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### **Implications for Research**

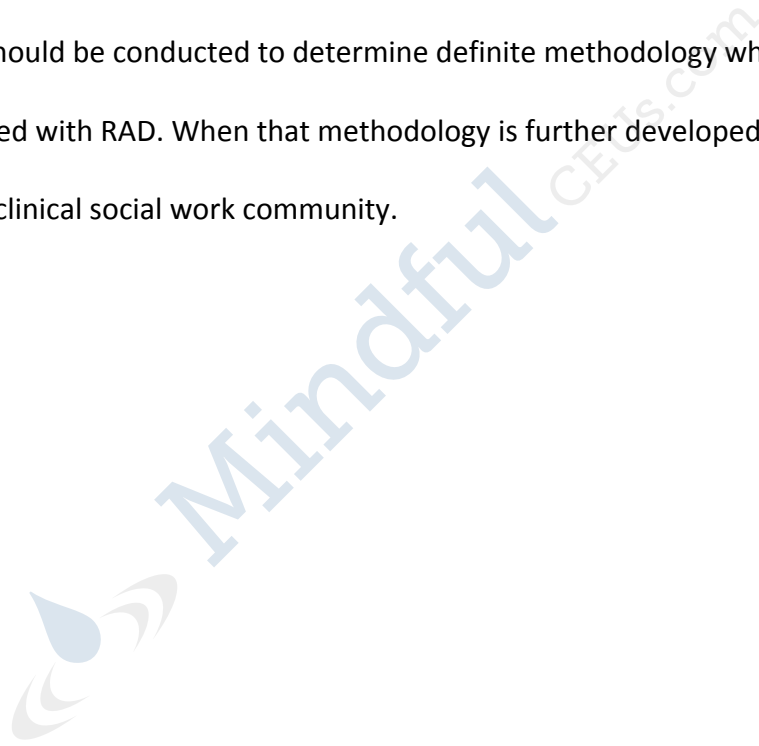
While the results were all favorable to techniques effective in treating RAD, there are many further research opportunities. There is a significant opportunity to research the effectiveness of play therapy when working with children diagnosed with reactive attachment disorder. It will be beneficial to identify a specific therapy approach or approaches that can be utilized when working with the child and their family when the child is diagnosed with RAD.

Due to the specific research question of identifying if play therapy was effective in working with children diagnosed with RAD, it would prove beneficial to research the effectiveness of play therapy. Focusing on the effectiveness of play therapy will determine if the use of play therapy would be beneficial in reducing RAD symptoms. Further research in the area of play therapy and its effectiveness will provide clinicians with a framework for training and implementation of the treatment approach.

The goal of this systematic review was determining the effectiveness of play therapy working with children diagnosed with RAD. Within the fourteen articles analyzed, there are four elements of treatment that present as effective. These elements include a strong family component to treatment, structured treatment, child-led treatment and for the child to be living in a stable environment. Said aspects of the



therapeutic process prove to be effective in treating RAD. There is a significant indication that more research is needed to prove the effective treatment approach for treatment of children diagnosed with RAD. Further research will provide clinical social workers with a framework for improving the quality of life for children and their families affected by RAD. While results of this systematic review found effective treatment, there continues to be an ambiguous amount of knowledge that can be applied when working with these families. For more detailed and specific therapeutic approaches, more research should be conducted to determine definite methodology when treating children diagnosed with RAD. When that methodology is further developed it can be allocated to the clinical social work community.



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