

# ABSTRACT

The research dissertation is a phenomenological exploration into the subjective experiences of a small sample of Gestalt therapists who have attended boarding school. The findings conclude that these experiences have been largely negative and have had a significant effect on the personal and professional lives of the participants to the study. The research focuses in detail on the boarding school environment and highlights recurring themes such as isolation, shame, self sufficiency and bullying. Attention is drawn to the similarities and differences in the participants' interruptions to contact viewed from a Gestalt theoretical perspective. The research concludes with a discussion of how their experiences affect their personal relationships and their work with their clients.

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