In this forum, Chris Scalzo discusses his recent book which explores the existential themes and challenges present in all therapeutic relationships when working with children. This book presents an existential perspective on some key themes in practicing psychotherapy with children including: play, anxiety, guilt, choice, family relationships, language and process. Children are born into the world without choice and are drawn towards making connections with others, developing self-awareness and personal identity. As contemporary psychology and psychotherapy with children focuses increasingly on the importance of the therapeutic relationship, 'Therapy with Children: An Existential Perspective' takes this as its starting point to develop a powerful model for practice.

(The book can be purchased from karnac books – www.karnacbooks.com )

Chris Scalzo is a UKCP registered existential psychotherapist. He currently works full-time for the NHS as a therapist and clinical supervisor and is part of a county-wide specialist Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). He has previously lectured and taught post-MA psychologists in training on Existential Psychotherapy & Counselling, and has previously published philosophically based articles in the journal Existential Analysis. He is particularly interested in working with existential challenges faced by children living with physical and learning disabilities and their families, and direct work in special needs school constitutes a large part of his practice.