

Play Therapy Australia



Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy

Association for Play Therapy, USA: APT Training Provider #08-227

Play Therapy Australia is Australia's leading training organisation in the field of Child Centered Play Therapy, a form of counselling or psychotherapy for children. Child Centered Play Therapy is a relationship based Humanistic Play Therapy approach for children from 2-10 years old and offers a deeply respectful and heartfelt way of working psychotherapeutically with children. Child Centered Play Therapy fosters the child's innate potential for emotional growth, inner development and healing.

This *Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy* course is designed to create a safe and supportive environment for course participants to develop both professional and personal skills and qualities to practise non directive Child Centered Play Therapy effectively and sensitively with children. This course provides the opportunity to immerse in this humanistic way of working with children and to develop specialist post graduate level skills in this Play Therapy approach.

Play Therapy Australia is an approved training provider with the Association for Play Therapy (APT), a USA based Play Therapy association that is world renowned & highly regarded in the international Play Therapy field. The course meets the Psychotherapists & Counsellors Federation of Australia (PACFA) 2009 Post Graduate level training standards when offered as a 2 year part time training program.

The course has been held in some of the different capital cities in Australia & consists of Play Therapy training, a Play Therapy Practicum & Personal Therapy. The course is offered in intensive block training modules & has been set up to make it possible for those living in country areas & different states of Australia & other countries, to be able to participate in this Play Therapy Clinical Training program. The Play Therapy Practicum & Personal Therapy requirements of the course are all done from the one's place of living. There is also a distance learning component to the course. The intensive block training modules will provide the opportunity to connect with others in the course and are

designed to be supportive of course participants in their personal & professional development as Play Therapists.

The *Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy* course focuses on the Play Therapy work of Garry Landreth, Clark Moustakas, Virginia Axline & others. There is the wonderful opportunity through this course, to have clinical supervision to support the Play Therapy practice, with some of the Australian & American leaders in the field of Child Centered Play Therapy. These include Jill Pagotto, Judith Morgan, Helen Kershaw, Dr William Nordling, Dr Emily Oe & Rise Van Fleet.

The training incorporates aspects from the Body Centered Therapies, Art Therapy & Creative Arts Therapies, Transpersonal Psychology and the field of Pre & Perinatal Psychology. The course includes theoretical and experiential learning, Play Therapy demonstrations, role plays, personal reflection, readings, case and video /DVD material. Creative arts processes and techniques from the body centered therapies and transpersonal therapies will also be integrated into the course to facilitate self reflection and the integration of theory with practice.

The *Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy* course requires from those in the training program, a genuine openness to this non directive, humanistic way of working and developing relationship with children, which is at the heart of this Play Therapy approach. As the course involves both professional as well as personal development through the training process, participants will need to be committed to their own personal development. Qualities of personal reflection and contemplation are important as the course does not focus just on cognitive processes or skills development, but involves a strong experiential component with participation & personal reflection being an integral part of the program.

About Play Therapy Australia

Play Therapy Australia was established in 2001 to promote Play Therapy in Australia, to foster the unique growth & emotional development of children, to help children & families and to promote training opportunities for professionals. At the heart of Play Therapy Australia is a belief in the beauty and power of the therapeutic relationship to support children's innate capacity for growth & healing. Play Therapy Australia presents Play Therapy workshops and training in different states of Australia & has also presented training in New Zealand. Play Therapy Clinical Training Programs have been offered in Perth, Western Australia in 2002/2003/2004, 2006/2007 & 2008/2009; Brisbane, Queensland in 2004/2005 & Melbourne, Victoria in 2009/2010. Some of the institutions, agencies and groups Play Therapy Australia has presented workshops & training sessions for, include:

- Australian National Art Therapy Conference, Perth WA
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Northam, WA
- Occupational Therapists Association, Queensland
- Royal Children's Hospital – Occupational Therapy Department, Brisbane
- Community Skills Training Centre, Department of Community Development, WA
- Edith Cowan University: Masters of Art Therapy & Drama Therapy Programs, WA
- Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Northern Region, WA
- CLAN WA, Perth, WA
- Foster Care Association of WA Annual Conference
- Centacare, Darwin, NT
- Centacare, Geraldton, WA
- Victims of Crime Counselling Service, WA
- Griffith University, Applied Psychology Department: Gold Coast Campus, QLD
- Child & Youth Mental Health Services, Gold Coast, QLD
- Parentline Agency, Hamilton, New Zealand
- South West Aboriginal Medical Service: Social & Emotional Team, Bunbury WA
- Whitsundays Crisis & Counselling Service: Airlie Beach, QLD

What are the Benefits in Completing the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy Course with Play Therapy Australia?

