

**CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES: CHILD TRAUMA AND PLAY THERAPY**  
**CHILD TRAUMA AND PLAY THERAPY**

Instructor: Jamie Walleisa, MS, NCC

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an understanding of the environmental factors that contribute to and constitute adverse childhood experiences, and the effects on children's development and subsequent behavior. Particular attention will be paid to the importance of understanding children's play in both the assessment and treatment of post-traumatic symptoms. Discussion will include attachment theory and the influence of attachment on development, historical and contemporary research on adverse childhood experiences and subsequent mental health and illness, and an overview of prevention and intervention. Students will be introduced to the common structure of stage-based trauma treatment for children, explore the application of play therapy to trauma treatment, and consider the integration of playful interventions into evidence-based models of trauma therapy.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Articulate applications of play therapy and other play-based interventions to the treatment of childhood traumatic stress
- Articulate how to recognize, assess, and clinically respond to post-traumatic play
- Identify three benefits of play therapy for children who have been exposed to trauma

**COURSE DETAILS (Fall 2023)**

Thursday Evenings, 5:30-7:30 pm

Dates: 8/31, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30, 12/7

This course will be held onsite at Thomas Jefferson University  
Course Length: 28 CONTACT Hours of Play Therapy Specific Education

**REFERENCES**

- Jaxon, J.H. et al. (2019). Child-centered play therapy for youths who have experienced trauma: A systemic literature review. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 12, 365-375.
- Locatelli, M.G. (2020). Play therapy treatment of pediatric medical trauma: A retrospective case study of a preschool child. *International Journal of Play Therapy*, 29(1), 33-42.
- Shrinivasa, B., Bukhari, M., Ragesh, G., & Hamza, A. (2018). Therapeutic intervention for children through play: An overview. *Archives of Mental Health*, 19(2), 82-89



APT Approved Provider 20-608

Participants will be notified via e-mail of any changes to programming. In the event of cancellation, registration costs will be refunded in full.

Participants may cancel for a full refund up to 48 hours before the program start. Please contact [Neil.Andress@jefferson.edu](mailto:Neil.Andress@jefferson.edu) to notify of cancellation and request a refund.

Contact [Katharine.Wenocur@jefferson.edu](mailto:Katharine.Wenocur@jefferson.edu) for more information about play therapy at Jefferson