



Frequently Asked Questions:

School Based-Registered Play Therapist (SB-RPT)

Terms

1. What is the SB-RPT?

SB-RPT is the acronym for the School Based-Registered Play Therapist™ credential. The SB-RPT credential is intended for professionals who hold a current and active individual state license or certificate from their state's department of education to independently practice as a school counselor or school psychologist. Applicants licensed by their state mental health board (i.e. LPC, LCSW, LMFT, etc.) are ineligible for the SB-RPT, but may be eligible for the Registered Play Therapist™ (RPT) or Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™ (RPT-S) credentials. Registrants may not hold more than one APT credential at any given time. For additional questions, please consult the [SB-RPT Guide](#) found under the Play Therapy Credentialing tab on the APT website and/or [contact APT](#).

2. What is an RPT-S?

RPT-S is the acronym for Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™.

3. What does “RPT/S” mean?

“RPT/S” is a combined acronym that refers to both our Registered Play Therapist™ (RPT) and Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™ (RPT-S) credentials.

4. Who is the State Department of Education?

The State Department of Education refers to a state government agency which promulgates school counselor or school psychologist standards and practices and investigates and penalizes violations of such standards and practices. For SB-RPT candidates and designees who are employed in a school setting, their State Department of Education license or certification must allow them to practice in the state in which the school is located.

Benefits of the SB-RPT Credential

5. What are the benefits of having the SB-RPT credential?

Your SB-RPT credential conveys your play therapy knowledge and experience to the general public, schools and universities, parents and children, and other mental health professionals. It lends credibility and visibility to your specialized training and provides you with a community of likeminded individuals who believe in the therapeutic power of play.

Verification of License (Guide, Section 0200)

6. Does my international license/credential meet the SB-RPT licensure requirement?

Applicants must have a current and active school counselor or school psychologist license that permits for independent practice and is issued by the Department of Education. Membership to mental health, school counselor and/or school psychologist associations do not meet the credentialing requirements for licensure. Please contact the APT office should you continue to question whether or not your license/credential meets the SB-RPT licensure requirement.

Verification of Graduate Degrees and Core Content Coursework (Guide, Section 0300)

7. What are the basic educational requirements to become an SB-RPT?

You must have earned a graduate degree in a mental health discipline with demonstrated coursework in five (5) core areas (i.e. child development, theories of personality, principles of psychotherapy, psychopathology/DSM, and legal / ethical issues).

8. I'm not sure my graduate program addressed the five (5) core content areas, will APT review my academic transcripts before I submit my application?

Yes. Simply complete and submit the [Transcript Review](#) request form with the fee (\$50) and a copy of your transcripts to APT. For Advanced Standing social work applicants, please include a copy of your undergraduate transcripts with your graduate transcripts. If you are not interested in a transcript review but continue to have questions regarding the five (5) core content areas, please submit a copy of the syllabus for each course you believe satisfies this requirement with your completed application.

Verification of Clinical Experience (Guide, Section 0400)

9. How do I verify the general clinical experience requirement plus two years of continuous work?

The applicant need only complete and sign Form A, Part 1.

Verification of Play Therapy Coursework & Trainings (Guide, Section 0500)

10. How and from whom may I earn the 150 hours of play therapy instruction?

You may complete graduate play therapy courses at institutions of higher education (transcripts) and/or workshops by APT Approved Providers of Play Therapy Continuing Education (certificates). Certificates that do not bear the APT Approved Provider number will not be eligible for APT CE's. Play therapy graduate courses must appear on a university transcript, whether taken for credit or audited. If the term "play therapy" is not found on the course title, please submit a copy of the course syllabus and/or a letter from the instructor attesting to the hours of play therapy specific content the course offered. Audited play therapy courses must be accompanied by a letter from the instructor attesting to the student's successful completion of all coursework required to receive a passing grade.

11. What is considered contact training?

Trainings where attendees can have interaction with the instructor in real time (ask questions during the training and the instructor responds) are considered contact hours (e.g.: conference workshops, live webinars, etc.).

12. How many of the 150 hours of play therapy instruction may be non-contact or distance learning hours?

No more than 50 of the 150 hours may be non-contact (e.g., APT E-Learning Center, pre-recorded webinars, etc.).

Verification of Supervised Play Therapy Experience & Supervision (Guide, Section 0600)

13. How many hours of play therapy experience (direct client contact hours) must I accrue?

SB-RPT applicants must accrue at least 600 direct client contact hours of supervised play therapy experience during a period of no less than one year. Supervision must be under an RPT-S.