- Completion of a unique & creative Play Therapy clinical training program that offers wonderful opportunities for professional and personal development
- Training with a Training Provider approved by the Association for Play Therapy (USA), an international and world renowned Play Therapy Association
- Completion of a course that meets the Psychotherapists & Counsellors Federation of Australia (PACFA) Post Graduate level 2009 training standards (when the course is offered as a 2 year part time course)
- Have specialised and well developed skills to work psychotherapeutically with children in Play Therapy
- A solid foundational base in Play Therapy theory, skills & reflective practice
- Can work therapeutically with very young children which involves highly specialised skills and sensitivity
- Be able to work effectively with children who are non verbal, with children who have very challenging behaviours & with severely traumatised children
- Have a solid ethical basis from which to work with children in Play Therapy
- Have a training experience that creates a safe and supportive learning environment that parallels the Child Centered Play Therapy process for the child
- A professional Play Therapy training program that fosters personal development alongside the professional training process
- Have the opportunity for clinical supervision with the Australian leaders & some of the USA leaders, in the field of Child Centered Play Therapy and the support of a Clinical Supervisor to assist you in your Play Therapy practice development & therapeutic work with children & families
- Foster healing in children and support the unique potential in children for growth and inner development
- Take Child Centered Play Therapy out into the world in a way that can enhance human relationships through empathic connection, compassion & deep healing
- As Child Centered Play Therapy is a new and developing field in Australia and in many other countries, there is a growing need for trainers and clinical supervisors in this Play Therapy approach
- Become a part of a wonderful growing network of well trained Play Therapists in Australia & internationally

Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy Course

Training Modules: Year 1

Module 1:

The Heart & Practice of Child Centered Play Therapy 1

Thurs, Fri, Sat: 9.00am-5.00pm Sun: 9.00am-4.30pm

This module lays the foundations for the philosophy, heart, practices and principles of Child Centered Play Therapy. Areas of focus will include: what is Play Therapy and why is it so helpful for children; the heart of Child Centered Play Therapy; empathy & the 4 key healing messages; the power of the relationship: sensitivity, compassion & the development of a safe & trusting relationship with the child; different types of play seen in Play Therapy; setting up a playroom, the portable Play Therapy kit and selection of toys; facilitative ways of responding to children including tracking behaviour, reflecting feelings, following the child's lead, enhancing creativity, limit setting, creating a feeling of safety and acceptance for the child in the playroom; the Play Therapy process & different scenarios that can arise in the Play Therapy sessions with children. These will include the following; what to do if...the child is silent...the child is angry at the therapist...the child wants to leave the playroom...the child does not want to leave the playroom...the child wants to cuddle up to the therapist...the child is overly dependant. Stages & themes in Play Therapy will also be introduced. Play Therapy role plays and experiential and self reflective processes will be an integral part of this module.

Module 2:

The Heart & Practice of Child Centered Play Therapy 2: Child Centered Play Therapy Philosophy & Skills Development

Thurs, Fri, Sat: 9.00am-5.00pm Sun: 9.00am-4.30pm

This module focuses on Child Centered Play Therapy skills development and reflective practice and builds on the material covered in Module 1. Through theoretical and experiential learning processes, participants will have the opportunity to deepen their connection with this way of working with children, to develop a greater understanding of the philosophy of this Humanistic Play Therapy approach and to further develop skills in structuring the Play Therapy sessions and responding to, and developing relationship with children. The intake interview, assessment process, themes, stages & involving parents as partners in the Play Therapy process will be explored. We will be reflecting on the history of Play Therapy & looking at the Play Therapy work & different perspectives of some of the leaders in the field of humanistic Play Therapy including Dr Virginia Axline, Dr Garry Landreth, Dr Louise & Dr Bernard Guerney & Dr Clark Moustakas. Play Therapy as a form of counselling & psychotherapy will be considered, as well as Therapeutic Play Sessions with children. There will be experiential learning through role plays, small group & self reflective processes.

