



Division of Special Education
CLINICAL ART THERAPY DEPARTMENT
Criteria for Determination of Need for Clinical Art Therapy Services

Student Name: _____ **Student ID#:** _____ **Date:** _____
Art Therapist Name: _____ **School:** _____

The following criteria is intended to help the Miami-Dade County Public Schools clinical art therapist determine who would benefit from art therapy as a form of remediation, intervention and prevention. The identified student must be unable to access his/her education due to the severity of the emotional disability.

1. The student *MUST* meet all the following criteria:

- ___ A high interest in art media: the student has expressed an interest in art and gravitates towards art related activities; the student uses art as a form of communication.
- ___ A strong recommendation has been made by psychiatrists, psychologists or social workers for art therapy intervention; the student may have difficulty responding to traditional verbal therapy.

2. A student *MAY* be considered if the above criteria are met and any of the following apply:

- ___ ***The student has a communication disorder:***
___ has a receptive and/or expressive language deficit as determined by an evaluation;
___ an articulation problem exists making it difficult to be understood.
- ___ ***The student has been diagnosed with selective mutism.***
- ___ ***The student is at severe risk of harming self or others.***
- ___ ***The student is severely withdrawn/depressed:***
___ interaction with others (verbal and physical) is limited or guarded;
___ withdrawal extends beyond the social realm into the academic arena
(e.g. does no class work without constant prompting).
- ___ ***The student exhibits intense anxiety or phobia.***
- ___ ***The student exhibits poor reality testing:***
___ fabricates grandiose stories about self or others;
___ uses fantasy to escape or avoid his/her environment.
- ___ ***The student has been severely traumatized:***
___ the student has been given a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder;
___ evidence or documentation of abuse exists.
- ___ ***The student has a diagnosis of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder:***
___ exhibits obsessive tendencies;
___ is verbally effusive and/or manipulative and uses excessive verbalizations to circumvent issues and problems.
- ___ ***The student exhibits a thought disorder:***
___ tangential thought process is present;
___ exhibits paranoid ideation;
___ is unable to sequence thoughts and has difficulty focusing on a single theme.

3. An approved M-DCPS art therapy assessment MUST be administered prior to services being added to the IEP.