bit more like learning to be a photographer. This book is an excellent place to start your canvas.

Axline's book is a "must read" for persons interested in play therapy. I have used her book along with the text while teaching at the university level. Her book provides the reader with case studies and practical information. Her writing style is intelligible as well as technical-a rare find!

This book is groundbreaker for play therapy the way Frued is the groundbreaker for psychology. It gives the basics of play therapy, several case studies and lists of useful supplies. However, when you read this book you can tell how old it is by both the language used and situations presented. For example, Axline describes a young male paient who played with a doll but said he wasn't the "sissy type." There is another excerpt in which an orphan patient painted his arms brown, extended his arms to Axline and asked "Take a little nigger home?" I was absolutely APPALLED by some of this sexist and racist language, but I suppose this was the norm in the time period. There are also allusions to the children playing war games relating it to WW2. Despite the changes in time there are still many children's games such as sand play, puppets, dolls, etc that have not changed, so some stuff is still applicable. This is a great book and must read for those hoping to use play therapy, but it will leave you wanting some more modern guidance as well.

I've only read a few chapters so far, but already feel miles ahead of where I was when I started reading the book. Fantastic!

I use this as a tertiary additional classic text for a course I teach called Counseling the Distressed Child. The material is fairly basic, is good for historical purposes with respect to play therapy, and is written by the very experienced author and play therapist, Virginia Axline.

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