Module 3:

Play Therapy & the World of Prenatal & Perinatal Psychology

Thurs, Fri, Sat: 9.00am-5.00pm Sun: 9.00am-4.30pm

In this module we will be looking at the fascinating field of Prenatal & Perinatal Psychology and considering the impact of a baby's/child's early experiences on his/her growth and development. Those factors that may either enhance or inhibit emotional, social, physical & psychological development will be considered. This will include exploring early bonding & attachment and the importance of physical touch & nurturance in the baby's early development. We will explore how many of the principles & practices of Child Centered Play Therapy can be used with babies, infants & toddlers to enhance healthy development & to help heal early trauma & shock. The therapeutic benefits of touch in the Play Therapy context & working psychotherapeutically with children in regressive states will be explored. This will be considered in relation to child development & children revisiting earlier life & preverbal experiences. The benefits and

challenges of working with children in this Play Therapy approach, will be explored. Video/DVD & CD material from leaders in the field of Pre & Perinatal Psychology will be an integral part of this module. There will be experiential processes and role plays to further enhance and develop Play Therapy clinical practice skills and self reflective processes.

Module 4:

Play Therapy Clinical Practice Issues

Thurs, Fri, Sat: 9.00am-5.00pm Sun: 9.00am-4.30pm +distance learning

This module focuses on the setting up & commencement of the Play Therapy Practicum. Clinical Practice issues for the Play Therapist will be considered & explored. These will include administrative forms including informed consent forms; processes for case notes/record keeping; professional boundaries & ethical issues including confidentiality & duty of care; Play Therapy Best Practices from the Association for Play Therapy (APT); child development, case conceptualisation & assessment; parent intake & consultation sessions & the Play Therapy process. There will be explorations of situations that can arise with parents & children & further consideration given to working with children from special populations. We will also reflect on personal strengths & areas that require further development as Play Therapists. There will be explorations around being a Play Therapist in private practice, agencies, organisations, medical & school settings. Experiential processes & role plays will be an integral part of this module, to support the integration of theory with practice.

Training Modules: 2nd year

Module 5:

Play Therapy Reflective Practice

Thurs, Fri, Sat: 9.00am-5.00pm Sun 9.00am-4.30pm

Working psychotherapeutically with children can be a rewarding and challenging experience. The differences in working with children and adults and reflections on being a non directive Play Therapist with children will be explored. This will include looking at: the joys and challenges of working with children in Play Therapy; personal qualities that are important in this work; what draws us to Play Therapy work with children in relation to our own lives and experiences; issues of countertransference, transference & projective identification. There will be further explorations of the stages in the Play Therapy process. We will explore working with children from different populations & presenting in different ways & explore the risks of compassion fatigue, burnout & secondary traumatisation in non directive Play Therapy work with children & what is required for self care. This module has a strong focus on self exploration and reflective processes. There will also be experiential practice and role plays with further explorations of Child Centered Play Therapy skills, practices & principles.

Module 6:

Group Play Therapy & Working with Traumatized Children

Thurs-Sat: 9.00am-5.00pm Sun 9.00am-4.30pm + distance learning

Child Centered Group Play Therapy can be a wonderful way to work therapeutically with children non directly in a small group format. We will be looking at who is and is not suitable for Child Centered Group Play Therapy and Sibling Group Play Therapy, the selection of children, group composition and format, confidentiality issues and parents part in the process, facilitative ways of responding to children & social skills development. Individual & group Play Therapy for trauma debriefing will be considered & we will also be looking at disaster response work in supporting traumatised children and families & approaches that minimise the risk of retraumatisation of the child and vicarious traumatisation of the therapist. Clinical Practice issues linked with the Play

Therapy Practicum will be explored. This module will also include experiential & self reflective processes and role plays.

Module 7:

Filial Play Therapy

4 days either in contact training or distance learning.

In this module, we will be exploring Filial Therapy/Child Parent Relationship Therapy, a very successful therapeutic intervention, based on the Child Centered Play Therapy model, involving the Play Therapist teaching the basic skills of Child Centered Play Therapy to the parent/s, carer/s, individually or in a group setting will be explored. We will also be looking at applications of the Filial Therapy model with professionals, paraprofessionals & others, in settings including schools & hospitals. Case presentations & Play Therapy Practice Issues from the Play Therapy Practicum will also be shared in this module, as well as reflections on the Play Therapy journey, challenges, joys, gifts & future visions.

