

From a Child's Perspective

Fall 2011

# Perspectives Counseling Centers Invites YOU to our Fall Open House

## **SEX-ESTEEM**

*Navigating society's  
contribution to the blurring of  
sexual boundaries and the  
psychological impact on our  
children and adolescents*



Presented by:  
Leslie Johnsen, MA, LLP  
&  
Malissa Wood MA, LLP, LPC

Friday, October 7th

9am-12pm

Perspectives Counseling Centers  
Troy Location



CAUTION:  
This seminar  
contains mature  
material!

*This seminar is offered as a thank you to all our referral sources!  
Continental Breakfast and Workbook are included.*

Please call (248) 244-8644 to reserve your spot!!!

Space is limited!

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### Points of

### Interest:

- Learn about the new crazes: "friends with benefits" and oral sex parties
- Investigate the changes in marketing to children
- Discover the emotional outcomes of early sexualization
- Define our roles as professionals in our media driven society



# **Research Rainbow~**

## **Innocence Replaced By Sexualized Toys and Media**

Kids in today's society are being inundated at younger ages and on larger scales with sexualized media and toys. Several generations ago preteens and younger children had little concept or concern with words or concepts such as sexy, hot, hooking up, pimped out, and other inappropriate ideas. Today kids throw these words around as common slang. There is a constant onslaught of sexualization starting with toddlers resulting in a higher comfort level with sexual imagery.

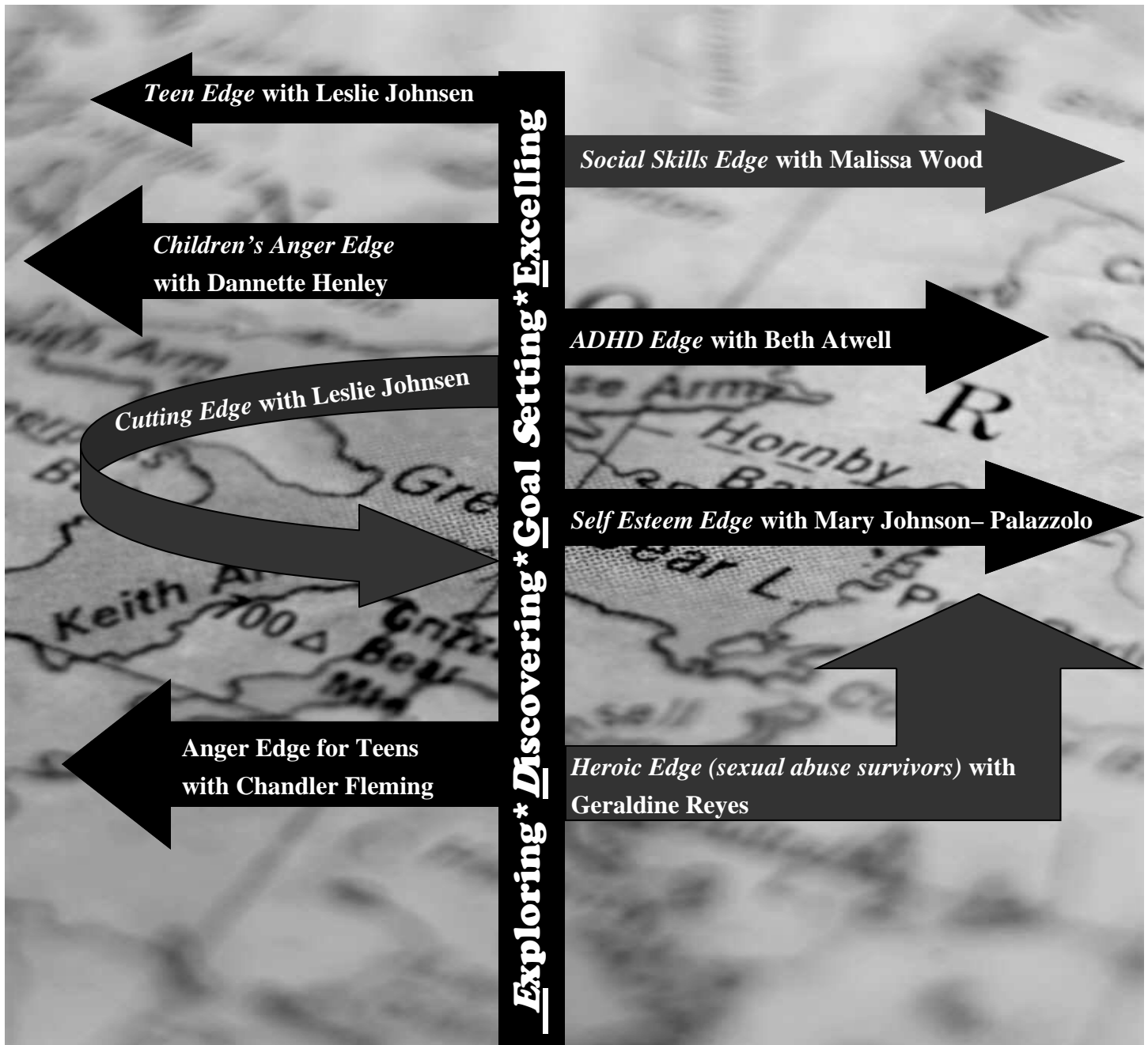
Toys are the way kids explore and learn about their environment. Unfortunately, in today's society many toys are leading young children toward a grown up understanding. Bratz dolls are geared for the tween girls and display a young girl in high fashion, with lots of accessories, and make-up. There are other examples of toys from earlier generations that have "grown-up". Strawberry Shortcake and Rainbow Brite dolls when released for this generation became slimmer and more fashionable. Even non-human toys have been sexualized. Trolls are baring their slimmer curves. Struts horses, which have long legged, slender figures, are decked out with make-up and fashion accessories. The old standby Barbie has often sparked controversy due to unrealistic curves but the clothing and accessories offered today leave little to the imagination. Even more disturbing is the offering of a pregnant Barbie or Tattoo Barbie. Children are being offered toys that are stereotyped in their sexuality and too advanced for their concrete thinking abilities.

