## Making the Most of Supervision





#### WHY DO WE NEED SUPERVISION?

#### **SAFE**

A good supervisor will provide a place where you feel encouraged, understood and cared for

#### **SUPPORTIVE**

A good supervisor will honour your existing skills and work with you to refine and develop them

#### **STRENGTHENING**

A good supervisor will bring out the best in you, helping you face into areas where you struggle, or which you maybe avoid, to help you grow

#### **SYMPATHETIC**

A good supervisor will bring a warmth and kindness that enables you to trust them, even when you make mistakes; they are willing to share their own

**Good supervisors** can take you to incredible heights. They help you learn to fly, providing the wind beneath you, and providing a net for when you fall.

A good supervisor will provide supervision appropriate to the counsellor's stage of development

#### **CARING**

A good supervisor will be concerned when you are facing personal difficulties, using their counselling skills appropriately

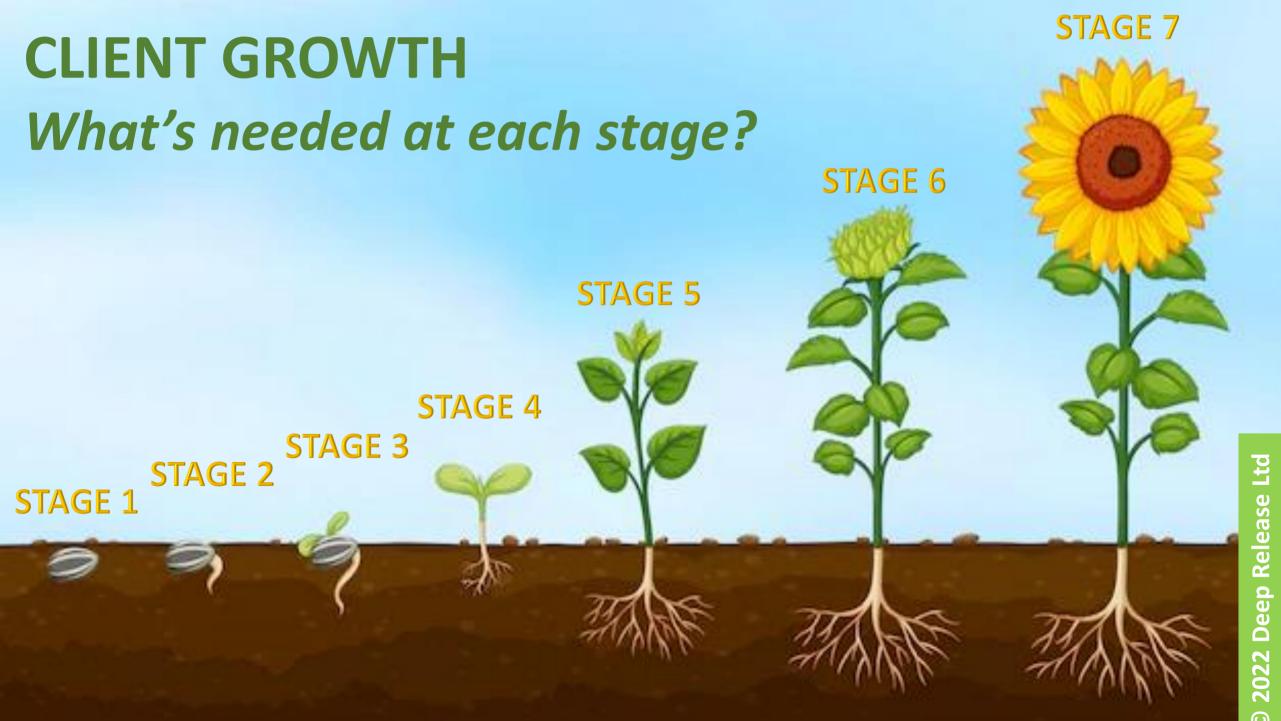
#### **CREATIVE**

A good supervisor will ensure that supervision isn't boring, introducing creative and 'out-of-the-box' freedom of thought and imagination

#### **CAPABLE**

A good supervisor will be welltrained, have a broad knowledge of counselling practice, including ethical and legal issues, keeping their own training up to date