Personal Therapy

50 hours

Personal Therapy sessions are a requirement of the course & are to be in one of the depth psychotherapies or depth psychologies with a qualified therapist who has completed specialist extensive training in one of these areas of clinical practice. This is organised by the course participant from wherever he/she is living. Suggested therapeutic approaches include Jungian Analysis, Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, Transpersonal Therapy, Person Centered Therapy, Gestalt Therapy, Process Oriented Therapy, Hakomi Therapy; Pre & Perinatal Psychotherapy. Therapists need to be approved by Play Therapy Australia & a statement of hours is to be provided by the therapist to Play Therapy Australia.

An exemption from the Personal Therapy hours can be applied for, if the applicant has engaged in ongoing depth psychotherapeutic work on a regular basis over the past 5 years with a therapist who meets the course requirements. This is at the discretion of the Director of Play Therapy Australia. Those who have completed the 50 hours of Personal Therapy, or been given an exemption from this requirement, must be prepared to reengage in personal therapy during the training program/Play Therapy Practicum, if recommended by the Director of Play Therapy Australia and/or clinical supervisor.

Play Therapy Practicum

Play Therapy Clinical Practice & Clinical Supervision Sessions

Play Therapy Clinical Practice: 200 hours

Commencement of the Play Therapy Clinical Practice & Clinical Supervision is by application. This is assessed on an individual basis and the Application to Start Practice, can be submitted prior to Module 5, with potential approval given to start the Play Therapy Practicum immediately after the completion of Module 5. The Play Therapy practice must be in non directive Child Centered Play Therapy and is organised by the course participant. The Play Therapy practice can be done in one's workplace, if there is support for the Child Centered Play Therapy approach, through an agency/organisation, in private practice or on a sessional basis. Support is offered in helping to explore and identify options for the Play Therapy practice. Course participants have 4 years from the start of the course to complete the Play Therapy Clinical Practice, Clinical Supervision & all course requirements.

Clinical Supervision: 50 hours

Clinical Supervision must be with a Non Directive Play Therapy or Child Centered Play Therapy supervisor approved by Play Therapy Australia. Clinical Supervision can be face to face, by phone or webcam. At least 50% of the clinical supervision hours must be

individual. The remaining hours can be in small group supervision with 1.5 group supervision hours being equivalent to one hour of the total clinical supervision hours required for the course.

Course Information & Requirements:

Prerequisites for the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy Course:

Applicants must:

- Have a recognised qualification in a mental health related field such as counselling, social work, art therapy, psychology (minimum level of 4 year qualification that can lead to registration as a psychologist), occupational therapy (with mental health experience), child &/or adult psychotherapy, art therapy, creative arts therapies, mental health nursing. Those with education & general nursing backgrounds and qualifications, are eligible to apply for a place in the course if there has been extensive experience in working with children with special needs &/or the person has been engaged in his/her own personal therapy process in a depth psychotherapy approach; he/she would also need to be doing counselling related training leading to a qualification in a mental health field, concurrently with the course if accepted into the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course
- Like children & have experience with children & be wanting to work in a humanistic psychotherapeutic way with children through Play Therapy
- Be self reflective & committed to one's own personal growth and development
- Be a minimum of 25 years old at the time of applying for a place in the course, as adult life experience is considered essential for this Play Therapy training program

Application Process:

The application process includes a written application, professional referee reports and involves an "in person", webcam or phone interview. The decision of the Director of Play Therapy Australia, is final in relation to the offer of places in the course. Please see application details for application requirements.

Training Location:

To be provided

Attendance Requirements:

Course participants are required to attend all training modules with a minimum of 90% attendance at each training module (missed course material needs to be made up), unless an exemption has been granted for a particular training module or there are extenuating circumstances such as illness. Training modules 1-5 are prerequisites for the *Play Therapy Practicum*. If one of these modules is missed due to illness, accident or other extenuating circumstances, it will need to be completed at a later date & may mean a delay in being able to commence the Play Therapy Practicum.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL):

Applicants must apply for an exemption or recognition of prior learning at the time of applying for a place in the course for this to be considered. For those who have attended the 4 day workshop, *The Heart & Practice of Child Centered Play Therapy 1* or *The World of Play Therapy 1 & 2* with Play Therapy Australia, an exemption is granted from Module 1. If granted an exemption from Module 1 but wishing to participate in this, there is no fee charged for attendance. For those who have previously attended *The Heart & Practice of Child Centered Play Therapy 1* as a 3 day workshop there will be the requirement to complete the additional 1 day training required for Module 1, in a distance learning format. The fee charged for this, will be 25% of the Module 1 fee. For those who have completed a 1 or 2 day workshop with Play Therapy Australia, it is a requirement to attend Module 1 of the training program, however, the fee paid previously

Play Therapy Australia for workshop attendance, will be deducted from the Module 1 fees for the course. For those applying for Recognition of Prior Learning linked with prior training with another training provider, there is a fee of \$90 for each module Recognition of Prior Learning is applied for & full supporting documentation must be provided at the time of application. Applications for Recognition of Prior Learning will only be considered, if submitted at the time of application.