TV shows are another way society has influenced the growing sexualization of today's youth. All the children's channels such as Disney, Disney XD, Nickelodeon, and Nick Jr. have toddler shows on in the morning and then switch to tween and teen focused shows immediately afterwards. Sometimes there is no transition before these more mature related shows begin playing. Shows like iCarly, Hannah Montana, So Random, Zeke and Luther, Wizards of Waverly Place and others have story lines that often include content that is more mature than the young audience watching. There are scenes where couples are kissing on a boy's bed in his room, kids talking about how old is too young for a first kiss, and other subject matter.

There is a push in our society to grow up and become more mature and independent. This drive has created a new generation of children who are being overexposed to concepts beyond their comprehension. Children should be allowed to remain innocent of the sexualized world of adults. As adults, we should be monitoring the toys, media, and culture they are surrounded with to better protect them.

Dannette Henley is a therapist at Perspectives Counseling Centers specializing with children and adolescents as well as their families who struggle with behavioral issues, ADHD, anxiety, depression, grief/loss, adjustment and anger.

# Groups to “GO” for~



**PERSPECTIVES IS ALWAYS THERE  
HELPING YOU FOLLOW THE RIGHT PATH...**

**All Groups Starting This Fall!**

**Call us to register or to get more information at  
(248) 244-8644**

# Upcoming Events at Perspectives

## ADHD Clinic with Beth Atwell, MA, LPC

Saturday, October 22nd

10am-12pm

&

1pm-3pm

(there will be a one hour  
break for lunch)

For ages 10-15

\$89



Learn:

\*Tips for school success

\*Motivational techniques

\*Positive decision making

## Parenting the Self Destructive Child with Leslie Johnsen, MA, LLP

Monday, October 17th

7:30-9pm

\$25 per person/

\$40 per couple

Learn:

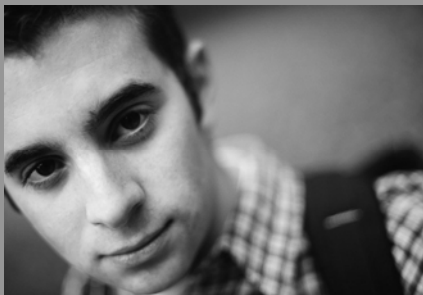
\*Why people self-injure

\*What TO DO and what  
NOT TO DO to help

\*How to effectively parent a  
teen who struggles  
with this issue



## Parenting the Difficult Teen with Chandler Fleming, LMSW



Saturday, November 5th

9am-12pm

\$69 for one parent

\$89 for both parents

Learn:

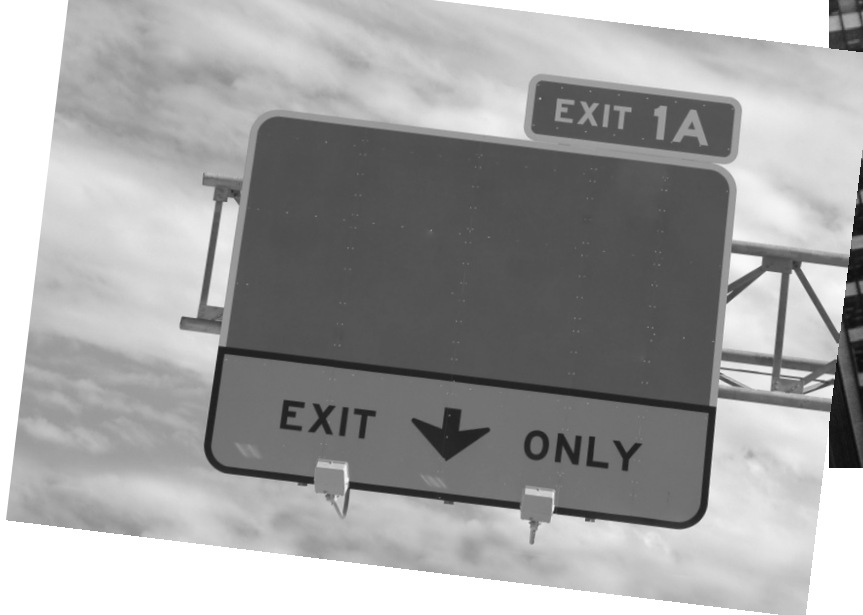
\*How to talk to your teenager  
and be heard

\*How to not reward negative  
behaviors and increase  
positive behaviors

\*How to restore peace to your  
home

# Creativity Corner

**There are so many signs telling us where to go and what to do! Below create your own signs that you feel the world needs~**



## **Perspectives Counseling Centers**

888 W. Big Beaver  
Suite 1450  
Troy, Michigan 48084  
Phone: 248-244-8644

4151 17 Mile Rd  
Suite D  
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48310  
Phone: 586-268-6712

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► **YOU NEED NOT  
WALK ALONE!**

**We're on the web!**  
**[perspectivesoftroy.com](http://perspectivesoftroy.com)**

Perspectives' mission is to treat each child with compassion and respect while providing a safe and nurturing environment. In our offices, children can explore and learn about themselves. Your proactive involvement can help to provide children with the coping skills needed for emotional wellness in adulthood. We are here to assist those that you entrust to us. We look forward to continued collaboration with your referrals. We are committed to the improvement of children's mental health and wellbeing on an ongoing basis. Questions and suggestions regarding the Children's Department can be directed to Malissa Wood MA, LLP, LPC at (248) 244-8644.

