Use of VCR in Children’s Personality Disorders

Use of VCR in the treatment of young children with psychosis disorders, psychiatric disorders, personality disorders, transient situational personality disorders, chronic brain disorders and asthma.

Andy Selle, Laurel House.

1996 West 15th. Vancouver, B.C. Canada

1-1. Talking video of the children acting out seems to affect their behavior. For example, girl being force-fed at meal times—watched herself after that day. She became aware of the camera; never had much trouble feeding her again.

2. Body image—one of the difficulties confronting the brain-injured child is his confusion about time, space and body orientation. With video therapy, they become aware of their body and how others perceive it. This would be a help in their movement.

3. There are videos with problems sequencing temporal orders. They have trouble answering questions like “What did you do before breakfast?” “What did you eat?” We can video kids in action, ask them what they did afterwards and use the tape as an aid.

4. Making puppets shows etc. to aid expressive language.

5. Field trips—playing back to see what they did.

6. Clinical record using time sampling technique.

The child is taped for approximately 3 minutes in two different situations (structured and unstructured) once every two or three weeks. The purpose is to develop a library of child’s behavior to observe his development over a long period of time.

Laurel House has had unexpected success in their use of video with autistic children.

Underground Newspaper Distribution

Dear Merrily

I’m writing to you because Charlie doesn’t have the time or energy to write now. He is skidding logs out of the bush with horses 12 hours a day and then trying to get the garden in the evening.

Our information is very limited. The little information we did have on welfare, they had time to change. The works were done on condition which leaves you holding the bag if they should back out. It wasn’t informed that bookstores would refuse to put issues on the stand because of pornographic material. This leaves you stuck with several hundred newspapers with one photograph on pg. 12 of some love-in with a naked body in the background. Most of the people were getting very involved in making money and staying clean but a couple of places just wanted to make available to the public an alliances viewpoint. Since we were distribution meant there were three parties involved—publisher, distributor, store—all taking cuts. The only we deal with wanted about 1/4 of cover price unless they could sell in volume like Rolling Stone then they were willing to take the paper or magazine for a smaller amount. Most of the stores did not change the cover price although a few added 100-150c to the price of the papers.

We found a lot of stores were unwilling to take a paper directly from the source but they would take a variety of papers from us. The problem is that there are very very few outlets that can sell in quantity any given paper. Therefore for them to take an individual paper is not profitable because of the time and bookwork involved. On the other hand if they get from 5-10 copies of 15 or 20 different papers this makes it worthwhile. (This includes college bookstores that took papers from us and sold well but not an individual of one paper.) The picture for individual papers is pretty bleak as far as I can see because no one wants to keep books and carry on correspondence for 5 or 10 50c papers a week.

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Therapeutic-Industrial Complex

In recent years radicals have become intrigued with the democratizing potentials of video tape. When psychiatrists and other elitist and non-democratic therapists began turning increasingly to half inch video tape, it did indeed begin to look like the “growing” of therapy. Unfortunately, when one examines the therapeutic settings of such reknown therapists, the setting of therapy is Towards “technologization” and glamourous mechanisms, none of which has anything to do with the way of life of therapy, the politics of therapy remain the same. The artificial dichotomy between “patient” and “professional remains. The camera in the hands of the therapist is a tool that can be used for therapeutic purposes or for entertainment. The use of video therapy for the purposes of therapy can be seen as a means of control and manipulation of the patient. The therapist becomes the artificer of her/his surroundings, increase alienation—all of which is therapeutic, and what and what is not pathological.

Video feedback remains potentially radical, and as such we applaud their use as an adjunct to therapy. What we do propose is the need to remember the flagrant abuses of contemporary therapy and the politics of its therapeasts. A pig therapist dispenses pig therapy, and staying clean but a couple of places just wanted to make available to the public an alliances viewpoint. Since we were distribution meant there were three parties involved—publisher, distributor, store—all taking cuts. The only we deal with wanted about 1/4 of cover price unless they could sell in volume like Rolling Stone then they were willing to take the paper or magazine for a smaller amount. Most of the stores did not change the cover price although a few added 100-150c to the price of the papers.

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