



# VAPT enOTE



## Special November Observances Edition

### Veterans Day

### Universal Children's Day

### Thanksgiving Day

Dear VAPT Members,

I wanted to let you know how grateful I am that you are showing your commitment to children and families with your membership in the **Virginia Association for Play Therapy**.

The National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) has recently published the following reports:

- Basic Facts about Low-Income Children Birth to Age 3: Fact Sheet (October 2008), by Ayana Douglas-Hall and Michelle Chau - [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_849.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_849.html)
- Basic Facts about Low-Income Children Birth to Age 6: Fact Sheet (October 2008), by Ayana Douglas-Hall and Michelle Chau - [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_847.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_847.html)
- Who are America's Poor Children? The Official Story (October 2008), by Sarah Fass and Nancy K. Cauthen - [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_843.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_843.html)
- Present, Engaged, and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades (September 2008), by Hedy N. Chang and Mariajosé Romero - [http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub\\_837.html](http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_837.html)

It seemed a timely reminder of the place of sufficiency we come from, a reminder that we have a great deal to be thankful for and a great deal of work to do together.

Wishing you and your families a restful and bountiful Thanksgiving and a November full of play.

Playfully,

Anne

## 11 November

### Veterans Day – Compassion Camouflage



Virginia disaster mental health expert, Dr. Dorinda Miller, shared a creative idea for showing support for our troops and their families after the heartbreaking incident at Fort Hood.

Wednesday, November 11, is Veterans Day. To honor our veterans, to support our troops, and to share our condolences with those who are grieving for their lost loved ones, we are inviting everyone to participate in **Operation Compassion Camouflage**.

This Veterans Day, you can join in **Operation Compassion Camouflage** by wearing some article of clothing or a lapel ribbon that has a camouflage design.

You can also continue to make a special effort to thank veterans, send a message of support to members of our armed services and their relatives, and offer condolences to those who lost loved ones in the military, especially those in this recent shooting at Fort Hood.

School and community play therapists can involve their agencies in activities to honor, comfort and console the people who sacrifice so much for our country. Play therapists who work with service members and their families can display their empathy and concern in visible way by wearing a ribbon for Operation Compassion Camouflage.

People can send electronic messages of condolence to the families and friends of the Fort Hood shootings victims by going to <http://www.legacy.com/gb2/default.aspx?bookid=2491216518430>

The Virginia Association for Play Therapy purchased yards of camouflage ribbon and distributed over 400 ribbons. Special thanks to VAPT member, Lennie Echterling, for drafting this message.

20 November

## Universal Children's Day – The Right to Play *and* 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Children

The United Nation's site has a number of articles about Universal Children's Day and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of Children. Universal Children's Day is particularly relevant for us this year as the theme is a child's right to **PLAY**. See the links below for more information.



### "The Right to Play" on Universal Children's Day by Pauline Karakat

"Universal Children's Day is celebrated every year on 20 November. Established by the UN General Assembly in 1954, Children's Day is observed to promote international togetherness and awareness among children all over the world and to actively improve their welfare. The right to play is something many take for granted; others believe that such a right is impossible for those children who live in war-torn areas all over the world. This year's Universal Children's Day encouraged further awareness so people everywhere could appreciate the importance of play."

[http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2002/webArticles/112502\\_childrens\\_day.html](http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2002/webArticles/112502_childrens_day.html)

### Special edition of State of the World's Children

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_51630.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_51630.html)

### Stories and videos are available to view at

<http://www.thenewsmarket.com/CustomLink/CustomLinks.aspx?GUID=94cfd5a-3af5-41cf-837b-f88e77e6c638&bhcp=1>

### Child version of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child

<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/resources/plainchild.asp>

### Human Rights Resources for Students

Play therapists can use this information creatively to explore issues such as bullying and neighborhood violence with their young clients or share this information with school counselors, school psychologists and educators.

<http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/resources.asp>



A great source for helping children explore global issues such as demining, peace education, world hunger, and poverty is the UN **Cyberschoolbus** site at: <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/>

26 November

## Thanksgiving Day

Play therapists can help encourage satisfying and meaningful family interactions in the holidays. Identifying family traditions and holiday rituals are great conversations to promote with caregivers and children. Researchers

have demonstrated that the presence of known routines and rituals in families is associated with more positive outcomes for children.

The following sites have information about recipes and crafts for the holidays.

<http://familyfun.go.com/thanksgiving/>

<http://familyfun.go.com/thanksgiving/thanksgiving-printables/thanksgiving-printable-decorations/thanksgiving-activity-what-are-you-thankful-for-704271/>



## Be the Change

Need a little inspiration? Take a few minutes to view the following video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrv3hteHglI>