



Richard L. Gaskill, Ed.D.

Dr. Gaskill has worked in community mental health for over 40 years. He is currently the Executive Director of Sumner Mental Health Center in Wellington, KS. Rick also served as Children's Director and Clinical Director before becoming the CEO. He is a Licensed Clinical Psychotherapist, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor, and an Infant Mental Health Clinical Mentor. Rick was a founding member and past president of the Kansas Association for Play Therapy and currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the national Association for Play Therapy as well as a reviewer for the International Journal for Play Therapy.

Dr. Gaskill an adjunct faculty member at Wichita State University, teaching play therapy and supervising play therapy practica since 1995. He was a cofounder of the WSU Approved Play Therapy Center in 2010. Dr. Gaskill has published 4 book chapters (3 with Dr. Bruce Perry), a research article, and magazine articles regarding the neurobiology of trauma and the use of play therapy and NMT guided play activities. He has designed, operated, consulted, and lectured on children's therapy, therapeutic preschools and integration of school based mental health services throughout KS, other states, Canada, and Australia.

He received the Chairman's Award from Future's Unlimited in 1997 for his work with at risk children and was named the Kansas Head Start Partner of the Year in 2005 for his work with therapeutic preschools. Dr. Gaskill was named a Fellow of the Child Trauma Academy in Houston, Texas, in 2004. In 2006, he was named one of the Regional Administrator's Leadership Award Winners for ACF Region VI of the Department of Health and Human Services and in 2013 served on the Governor's Mental Health Task Force for the State of Kansas. In 2014, Dr. Gaskill was honored with the Exemplary Service to Children and Families Award at the Kansas Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. In 2015, He was also recognized for his work with traumatized preschoolers by the National Association to Protect Children and in 2017 Wichita State University awarded him the College of Education's Champion of Education Award.
