

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES: CHILD TRAUMA AND PLAY THERAPY

Training Trauma-Responsive Play Therapists

Play therapy is a mode of treatment whereby play, a child's natural form of expression, is used as a vehicle to help the child to cope and heal from emotional stress. Play is considered to be especially important for the healthy development of children who have experienced trauma. The effects of trauma tend to reside in the nonverbal, lower regions of the brain, including the limbic system, cerebellum and brain stem, while one's ability to communicate need and cognitively process events or circumstances reside in the upper regions of the brain- the cortex. Consequently, children affected by trauma often communicate a need for help through behaviors, not through language. The physical and role-playing activities associated with play therapy have proven instrumental in helping to move traumatic memories and sensations from the nonverbal brain areas to the frontal lobes and cortical region. The evidence base for the efficacy of play therapy with trauma-affected children and adolescents is growing, and consequently more mental health jobs in cities like Philadelphia, where rates of trauma-affected children are increasing, are requiring or showing deference to mental health professionals with play therapy credentials.

Certificate of Advanced Studies in Child Trauma and Play Therapy

The Certificate of Advanced Studies in Child Trauma and Play Therapy trains exceptionally skilled child, adolescent, and family therapists who are uniquely equipped with trauma competencies and knowledge, coupled with play therapy techniques and applications to support the health and emotional wellbeing of children and families. The Certificate consists of four classes (for credit or continuing education) designed for professionals who have already earned a graduate degree in counseling or a related mental health discipline or for students currently enrolled in a clinical mental health graduate program.

Required Courses:

Course Title	Course #	In-Person Hours	Semester	Cost*
Child Trauma and Play Therapy	652	28	Fall	\$1125
Foundations: Child Centered Play Therapy	660	28	Fall	\$1125
Historically Significant Approaches: Directive Play Therapy	661	28	Spring	\$1125
Integrative Seminar: Intersectionality and Play Therapy	662	28	Spring	\$1125
TOTAL		112		\$4500



The Community and Trauma Counseling program is an approved provider of Play Therapy Education by the Association for Play Therapy (APT Approved Provider 20-608). The hours above reflect hours of play therapy specific education and, combined with supervision and play therapy experience, contribute to an individual's progress towards the Registered Play Therapist™ credential.

*Student fees may be added. Stated cost is for Continuing Education (non-credit) courses. If student wants graduate credit for coursework, cost per course is assessed by current tuition rate for CTC graduate credits

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