Reviewer’s report

Title: The Clinical Effects of School Sandplay Group Therapy on General Children with a Focus on Korea Child & Youth Personality Test

Version: 0 Date: 12 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Suzanne Degges-White

Reviewer's report:

Interesting study and it is wonderful to see sandtray being used in this type of setting.

Need to know more about the exact interventions/content of the "group counseling sessions" that occurred throughout the study. The authors refer to these sessions, but no information is provided regarding the content, the interventions, the prompts, etc. Did each of the 3-person groups receive small group counseling or did the counseling take place in the larger classroom? Did each student have supplies to create sandtrays simultaneously or did each student have to go one-at-a time? What were the students informed that they should share about their sandtray with their small groups? Did the larger classroom group utilize the sandtrays in any way? How were the groups selected?

Where are the statistics that would provide evidence to support conclusions? What were the mean scores on the instruments administered and how significant were the differences in the pre/post assessment?

Who recorded information about what was being addressed in the sandtray creation? Did the themes of the trays bear any relation to student progress/change?

Too may unanswered questions and need for more information.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal