



**CONGRATULATIONS ON  
GRADUATION FROM COUNSELING**

# ***BRAG BOARDS AND AWARDS***

- This 4-page resource is appropriate for ages 5-adult.
- It can be used with individuals, families, or groups.
- Many of our clients do not have healthy experiences saying goodbye. Materials list, printable resources, and detailed instructions are provided to ensure you facilitate a creative, meaningful termination activity that honors your clients' and their caregivers' hard work in treatment.

**Ashley Fiore, LCSW**



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# ***BRAG BOARDS AND AWARDS***

TERMINATION ACTIVITY

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## ***MATERIALS***

1/2 sheet poster board for client --- \*This works great for groups!  
1/2 sheet poster board for each caregiver  
1/2 sheet poster board for clinician  
Small trinkets for awards - glue bottle, whistle, heart, silly string, etc.

Markers  
Stickers/cut outs  
Ribbon, glitter, Tacky glue, decorative wire  
Graduation certificates (attached)

## ***INSTRUCTIONS***

1. Prepare each poster board with participant's name at top in advance of session. Be sure to decorate this by making it attractive and colorful with markers, cutouts provided or stickers.
2. Prepare awards for client and caregiver(s) that reflect what each uniquely contributed to the counseling experience prior to the session. These should be similar to the awards offered to Dorothy, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, and Scarecrow in the WIZARD OF OZ.

For example, you can decorate a bottle of glue with glitter and ribbons for the person who was the "glue" that held the family together. Decorate a whistle with glitter and ribbon for the caregiver who made an excellent coach or a golden apple (plastic apple covered in gold glitter) for the caregiver who did the most consistent homework in counseling. You might offer a star Christmas ornament decorated for the child who was the counseling "super star" or a decorated "heart" pillow for the child who was the heart of the whole group. You could offer a decorated container of silly string for the person who made sessions fun. *It is essential that each client and caregiver who participated in treatment receives a meaningful award.*

3. Prepare graduation certificates in advance with each client and caregiver's name and your signature. Use stickers or cutouts to make this attractive and celebratory.
4. In session, pass out the brag board posters to each participant. Sit in a circle and pass them to the right, taking turns writing purely positive comments to the person at the top of the poster that brag on them. Use markers of different colors and sign your name. Suggest the following prompts:

***Something I'll always remember fondly about you...***  
***One of my favorite activities we did in counseling was....***  
***You are special to me because...***  
***A time you were really brave was when ...***  
***I'm really going to miss...***  
***Something I value that you brought to counseling was...***



4. After each participant has a chance to write some specific praise on the brag board in front of them, the therapist says, "Switch!" and each person passes the brag board they were working on to the right and begins writing on the next brag board.

5. Once all have been completed, the original participant should have their own board in front of them. You can either read these silently, have each person read aloud their own brag board to the group, or pass them around so each writer can read aloud their positive comments, depending on comfort.

6. Then, award clients and caregivers their graduation certificates and awards, explaining the meaning of each award. Celebrate with a treat and perhaps a favorite game the group enjoys like "Spoons", UNO, Candyland, or Bop It as a group.

## ***CUTOUTS FOR BRAG BOARDS AND CERTIFICATES***





