

**The Psychoanalytic Observation of Children**  
**Origins and Recent Developments -- Training and Research**  
**Its Significance for Psychotherapy and other Fields of Psychosocial Work**  
**An International Conference at the University of Vienna, April 19-21, 2024**

**Lenka Ockova (CZ)**

**Beyond words: making sense of what is seen and felt.**  
**Building on infant and young child observation in clinical work**

***Saturday, April 20, 11:30 am / Kleiner Festsaal / Parallel session A1***

**Abstract:**

Using vignettes from child psychotherapy, I will discuss how the capacity to observe gained from infant and young child observation underpins and informs clinical work with children, (i) in understanding primitive or disturbed states and (ii) in observing and making sense of their play. In order to demonstrate and explore this, I will draw on intensive psychotherapy with an under five child and also on work with parents and children in the context of brief under five work.

**Keywords:**

Infant Observation, Young Child Observation, Work with Under Fives

**Biographical details:**

Lenka Ockova, MProf Child Psych Psych, is a child and adolescent psychotherapist. She is specializing in working with children and adolescents and with parents and their infants and young children. She trained at the Tavistock Centre in London and is registered with the ACP, the professional body for child psychotherapists in the UK.

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