Assessments & Required Readings/Processes:

This will include:

- Requirements for readings between the training modules.
- Keeping a Journal reflecting on one's personal and professional process and development throughout the course
- Engaging in Therapeutic Play sessions in the first year of the course, to assist in the development of Play Therapy skills
- Seminar Presentations: Presentations in small groups on an area of special interest relating to Play Therapy. This can include areas such as Birth Psychology, Child Centered Play Therapy and Schools, Intensive Play Therapy with Sibling Groups, Child Centered Play Therapy & Early Intervention, an area of interest relating to current practice/research etc.
- Written papers and practical exercises throughout the course. These will include self reflective papers
- Video material of Play Therapy sessions for Clinical Supervision & Clinical Supervisor's reports – the Supervisor reports form a major part of the assessment process
- Major written assessment: To Be advised - take home written paper or case study relating to the Play Therapy process with a client

Additional Information: Play Therapy Practice & Clinical Supervision

These course requirements are all discussed during the course, to support the commencement of the Play Therapy Practicum. The course participant must have professional indemnity insurance & public liability cover for working with children in a Play Therapy counselling / psychotherapy role through one's workplace, or private insurance cover if doing the Play Therapy practice in a private practice setting & have professional association membership of a relevant mental health related professional association. A current Working with Children Check or other relevant Police Clearance, needs to be provided prior to commencing the Play Therapy practice.

Clinical Supervisors must be approved by Play Therapy Australia. As Child Centered Play Therapy is a new training field in Australia, there are a small number of excellent, leading Clinical Supervisors in Australia available for supervision with Play Therapy Australia. These include Jill Pagotto, Helen Kershaw & Judy Morgan. Some of the American supervisors on the Play Therapy Australia Supervision Faculty are world leaders in the field of Child Centered Play Therapy & provide wonderful opportunities for course participants in their development as Play Therapists. These include Dr William Nordling, Dr Rise Van Fleet, Dr Emily Oe & Cindy Snisnak.

A minimum of fortnightly clinical supervision sessions is a requirement of the course & weekly supervision sessions are generally required if working with 3 or more children. This is assessed on an individual basis & may change further into the Play Therapy Practicum with an acceptable higher ratio of Play Therapy sessions to supervision sessions. The clinical supervisor must endorse the course participant to work with a particular child/family in Child Centered Play Therapy. Videoing of Play Therapy sessions for supervision/ training purposes is a requirement. Clinical Supervisors enter into an agreement with Play Therapy Australia to give reports on the Play Therapy work with children, as part of the course assessment process.

Scholarships & Funding Support:

There have been many course participants who have been assisted by their workplaces to attend the Play Therapy Australia training programs and who have received scholarships, grants, funding or other support through agencies or government organisations. There have also been scholarships awarded through the Australian Rural and Remote Health Professional Scholarship (ARRHPS) Scheme which is a scholarship program to support allied health professionals who are living and working in rural and remote areas of Australia to undertake continuing professional development activities. Please go to: <http://www.sarrah.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=74994> for information.

Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy Course Training:

Director of Training & Primary Trainer:

Jill Pagotto B.Ed, CertRebal, DipChildPsych, MAArtTherapy

Jill is the Director of Play Therapy Australia and is a Child Therapist & Play Therapist, Trainer and Consultant in Play Therapy. Jill's qualifications include a Bachelor of Education, Certificate of Rebalancing Bodywork, Diploma of Child Psychotherapy and a Master of Arts in Art Therapy. Jill has trained in Play Therapy in Australia and also in the USA where she attended the summer institute program and intensive supervision process at the Center for Play Therapy, University of North Texas, the world's largest Play Therapy training centre. She also attended the first Experiential Play Therapy and Workshop Series in Monterey, California. Jill has had over 20 years experience working in a range of roles with children, adults and families in education, child protection and residential care settings. This has included working with the Education Department of Western Australia, Department for Child Protection and Mercy Community Services in the children's residential and foster care programs. Jill is registered with the Psychotherapy & Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA Reg. 21334), is a Member of the Psychotherapists and Counsellors Association of Western Australia (PACAWA); a Professional Member of the Association for Play Therapy (USA) and a Member of the Association for Pre & Perinatal Psychology & Health.