#### **ROGERS: 7 STAGES OF CLIENT PROCESS**

STAGE 1

The client is defensive and resistant to change

STAGE 2

The client is less rigid and talks about external events and other people

STAGE 3

The client talks about themselves, but as an object; avoids discussion of the here and now

STAGE 4

The client begins to talk about deeper feelings; the relationship with the therapist is developing

STAGE 5

The client can express here-and-now emotions; they begin to rely on their own decision-making abilities and take more responsibility for their actions

STAGE 6

The client shows rapid growth towards congruence; they are developing unconditional positive regard for others; signals the end of formal therapy

STAGE 7

The client is a fully-functioning, self-actualised individual, showing empathy and UPR for others; they can relate their previous therapy to what is happening in the here and now.





### **SUPERVISEE GROWTH**

## THE NOVICE / TRAINEE COUNSELLOR (Childhood) It's all about me.... Can I do this??

- Anxious, dependent, needs structure and support
- "What do you (the Supervisor) think of me?"
- Tendency to focus on fine details rather than holding the whole picture of the client in their head

#### **Poor Supervision:**

Overly directive, critical, too challenging without sufficient support



#### **THE APPRENTICE (Adolescence)**

It's all about the client - Can I really help them??

- Dependency vs autonomy
- Confident vs overwhelmed
- Need space and containment
- "I'm excited!" vs "I can't cope!"

#### **Poor Supervision:**

May be too directive or shaming, mismanaging the balance between support and challenge



#### **THE JOURNEYMAN (Early Adulthood)**

It's all about the process: how are we relating together?

- Increased confidence/insight; fully present but can also 'helicopter'
- More integrative; need support and encouragement
- Focus on the therapeutic alliance

#### **Poor Supervision:**

- Too directive, demoralising the supervisee
- Too little challenge may encourage poor habits; too much challenge may result in increased anxiety



## DIFFERENT SUPERVISION FOR DIFFERENT SKILLS LEVELS THE MASTER-CRAFTSMAN (Full Maturity) Understanding the client and self in context

**THE MASTER-CRAFTSMAN (Full Maturity)** 

Understanding the client and self in context

- Autonomy / insight / stable motivation
- Deepening and integrating knowledge, leading to wisdom

#### **Poor Supervision:**

- May collude with lazy practice, resulting from supervisor's own apathy/stagnation.
- May fail to recognise expertise vs assume no room for growth
- Supervisor may feel threatened by the supervisee
- Peer supervision?



## THE MASTER-CRAFTSMAN (Full Maturity) Understanding the client and self in context

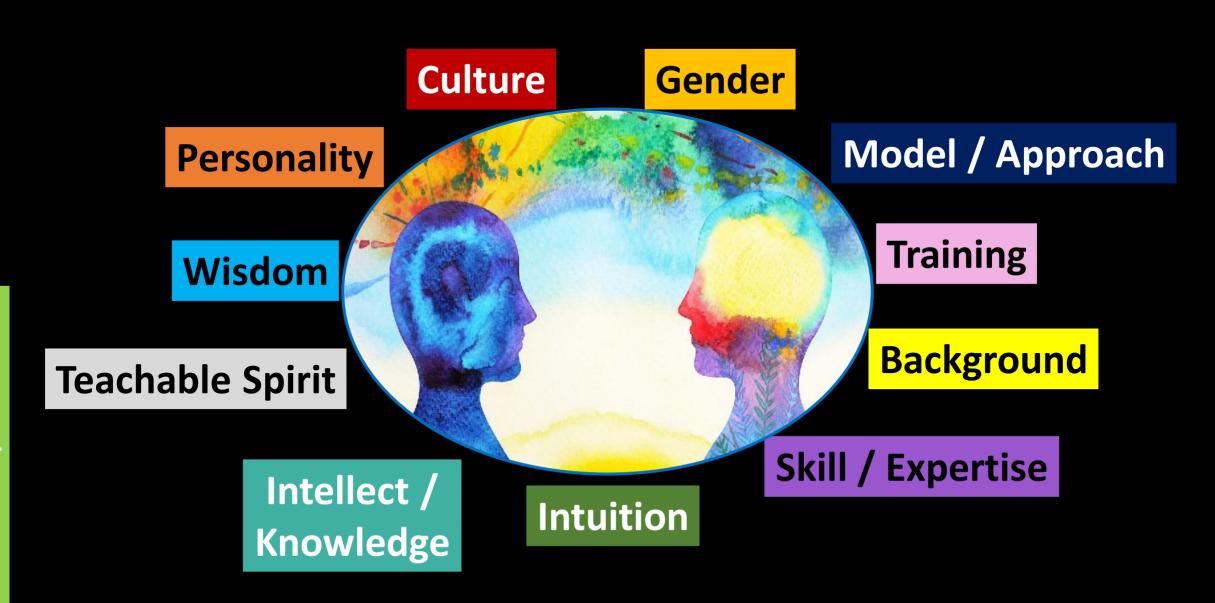
The context of counselling includes such factors as:

- the physical environment of the counselling room (or Zoom)
- private practice or agency practice
- cultural beliefs and values which inform both counsellor and client

"... these factors can make a difference to the relationship between counsellor and client, and the process and outcome of counselling. It is suggested that contextual issues have been largely ignored in counselling theory, research and practice, and that increased attention to context has the potential to contribute to the creation of a more responsive and effective counselling service."

#### HOW MUCH ARE YOU AND YOUR SUPERVISOR 'REAL' WITH EACH OTHER?

#### Is there a match?



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#### **GOOD SUPERVISION IS ALL ABOUT BALANCE**



Management... Support...

Development... Training... Admin – all in the air

Staying centred and focused – keeping your eye on the ball

An elephant "never forgets", but this can be easy for a supervisor to do!

The bouncing ball of support v challenge

The relationship can be like walking a tightrope!

#### 4 STAGES OF LEARNING

Unconscious
Incompetence
You don't know
that you don't
know how to do
something

Make it up as I go along...

Conscious
Incompetence
You know that
you don't know
how to do
something and it
bothers you

Acknowledge the need for training...

Conscious
Competence
You know that
you know how to
do something
and it takes
effort

Gain confidence and grow

Unconscious
Competence
You know how to
do something
and it's second
nature

**Grow others** 









### Buddy Group Discussions

- Share your experience of supervision – good and notso-good
- Where would you put yourself in terms of development?
- What would you say you most need from supervision where you are now?

15 minutes – divide the time between you all



#### THOUGHTS A SUPERVISEE MIGHT HAVE ABOUT SUPERVISION

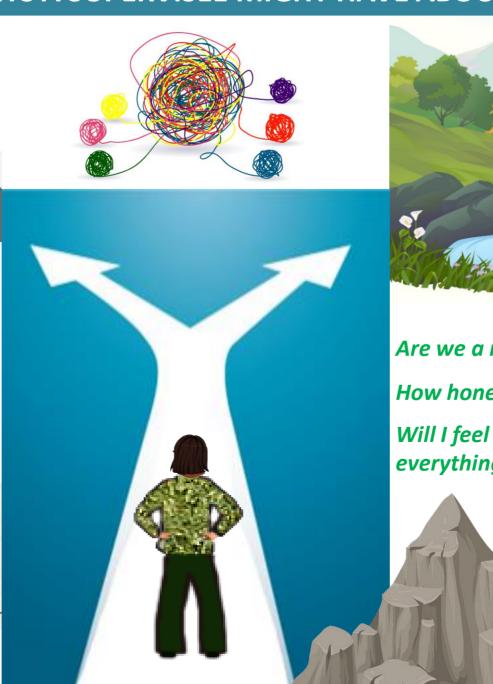


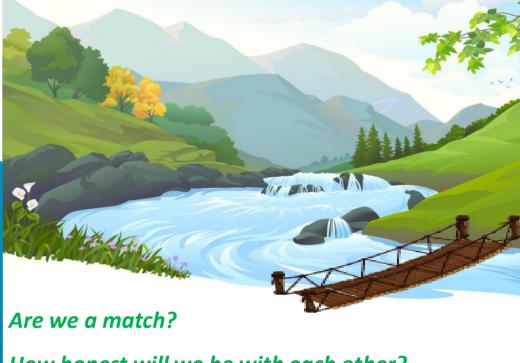
What could make our Supervision relationship difficult or unproductive?