14. How many supervision hours in play therapy must I complete?

SB-RPT applicants must accrue at least 50 hours of play therapy supervision while accruing their supervised clinical play therapy experience of which no more than 25 hours can be in a group format.

15. Must my clinical supervisor be an RPT-S?

Yes. Supervision will only be accepted under an RPT-S. To find an RPT-S near you, please use the [Find a Registered Play Therapist Directory](#).

16. How do I document my play therapy experience and supervision?

Use Form A (the last page of the application). It is the applicant's responsibility to post the dates and hours of his/her supervised play therapy experience in Part 2. Applicant should indicate the number of individual supervision hours in the section labeled "Individual" and put group supervision hours in the section labeled "Group." Have the RPT-S sign the form under the section labeled "Verifier" and check the space for "observation of at least one play therapy session."

17. Is there a limit to how many group supervision hours I can submit?

Yes. No more than 25 hours of group supervision under an RPT-S are accepted.

18. Are dyadic supervision sessions considered "individual" supervision?

If the focus of the supervision was on your individual cases, then you may count only the time spent discussing your individual cases toward the "individual" supervision requirement.

19. Can I use internship or practicum hours from my graduate program towards the 600 hours of play therapy experience requirement?

Yes, as long as your supervisor was an RPT-S. You may accrue such hours via your graduate play therapy practicums, internships, externships, etc. Please make sure to have your supervisor sign off on your play therapy experience hours on Form A, Part 2.

20. Do I have to complete my play therapy training (instruction hours) before I can begin accruing my play therapy experience hours (direct client contact hours)?

Although APT does not specify on this matter expressly, it is expected that applicants adhere to their State Department of Education ethics and scope of practice. If the applicant believes s/he is competent to treat clients using play therapy, then they may count said hours.

Renewal of SB-RPT Credential (Guide, Section 0900)

21. Once I earn my SB-RPT credential, what additional play therapy continuing education is required to maintain it?

You must earn 18 hours of play therapy specific training and 3 hours of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) training (or diagnosis/psychopathology) during each subsequent 36-month continuing education cycle. Not more than 9 of the 18 play therapy hours may be non-contact. All play therapy hours must be obtained through APT Approved Provider CE trainings or University graduate course visible on a transcript. DSM training hours may be non-contact or contact and need not be from an APT Approved Provider. See page 7, Section 0900 of the SB-RPT Guide for additional ways of obtaining your continuing education hours.

22. When do I renew my SB-RPT credential?

Renew annually 12 months after approval. APT will notify you via email (please maintain your information current). Be sure to earn 18 hours of play therapy training and 3 hours of DSM training during each 36-month continuing education cycle.

Transitioning from the SB-RPT to the RPT

23. I am a current SB-RPT. What do I need to do to obtain the RPT credential?

Should you obtain a clinical mental health license issued by your state mental health board (LPC, LCSW, LMFT, LMHC, etc.), you may be eligible to transition your SB-RPT to the RPT credential. Please submit a [Transition Request](#) form from our website found under the Play Therapy Credentials tab. After receipt of your request, a review of your file will be completed and an email sent to you outlining the necessary requirements you will need to transition.

24. What are the benefits of transitioning from the SB-RPT to the RPT credential?

APT's play therapy credentials come along side your state licensing laws and regulations. School counselors and school psychologists licensed through their State Department of Education are permitted to practice only on school grounds while mental health practitioners licensed through their state mental health boards may practice where permitted (e.g. private practice, hospitals, clinics, schools, etc.).

Miscellaneous

25. I am a current RPT and would like to obtain the SB-RPT as well. Does APT confer multiple credentials to an individual?

No, registrants cannot hold more than one APT credential at any given time (so you are either an RPT or an RPT-S or an SB-RPT).

26. Is it true that some states do not permit you to use the RPT acronym?

Yes. Please review the [list of states](#) (at the bottom of page) that do not permit you to use the RPT acronym as it is already in use for registered physical therapists. In these states, registrants must spell out their credential.

27. Does the SB-RPT credential replace my state department of education license/certification?

No. The SB-RPT credential is a secondary credential and does not legally permit you to practice without a state department of education license. In fact, applicants are not eligible for the SB-RPT credentials without a state department of education license.

For questions or assistance, please contact:

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