



CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES: CHILD TRAUMA AND PLAY THERAPY

CHILD TRAUMA AND PLAY THERAPY

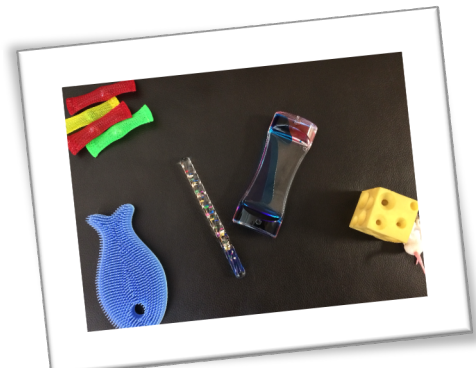
Instructor: Samantha Dunnum, MSS, LCSW

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 2025)

Thursdays 5:30-7:30 PM onsite in Philadelphia, PA

8/28, 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6,
11/13, 11/20, 12/4

This course meets criteria for 28 CONTACT CE hours of Play Therapy Specific Education.

REFERENCES

- 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.
- Parker, M. M., Hergenrather, K., Smelser, Q., & Kelly, C. T. (2021). Exploring child-centered play therapy and trauma: A systematic review of literature. *International Journal of Play Therapy*, 30(1), 2-13.
- Ray, D.C et al. (2021). Child centered play therapy and adverse childhood experiences: A randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 100(2), 134-145.



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 to notify of cancellation and request a refund.

Contact Katharine.Wenocur@jefferson.edu for more information about play therapy at Jefferson