

Dance movement therapy with children: Unrepresented states and the construction of meaning

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Disturbances during the pre-verbal period of infancy may produce perforated areas in the psyche, archaic areas that are unrepresented or that have negligible representation. In this article, I illustrate the contribution of dance movement therapy to the treatment of those specific psychic areas. My assumption is that although these areas are without representation – lacking definition or description, if their origins are in the soma, then the motor acts are frequently the external sign of the figurable act through which the unrepresented receives a specific conceptual form. In such situations, the action becomes inevitable – so as to express the existence of certain content or to turn attention to a certain aspect of a new, emerging experience.

I will illustrate this through a vignette from the clinic.

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