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START

What are my
hopes?





How honest will we be with each other?

Will I feel safe enough to tell my Supervisor everything I need them to know.

What sort of challenges might come in the future? How will we face them?

What sort of challenges have I already overcome to get here?

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## UNRAVELLING THE RELATIONSHIP QUESTIONS A SUPERVISOR MIGHT ASK A SUPERVISEE SESSION 1

What do you enjoy about being a counsellor?
Why did you choose me as a Supervisor?

What kind of clients do you/ would you like to work with?

Do you have any concerns about working with me?

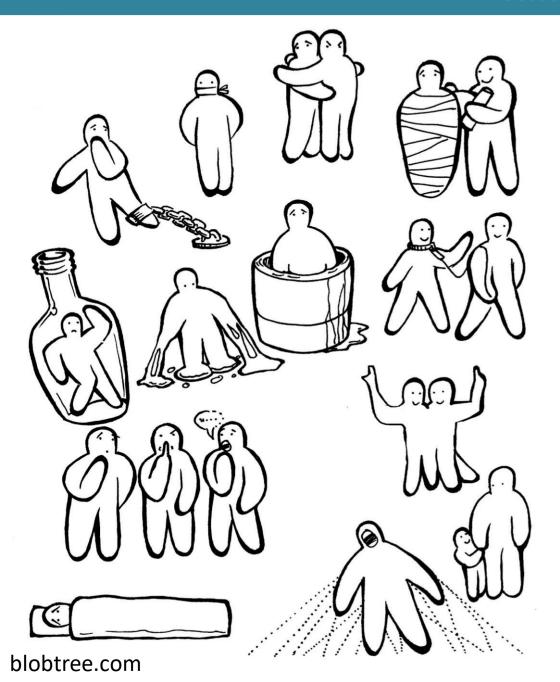
How would you most like me to be with you?

What personal issues, if any, do you need help with?
What do I need to know?

What professional issues, if any, do you need help with? What do I need to know?



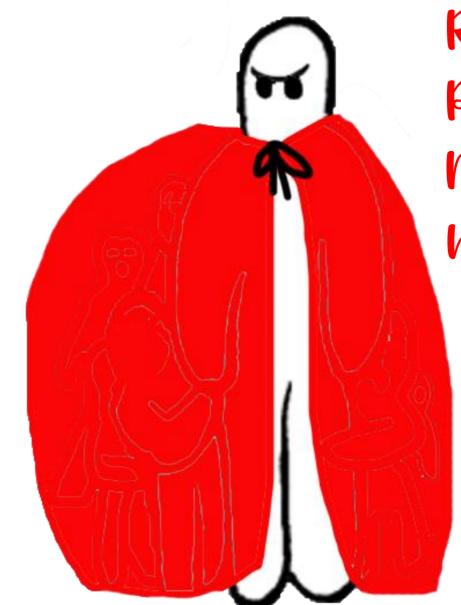




Think about your clients, especially the ones you find most challenging. Choose one to work on.

- Select a picture from the 'Blob Bound' options to represent how you see them / your relationship.
- Redraw the figure(s).
  - If you are not already in the picture, draw yourself in.
- Add feeling words
- Add speech bubbles what are you both saying?





Rage!
Protective
Mother
heart

### Buddy Group Discussions

- If you want to, share your drawing with your group.
- What else is coming up for you from the session?
- How much do you feel you are the 'real you' in supervision?

15 minutes – divide the time between you all



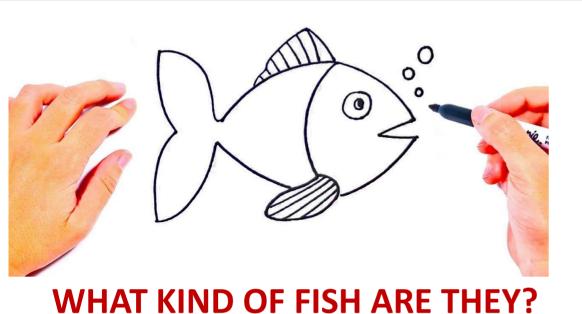


#### **IMAGINE YOUR CLIENT IS A FISH**



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#### **DRAW YOUR CLIENT AS A FISH**





WHERE ARE THEY? eg IN THE OCEAN, IN A FISHBOWL, IN AN ACQUARIUM

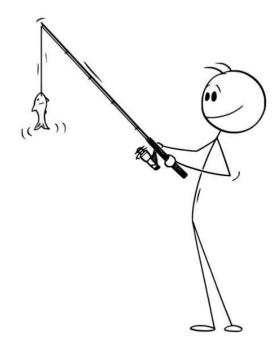
HOW ARE THEY FEELING? WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?





