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**Professional Disclosure Statement**

Suzanne Davis, LPC, RPT-S™

Virginia Licensed Professional Counselor

Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™

(757) 533-2266 (Office)

sdavis@daviscounselingandplaytherapy.hush.com (Email)

**Qualifications:**

I am the owner and outpatient counselor of Davis Counseling & Play Therapy Center, PLLC since it opened in August of 2019. I received my Master of Arts in Community Counseling in 2011 and my Master of Arts in Law (Human Rights and Rule of Law) in 2020 from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Since 2022, I have served as an adjunct faculty member for the College of Health & Behavioral Sciences in the School of Psychology and Counseling Department at Regent University. Additionally, my formal education is from a Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP) accredited program that has prepared me to counsel individuals, children, parents, couples, families, and groups. I obtained my play therapy training from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. I also have additional certification as a Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™ issued by the Association for Play Therapy in December 2021. This includes additional training and clinical supervision to obtain the certification and ongoing education to maintain certification and state licensing requirements. I am also a member of the American Counseling Association as of 2008, Virginia Counselors Association as of 2010, and the Association for Play Therapy as of 2016.

**Experience:**

I received my Virginia Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) license in January of 2014. I have extensive training and experience in working with children with a variety of problem behaviors. During 2005 to 2019, I have worked in the mental health field as a mental health case manager, in-home counselor, emergency services counselor, military and family life counselor, and as an outpatient counselor in two group practice settings. Additionally, I have volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) with the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court in Chesapeake, Virginia. I have also provided professional trainings at the Virginia Counselors Association Convention and have provided counseling workshops and trainings. Additionally, I have contributed to magazine articles for Verywell Family on “How to Take a Nature Walk with Kids” (October 2021) and “2-Year-Old Child Development Milestones” (March 2022), and for Parents.com on “Sensory Play Ideas for Your Toddler or Preschooler” (August 2023). I am also an author of two children’s books, *When RONA Visited My Town* published in 2021 and *When the World Forgot to Color* published in 2022, and developed a board game, *When RONA Visited My Town Board Game*, in 2022.

**Nature of Counseling:**

I believe that we all are created to be in healthy relationships. Many of us have less than optimal role modeling as we grow up and may need assistance from time to time to create and maintain healthy relationships in our own lives, and those of our children (if parents). As we experience our lives growing up we make sense of our experiences, developing beliefs about who we are in that world. Because we are children, and lack full reasoning skills, these sometimes develop as misbeliefs. The misbeliefs, in turn, result in how the child behaves in order to belong in their world. Some of these behaviors interfere with being able to make healthy connections, have the courage to move forward in life, and feel competent and capable.

We are also created with innate needs. When these needs are met or unmet beginning in our own childhood and throughout or lives, resulting in beliefs about who we are and how we relate to others. Unmet needs will affect our beliefs about ourselves and our behaviors. I view play therapy as a developmentally appropriate approach to work with children. I believe play therapy is their talk and toys are their words. Play, the child’s natural and familiar world and language, provides the opportunity to *play out* their issues, much like an adult *talks out* issues. During parent consultation sessions we will work together as a collaborative team to make plans, improve and increase needed parenting skills.

I view serving you and your child in play therapy as a joint venture in which, together, we identify behavior and beliefs that are not working for you and your child and find ways to understand unmet needs and needed changes. You always have the right to discuss what I hope to accomplish with any given technique and to decline to do so on behalf of you and your child.