



Instructions to Authors: International Journal of Play Therapy®

Submission

The Association for Play Therapy (APT) contracts the American Psychological Association (APA) to market, technically edit, publish, and distribute its semi-annual, peer-reviewed *International Journal of Play Therapy*®. Authors are invited to review these instructions and then submit their manuscripts through the [Manuscript Submission Portal](#).

Clinical Editor

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Author Communication

Authors must provide their email addresses and telephone and fax numbers for use by the APA editorial office and later by the production office. Most correspondence is conducted by email. Authors must also provide email addresses in their cover letters and should keep a copy of the manuscript to guard against loss. Manuscripts are not returned.

Manuscript Categories

Authors must categorize their submissions as one of the following options:

- **Research, Case Studies, or Theoretical Applications.** Theoretical, philosophical, and research articles, case studies, and literature reviews. Priority is given to play therapy research manuscripts. Manuscripts, including references, must not exceed 25 pages.
- **Current Practices.** Articles regarding beneficial play therapy practices, current issues, and concerns related to play therapy that include theoretical underpinnings for practices and/or issues. Manuscripts, including references, must not exceed 20 pages.

The *Journal* publishes and disseminates reports of original research, theoretical articles, and substantive reviews of topics germane to play therapy on behalf of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, counselors, school counselors, marriage and family therapists, and other mental health professionals.

Manuscript Preparation

As of June 1, 2020, all manuscripts should be submitted according to the [Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 7th edition](#). Manuscripts may be copyedited for bias-free language (Chapter 5). [See APA's Checklist for Manuscript Submission](#). Consult APA's [Journal Article Reporting Standards](#) for quantitative research, qualitative research, mixed methods research, and/or race, ethnicity, and culture to support manuscript preparation.

Manuscript Formatting

- **Abstract and Keywords.** All manuscripts must include an abstract containing a maximum of 180 words typed on a separate page. After the abstract, please supply up to five keywords or brief phrases.
- **References.** References should be listed in alphabetical order. Each listed reference should be cited in text, and each text citation should be listed in the References.

- **Figures.** Graphics files should be submitted initially as part of the manuscript file. However, if the manuscript is accepted for publication you will be required to submit figures as Tiff, EPS, or PowerPoint files. The minimum line weight for line art is 0.5 point for optimal printing. Please place symbol legends below the figure image when possible instead of to the side.

Continuing Education

If accepted, in order to offer continuing education for each article, authors should also include:

- A minimum of 5 references from peer-reviewed publications/journals, that are no older than 5 years
- Submit 3-4 learning objectives written in [behavioral learning terms](#)
- 10 exam questions (maximum of 2 may be True or False questions)

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