#### DRAW YOURSELF INTO THE PICTURE

WHERE ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU FEELING?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?













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## REGULAR REVIEWS IN SUPERVISION ONGOING WORK Keeping Short Accounts!

What has the highlighter pen on it for this supervision session?

Which clients are you enjoying working with, and which not?

Do you have any concerns about the way we are working together?

Am I getting you right? Is there anything we need to sort out? Are we (still) ok?

Is there anything I need to know about you?

Has anything changed?

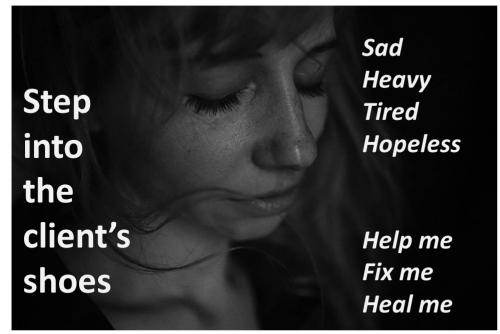
Is there anything that has come up re professional issues? What do I need to know?

### Which Clients....

Inspire me	Bore me	Exhaust me	Annoy me	Scare me

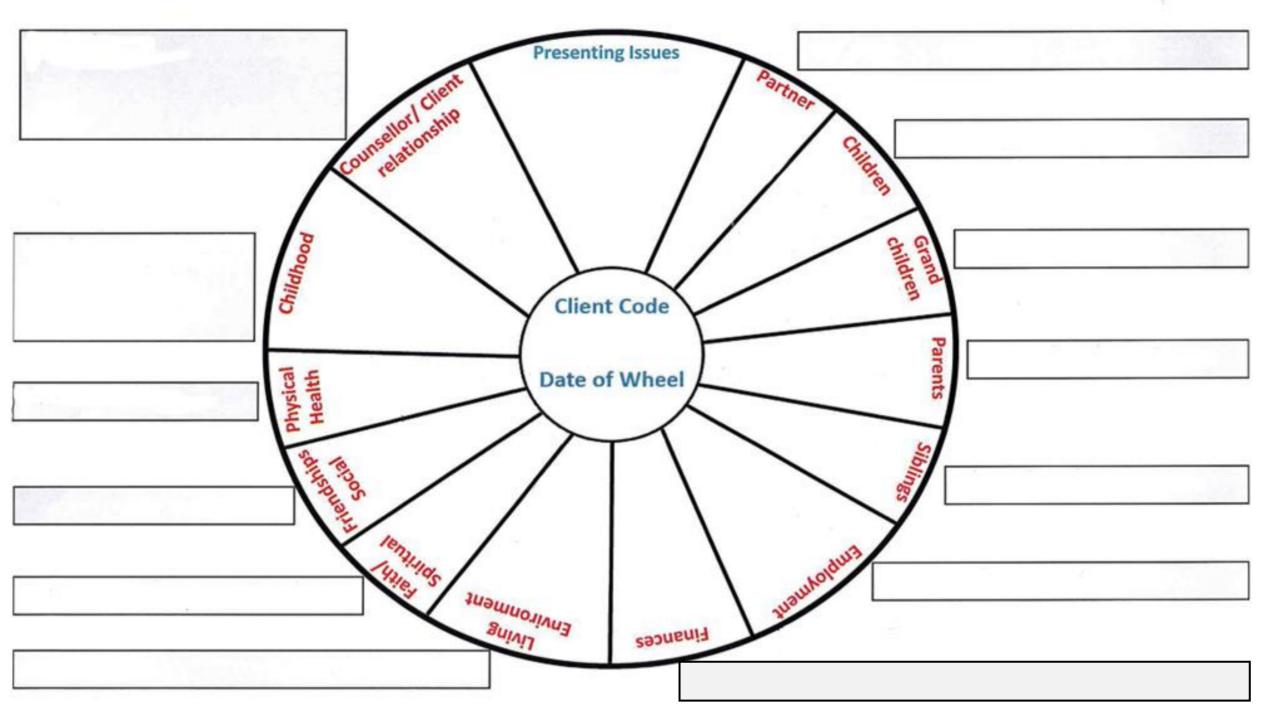
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#### **BREATHING LIFE INTO SUPERVISION**









