

Jumping Mouse Children's Center

The Story of Joe*

Joe is a child of four who periodically goes into "uncontrollable rages" that can result in property damage, but to date have not hurt other children or adults. Joe speaks of his brain being flooded with red and black. As our time together progresses, when I ask him what his brain is filled with now, he says yellow—the goodness color. I notice during therapeutic play that when Joe's play gets aggressive, he quits playing and runs his hands through the sand or asks to mix a "potion." He then spends time just working his hands through the mixtures he has created. I ask Joe what color he sees while he is busy working with the potion. He states, "the yellow is back." We then begin listing things that make the "red" come and activities that make the "yellow" come into his brain.



Anita Fraser
(Intern for 2001)

"The children at Jumping Mouse are at a stage in their development where they need a safe place and support in which to work on their issues. While the children need the support they get from their time at Jumping Mouse, at times they also need their parents to understand and come along with them in their growth.

Lisa Madelle Bottomley
(Intern for 2003)

"At Jumping Mouse I came to understand in much more depth the issues that children deal with, their emotional frustrations, difficulties, and need for protection and help with whatever wounding they may have experienced. And, of course, the whole focus is to help them successfully communicate their emotional needs. They often need help navigating parental concerns—whether they are too much or not enough.

*All of our children's names have been changed to respect their privacy and our promise of confidentiality.