

Title	Getting Children of Divorce to Talk: Safe and fun techniques to access the child's voice.		
First Author/Convenor Name	Kathleen A. Clark, PhD, LSW	e-Mail address of First Author/Convenor Name	kclark2@capital.ed <u>u</u>
Institution of First Author/Convenor Name	Capital University, Columbus, Ohio USA		
Abstract	<p>The controversy continues about the adjustment of children and adolescents to parental divorce. But one point is agreed upon by professionals, researchers, and the children themselves: children's thoughts and feelings are not often asked or not asked in a manner that they feel safe enough to share. The presenter has over 22 years of working with children and adolescents of divorce in community based, school-based, and court-mandated support groups The workshop will examine creative techniques that engage children and adolescents to share feeling and thoughts through art and play therapy, popular movies and videos, stories, and music. The workshop will feature case studies and demonstrate the use of a variety of tools – some divorce specific and other common toys and games that can be adapted for divorce issues (e.g. board games, Stuart Little doll with suitcase, stuffed animals, magic wand, play dough, animal therapy, coloring sheets).</p> <p>Current research will be presented about what children have to say about the divorce process, parenting time schedules, decision making, and how the impact of divorce.</p> <p>We should listen to children and adolescents because a) it provides an opportunity for them to express their feelings (therapeutic value), b) it provides information about their adjust, to assist in decision making and to resolve disputes, c) to determine “best interests” and determine “the wishes of the child”, d) it is a child's right to be heard and to participate in the process.</p>		