Some training sessions will include other specialists in the Play Therapy field either with contact training presentations or by distance learning/podcasts/webinars. Video, DVD & CD material from the USA is also used in the training program to enrich and broaden the course with material from overseas presenters where the fields of Child Centered Play Therapy and Pre and Perinatal Psychology are more established. Some of the material used includes the work of Dr Clark Moustakas, Dr Garry Landreth, Dr Rise Van Fleet, Dr William Nordling, Dr Louise Guerney Dr Jennifer Baggerley, Dr William Emerson (Pre & Perinatal Psychology & psychotherapeutic work with babies and children), Dr James Prescott, Dr David Chamberlain, Dr Wendy McCarty & others.

Books:

Some of the Essential & Highly Recommended Reading:

- Axline, V. (1990) *Dibs in Search of Self*. NY. Ballantine Books.
- Axline, V.M. (1982). *Play Therapy*. NY. Ballantine Books.
- Brems, C. (1994) *The Child Therapist. Personal Traits & Markers of Effectiveness*. Massachusetts: Allyn & Bacon.
- Chamberlain, D. (1998). *The Mind of Your Newborn Baby*. California: North Atlantic Books.
- Ferguson, S. *What Parents Need to Know About Children*. Please visit: www.stanleybferguson.com for book details
- Giordano, M., Landreth, G., & Jones, L. (2005). *A Practical Handbook for Building the Play Therapy Relationship*. Northvale NJ: Jason Aronson Inc.
- Karen, R. (1998). *Becoming Attached. First Relationships & How They Shape our Capacity to Love*. NY: Oxford University Press.
- Landreth, G.L. (2000). *Innovations in Play Therapy: Issues, Process and Special Populations*. PA. Brunner/Routledge
- Landreth, G. (2002). *Play Therapy: The Art of the Relationship* (2nd ed.). NY: Brunner-Routledge.

- Landreth, G; Homeyer, L.; Glover, G & Sweeney, D. (1996). *Play Therapy Interventions with Children's Problems*. New Jersey: Jason Aronson.Inc.
- Moustakas, C.E. (1959). *Psychotherapy with Children*. NY: Harper and Row.
- Conley Ortwein, M. (1997) *Mastering the Magic of Play. A training manual for parents in Filial Therapy: Ideals*
- Schaefer, C. (2003). *Foundations of Play Therapy*: Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Schmidt Neven, R. (1996).*Emotional Milestones: From Birth to Adulthood*. Australian Council Educational Research (ACER).
- Child Development Text: A good up to date text is required.

Additional recommended & required reading will be given throughout the course. There is an excellent play therapy bookstore at www.a4pt.org and also Openleaves Bookshop in Australia, has a very good Play Therapy section: www.openleaves.com.au There is a 10% discount available through Openleaves when training with Play Therapy Australia. You can also order journal articles through www.centerforplaytherapy.com for current & recent research, ideas & studies relating to the field of Play Therapy. Quarterly journals from the Association for Play Therapy (USA) & the Association for Pre & Perinatal Psychology & Health are also highly recommended. Further details will be provided in the training program.

Training Program Fees

To be announced

Fee Policy

If the course participant withdraws from the course partway through completion of a module, or 2 weeks or less prior to the commencement of a module, fees are non refundable for that particular module and full payment is required for that module & is to be paid within 4 weeks of the module commencement date. A deposit of \$300 is required on acceptance of an offer of a place in a course and will go towards the fees in Module 1 or Module 2, if Module 1 has previously been completed as a workshop. This deposit is non refundable. Acceptance of a place in the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course, is subject to acceptance of this fee policy.

Clinical Supervision & Personal Therapy Fees:

There is no course fee paid to Play Therapy Australia for the Personal Therapy and Clinical Supervision components of the course, however, course participants will need to pay fees for the Clinical Supervision and Personal Therapy. These fees are the responsibility of the course participant and will vary depending on the individual Clinical Supervisor and therapist selected.

Disclaimer:

While every effort has been made to ensure the information on the Play Therapy Australia Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course modules and training program is accurate, the Director of Play Therapy Australia reserves the right to change and modify the program and the related contents of this document and the course. The Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy program modules, course outlines, course content & all related information in this document remain the property of Play Therapy Australia

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Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy



Some Commonly Asked Questions

How long is the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course?

