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The Ability to Love as a Therapist-Offered Condition for Effective Therapeutic Encounter

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We, the undersigned members of the examination committee, certify we have examined Allan David Edson and that he has met all of the requirements for the degree Master of Arts with a major in Counseling. We have determined that he has demonstrated satisfactory knowledge of his field of specialization and that his report is satisfactory in scope and quality for the degree Master of Arts.

Richard E. Miller July 18, 1977

Richard E. Miller, Ph. D., Chairman

date

Andre Joseph

Andre Joseph, Ph. D.

Jon Swartz

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THE ABILITY TO LOVE AS A THERAPIST-
OFFERED CONDITION FOR EFFECTIVE
THERAPEUTIC ENCOUNTER

by

Allan David Edson

Master's Report

Submitted to the Faculty of Pedagogical Studies
in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements
for the Degree
Master of Arts

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

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Abstract

This report begins with a historical reconstruction of the concept of therapist effectiveness in psychotherapy.

The ultimate objective is to further the work of Truax, Carkhuff, Bergin, et. al., by proposing that there is a still more basic comprehensive therapist-offered condition than accurate empathy, nonpossessive warmth and genuineness. The thesis, as developed in this report, demonstrates that the aforementioned three conditions are merely constituents of the therapist's "ability to love."

Explained within, are the proposed reasons "why" the therapist's "ability to love" effects constructive personality change and the implications of the thesis for development of new models of psychotherapeutic technique, therapist-counselor trainee selection and training programs.