

A teddy bear sitting on a chair

Description automatically generated with low confidenceHow to Become a Registered Play Therapist

How to Become a Registered

Play Therapist

Play therapy is a form of counseling that is used to help children deal with emotions and behavioral issues. It is a fun and interactive way for children to express

themselves, learn about their feelings, and develop new skills.

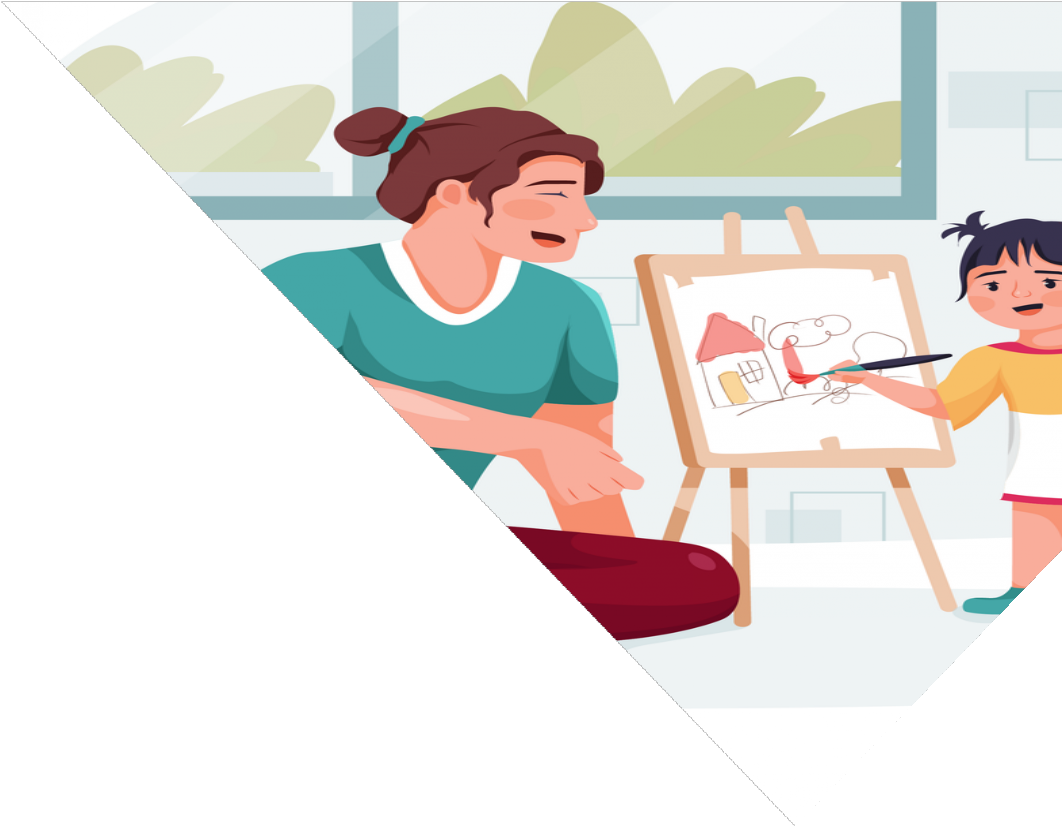
Use this checklist to understand the qualifications needed to become a Registered Play Therapist and track your progress as you work towards obtaining your

certification.

Primary Areas:

# Phase 1 Requirements

Play Therapy History - 5 hours\*



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Play Therapy Seminal or Historically Significant Theories – 20 - 30 hours

Play Therapy Skills and Methods – 10 - 20 hours

Play Therapy Special Topics – 0 - 5 hours

Play Therapy Cultural and Social Diversity Topics – 6 hours Your choice - 15 hours\*

## Supervised Play Therapy:

Direct Client Contact Hours - 50 - 75 hours

## Play Therapy Supervision:

Play Therapy Supervision - 5 - 10 hours

Required Session Observations - 1 session

\*Can be completed in any phase

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# Phase 2 Requirements

## Primary Areas:

Play Therapy Seminal or Historically Significant Theories – 25 - 30 hours

Play Therapy Skills and Methods – 25 - 30 hours Play Therapy Special Topics – 5 - 10 hours

## Supervised Play Therapy:

Direct Client Contact Hours - 100 - 150 hours

## Play Therapy Supervision:

Required Session Observations - 2 sessions Play Therapy Supervision - 10 - 15 hours

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# Phase 3 Requirements

## Primary Areas:

Play Therapy Seminal or Historically Significant Theories – 10 - 15 hours

Play Therapy Skills and Methods – 15 - 20 hours Play Therapy Special Topics – 20 - 25 hours

## Supervised Play Therapy:

Direct Client Contact Hours - 100 - 175 hours

## Play Therapy Supervision:

Play Therapy Supervision - 10 - 20 hours

Required Session Observations - 2 sessions

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# Application Requirements

Once all required sections and phases have been completed, it ’ s time to gather all of your documentation, and submit your application.

Graduate transcripts

Current & active state l icense

Completed & signed [Criteria Verification Form](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.a4pt.org/resource/resmgr/credentials/2020_credentials/RPT_Application.pdf) Application fee

# Continuing Education

One of the final requirements for keeping up your APT certification is ongoing continuing education.

Every 36 months, you’ l l need to clock at least 24 hours of Play Therapy CE courses.

Continuing Education - 24 hours Play Therapy CE - 22 hours

Cultural & Social Diversity - 2 hours

[Click here](https://playtherapytoolbox.com/blog/best-online-play-therapy-training-websites-of-2022/) for a list of APT Approved Continuing Education Courses!

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