

---

Theses, Dissertations, and Projects

---

2013

## Engaging parents in the treatment of their child : clinicians views on parent work

Kim Elaine Monson  
*Smith College*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.smith.edu/theses>



Part of the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Monson, Kim Elaine, "Engaging parents in the treatment of their child : clinicians views on parent work" (2013). Masters Thesis, Smith College, Northampton, MA.  
<https://scholarworks.smith.edu/theses/935>

This Masters Thesis has been accepted for inclusion in Theses, Dissertations, and Projects by an authorized administrator of Smith ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@smith.edu](mailto:scholarworks@smith.edu).

Kim E. Monson  
Engaging parents in the  
treatment of their child:  
Clinicians views on parent  
work

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this exploratory study was to investigate how clinicians engage parents in their child's therapy. The study attempts to learn from a clinicians' perspective about their parent work. Participants were asked to discuss their experiences, thoughts, and feelings about parent work especially about engaging parents in the treatment of their child.

The sample included twelve clinicians who had at least two years of experience working with children, adolescents, their parents and/or families. Seven of the participants were licensed clinical social workers, two were licensed marriage and family therapists, one was a licensed mental health counselor, one was a licensed independent clinical social worker and one had a Masters degree in Social Work. The participants' years of experience range from two to twenty-five years.

The study explored clinicians' experiences of engaging parents by asking about a case that was successful and one that was difficult. One of the major findings was that the difference between whether a case was successful or not depended on the characteristics of the parents. Each participant attempted to engage the parent and some of the parents were able to respond and some were not. The study also found that participants seemed to enjoy the aspect of parent work.

ENGAGING PARENTS IN THE TREATMENT OF THEIR CHILD:  
CLINICIANS VIEWS ON PARENT WORK

A project based upon an independent investigation,  
submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of Master of Social Work.

Kim E. Monson

Smith College School for Social Work  
Northampton, MA 01063

2008

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my mother, father, sister and friends for always supporting me on whatever journey I choose to take. I would have never come this far if it wasn't for you guys. I love you!

To my GEMF'S...you will forever be in my heart! My smith experience would have not been the same without each and every one of you. SCROD ☺

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... ii

TABLE OF CONTENTS ..... iii

CHAPTER

I. INTRODUCTION ..... 1

II. LITERATURE REVIEW..... 3

III. METHODOLOGY ..... 14

IV. FINDINGS ..... 20

V. DISCUSSION..... 34

REFERENCES ..... 38

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Informed Consent Form..... 40

Appendix B: Interview Guide..... 42

Appendix C: Email Protocol for Potential Participants ..... 43

Appendix D: Human Subject Approval Letter ..... 44