

Jennifer Allen

Professional background

Jennifer Allen works in private practice as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Board Certified Art Therapist. She also provides training for hospice volunteers in the use art with bereaved children, facilitates children's grief groups and writes on the subject of art therapy, anticipatory grief and bereavement.

Originally from Maine, where she completed her bachelor's degree at Maine College of Art and Student Art Centers International (Florence, Italy), Jennifer moved to California to pursue graduate work in Art Therapy and Marriage & Family Therapy at California State University, Sacramento.

After completing her master's thesis project—a handbook titled: *Art Psychotherapy Support Groups for People with Cancer*, Jennifer began work in social services at Hospice of the Central Coast and in medical art therapy at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. As director of the Healing Arts program, she provided pediatric and oncology patients with bedside art therapy services and facilitated support groups for women with breast cancer, caregivers, and families coping with childhood cancers. Jennifer has also developed curriculum and facilitated a support group for children with a serious ill loved one at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. In 2006, she appeared on Compassionate Care Alliance's *Aging Well* series, titled: Caring Circles - Setting Up Support Networks for Seriously Ill Loved Ones (2006).

Jennifer is a member of the California Writer's Club – Central Coast Branch. She holds professional membership in the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, the American Art Therapy Association and the Northern California Art Therapy Association.