

**CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES: CHILD TRAUMA AND PLAY THERAPY
FOUNDATIONS: CHILD-CENTERED PLAY THERAPY**

Instructor: Katharine Wenocur, DSW, LCSW, RPT-S™

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with an in-depth grounding in the theory and practice of Child Centered Play Therapy (CCPT). Framed in its historical context, CCPT will be introduced as the foundational model upon which most subsequent play therapy models are based. Students will engage with contemporary CCPT literature and develop competencies in the core skills of structuring, empathic listening, supporting child centered play, and limit setting. This course will call upon students' understanding of client social and cultural contexts, and challenge students to think critically about the implementation of CCPT in a variety of practice settings. Student learning will be facilitated by a combination of lecture, discussion, and skills practice. As part of play therapy sequence, this course will introduce students to knowledge and skills that can be applied across play therapy frameworks.

COURSE DETAILS (Fall 2026)

Thursday Evenings, 7:30-9:30 pm

Dates: 8/27, 9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 11/19, 12/3

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

REFERENCES

- Hateli, B. (2021). The effect of non-directive play therapy on reduction of anxiety disorders in young children. *Counseling & Psychotherapy Research*, 22(1), 140-146.
- Parker, M. et al. (2021). Exploring child-centered play therapy and trauma: A systematic review of the 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

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- **Identify and describe the four core skills of CCPT**
- **Define the skill of structuring and describe how to apply this to the practice of CCPT**
- **Demonstrate an emerging capacity to engage in structuring**
- **Define the skill of child centered play and describe how to apply this to the practice of CCPT**
- **Demonstrate an emerging capacity to engage in child centered play**
- **Define the skill of empathic listening and describe how to apply this to the practice of CCPT**
- **Demonstrate an emerging capacity to engage in empathic listening**
- **Define the skill of limit setting and describe how to apply this to the practice of CCPT**
- **Demonstrate an emerging capacity to engage in limit setting**
- **Articulate the impact of child-directed play on the therapeutic process**
- **Analyze the historical context in which CCPT developed**
- **Discuss the evolution of the practice of CCPT over time**
- **Apply knowledge of CCPT theory and skills to analysis of case studies**
- **Analyze and discuss utility of CCPT across cultural contexts**
- **Assess applicability of CCPT to variety of practice settings**