#### **TELL YOUR SUPERVISOR WHEN...**

#### You experienced 'energy transference'

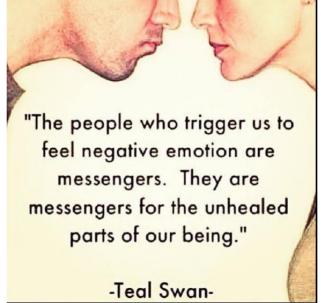


You found yourself giving advice





You were triggered



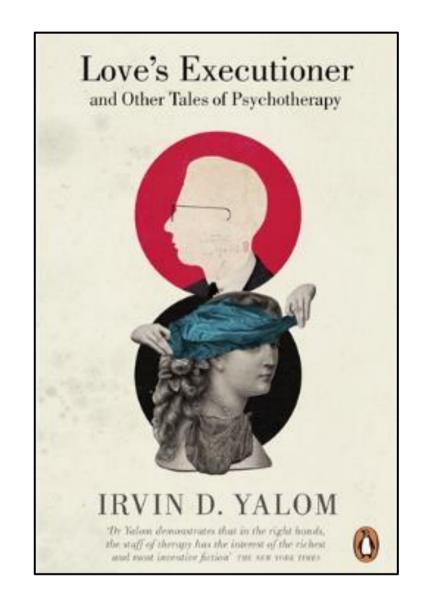


You felt 'pulled out of shape' with a client

"As long as one believes that one's problems are caused by some force or agency outside oneself, there is no leverage in therapy. If, after all, the problem lies out there, then why should one change oneself? ...

We therapists endlessly clarify and interpret, assuming ... that understanding will invariably beget change. Eg "You have to try..."

I may advise, argue, badger, cajole, goad, implore or simply endure, hoping that the client's neurotic world view will crumble away from sheer fatique..."



### **INCREASING YOUR SKILLS**

Check your work/life balance and don't take on too much. It's not just about the number of clients, but the kind of issues they bring.

Not all supervisors are the same... take time to find the right fit for your personality and level of confidence/skill.

Be prepared to move to another supervisor when it's the right time.







## Buddy Group Discussions

- How did you respond to the online packages?
- Which of the suggestions interested you, to make your supervision more creative?
- What has impacted you most?

15 minutes – divide the time between you all





## **Buddy Groups**

Time to say goodbye

Exchange details if required.

5 minutes















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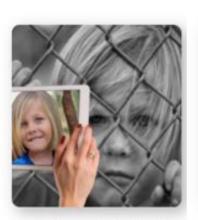
Working Creatively with Nesting Dolls in Counselling – Training Video

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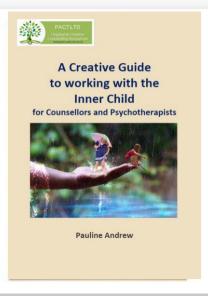
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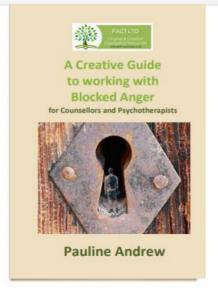
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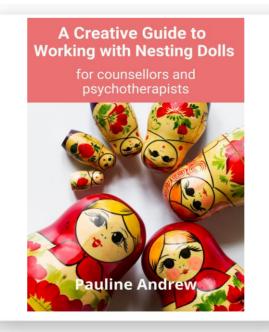
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Free Course: Introducing the new Roles Played in Groups cards Tues Dec 13

Price: Free

December 13, 2022 9:30 am - 11:30 am



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