The *Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy* course is a 2 year part time training program for completion of the 200 hours of training. It is possible that there may be a more intensive course offered that covers a shorter timeframe for the training component of the course. There is generally 4 years from the start of the course, to have all the requirements of the course completed, including the Personal Therapy hours, Play Therapy Clinical Practice & Clinical Supervision.

Can I just do a couple of modules or defer if I want to?

The course is designed for all training modules to be completed sequentially. If no more than one Training Module is missed due to extenuating and exceptional circumstances or illness, this can be completed at a later date. A medical certificate is requirement if the missing of one module is related to illness or an accident.

What are the prerequisites for the course?

The prerequisites for the course are a recognised qualification in a mental health field such as counselling, psychology (must be working towards registration as a psychologist or be a registered psychologist), social work, art therapy, psychotherapy, mental health nursing.

I come from an education background / general nursing background and am wondering what other study I would need to do, to be eligible to apply for a place in the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course?

With having an education / general nursing qualification, you would also need to do additional training to gain a qualification in a counselling or mental health field. In some cases, this can be done concurrently with the Play Therapy training program. You would need to have extensive experience in working with children with special needs & /or have been engaged in your own personal therapy process in a depth psychotherapy approach to be eligible to apply for a place in the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course. There are many different counselling and psychotherapy related courses listed on www.psychotherapy.com.au under the training section. It is recommended to consider courses in the Higher Education sector that are Graduate Diploma & Masters level courses.

If I complete the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course, who will I be able to work with?

By completing the *Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy* course, you will be able to work as a Play Therapist with children from 2-10 years old presenting with social, emotional, psychosocial, developmental issues and difficulties. Please see the website: www.playtherapyaustralia.com for further information about who Child Centered Play Therapy helps.

Does this course train me to work as a Hospital Play Therapist?

This course is focused on non directive Child Centered Play Therapy which is a form of counselling or psychotherapy for children and does not train participants for Hospital Play Therapy work which is generally more focused on Educational and/or Diversional Play Therapy. Please contact one of the large children's hospitals to get further information about Hospital Play Therapy.

Are Clinical Placements organised for me to do the Play Therapy Practicum?

You need to be able to organise the Play Therapy practice, but support is given in exploring different options / possibilities if you are not in a workplace where this would be possible to do.

I'm not working with children at the moment. Can I still apply for a place in the course?

You do not need to be currently working with children to apply for a place in the course.

How do I find a Clinical Supervisor to supervise my Play Therapy Clinical Practice?

A list of recommended and approved Clinical Supervisors is given to course participants. If you are in the course and are interested in having a clinical supervisor who is not on the list and who you think would meet the requirements for Supervision linked with the Play Therapy orientation of the course, you can submit his/her name for potential approval. The Play Therapy Australia Supervision Faculty has on it, some of the leaders in the field of Child Centered Play Therapy in Australia and the USA.

Can other training in Play Therapy I have done, be credited towards the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course training units?

This is assessed on an individual basis but there does need to be equivalency of content and program material for this to be considered and the training undertaken *must* have been in the Child Centered Play Therapy Play Therapy approach. No exemptions will be given for a part of a training module.

What recognition does the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course have?

The *Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy* course has been set up to meet Australian industry standards in Counselling. The course also meets the Psychotherapists & Counsellors Federation of Australia Post Graduate level 2009 Training Standards (PACFA: www.pacfa.org.au) when offered over a 2 year part time period. ACA & PACFA are the peak bodies for counselling & psychotherapy in Australia. Play Therapy Australia is also an approved training provider with the Association for Play Therapy (USA): APT Approved Provider 08-227 (www.a4pt.org). APT is an international Play Therapy Association that is highly recognised & respected in the Play Therapy field.

Do I need to be a Registered or Certified Play Therapist to practise Play Therapy in Australia?

In Australia there is not yet a registration or certification process for Play Therapists. On completion of the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course, graduates are well equipped & qualified as Play Therapists.

Do you accept students from countries other than Australia?

Applications are accepted from those in Australia and those living in other countries, however, it is not possible to get a student visa linked with the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course.

What funding support is available for the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course?

The Play Therapy Australia clinical training programs have been recognised by a number of government bodies and organisations with the awarding of scholarships to a number of course participants through the Rural & Remote Professional Scholarship Scheme & through Government employee scholarship schemes. Many government and non government agencies and organisations have supported participants financially and in other ways such as with additional time off work for study, to be able to attend & complete the Play Therapy Australia training programs.

