



CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES: CHILD TRAUMA AND PLAY THERAPY
HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT APPROACHES: DIRECTIVE PLAY THERAPY

Instructor: Samantha Dunnum, MSS, LCSW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Building on students' foundational knowledge of play therapy and child trauma, this course introduces several models of directive play therapy. Developed in response to classical, child-centered models, directive approaches feature varying degrees of therapist-initiated interventions. Often, directive interventions are implemented when treatment is time-limited, when clinicians are targeting specific goal areas, or when clients' spontaneous play is inhibited. This course will provide students with base-level knowledge of frameworks of particular significance to the field of play therapy. Students will have several opportunities to engage in hands-on practice of skills that are specific to the models covered in this course and will continue to develop competencies in engaging clients with play therapy materials. Particular attention will be paid to integration of play therapy techniques into brief treatment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Distinguish between directive, non-directive, and prescriptive approaches to play therapy
- Articulate theoretical underpinnings and application of four major approaches to directive play therapy
- Develop skills in case conceptualization and treatment planning using play therapy modalities



COURSE DETAILS (Spring 2026)

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

1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16

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

REFERENCES

- Dickinson, R. & Kottman, T. (2021). Using the crucial Cs in Adlerian Play Therapy. *The Journal of Individual Psychology*, 77(2), 154-164.
- Smith, T. et al. (2021). Virtual family play therapy: A clinician's guide to using directed family play therapy in telemental health. *Contemporary Family Therapy*, 45, 106-116.
- Stauffer, S.D. (2021). Overcoming trauma stuckness in play therapy: A superhero intervention to the rescue. *International Journal of Play Therapy*, 30(1), 14-27.



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