Do I have to pay upfront for fees for the year?

You do not pay upfront fees for a semester or for the year. You pay for each training module at a time. To get the early bird reduced fee rate, you must pay the module fee, a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the start of that module. It is an option to pay course fees in instalments & this is at the higher fee rate.

Is there a minimum age required to be eligible to apply for training programs?

Yes, there is a minimum age of 25 years old, to be eligible to apply for a place in the course. Adult life experience is considered essential for this Play Therapy clinical training program.

Play Therapy Australia

Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy Course

Application Details:

Please provide the following information & respond fully to each of the questions.

1. Name, Address, Telephone numbers, Email address
2. Please give details of previous and current study (if applicable) including details of course, institution, state and country, years enrolled, part time/full time, indicate if course was completed and enclose supporting documentary evidence with **certified** copies of certificates / awards.
3. Please send a copy of your CV / resume, giving details of work / internships /student placements including details of employer/workplace, dates, position, duties, if part time or full time
4. Do you have any prior training in adult or child counselling, psychotherapy etc. Yes/No If yes, please provide details.
5. What prior study/training do you have in Child Development?
Please indicate particular courses and number of hours. eg in Bachelor of Education Degree: Child Development 1 & 2 Children 0-2 and 3-10 years: 70 hours
(if no background, additional reading will be required in this area)
6. This Play Therapy course centers around non directive Child Centered Play Therapy. Please describe why you are drawn to this approach and how you see this "fitting" with who you are. Include any concerns you have. *(If you are not familiar with this Play Therapy approach, please read "Dibs in Search of Self" prior to submitting your application – see required texts for more information)*
7. Why do you want to do the course at this time in your life & what do you feel could be some of the joys & challenges that may arise for you, in completing the Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy course with Play Therapy Australia & in working with children in a Play Therapy role?
8. Have you been involved in personal counselling or psychotherapy and if so, please give some information about this in relation to orientation (if known) and hours.
- 9a) If you have done prior training/attended workshops with Play Therapy Australia, please give details including the number of hours & details of training.
- b) Are you applying for recognition of prior learning for any of the modules
If yes, please indicate which module/s you are applying for an exemption from. For this to be considered, there needs to be equivalency of the course content in the training module. There can be exemptions granted for no more than 2 training modules if applying for training completed with another training provider. Full documentation of prior studies undertaken & equivalency of content **must** be included with your application. There is a fee of \$90 for assessing recognition of prior learning.
10. Referees: With your application, please include the name, work role & workplace of 2 **Professional /Workplace or Study/Training** referees. Two professional referee reports are required with applications for the *Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy* course. Please send through the reference form that follows, to each of your referees & the completed forms need to be posted to: Play Therapy Australia PO Box 235 Fremantle WA 6959 or signed forms scanned and emailed to jill@playtherapyaustralia.com

*Please post application to: Play Therapy Australia PO Box 235 Fremantle WA 6959
Australia or email to: jill@playtherapyaustralia.com*

Play Therapy Australia

PO Box 235 Fremantle WA 6959 Australia Tel: 0415 138 857
Email: jill@playtherapyaustralia.com www.playtherapyaustralia.com

Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy Course Professional Reference Forms

Thankyou for providing a reference for an applicant for the *Post Graduate Diploma of Play Therapy* course being offered by Play Therapy Australia. Please post the completed & signed reference form to: **Play Therapy Australia**, PO Box 235 Fremantle WA 6959 Australia or email responses to jill@playtherapyaustralia.com

Applicant's Details: (Applicant please complete)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Referee's Details:

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Name of Workplace: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

1. In what capacity, & for how long, have you known the course applicant?

2. Do you feel that the applicant would be suited to completing a specialist post graduate level training program in Play Therapy?

3. Please comment on what you consider to be the applicant's suitability for working with children from 2-10 years old in Child Centered Play Therapy, which is a humanistic non directive form of counselling or psychotherapy. Please include details of any strengths & weaknesses.

4. Do you have any reservations about the applicant working with children & families in a counselling capacity?

5. Would you have any concerns about ethical issues with the applicant?

6. Would you consider the applicant to be someone who is likely to contribute positively to a training group that will be together for up to a 2 year period?

7. Would you consider the applicant to be self reflective & open to feedback?

8. Please include any other comments.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for completing this reference form.

