



Credentialing Standards for the
School-Based Registered Play Therapist™
APT Professional Credentialing Program

2025

This revision is effective as of **April 1, 2025** and supersedes all previous versions.

APT may revise its Credentialing Program and its criteria, standards, process,
and other aspects of the program at its sole discretion.

Credentialing Standards for the School Based-Registered Play Therapist™ Credential

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Essential Credentialing Documents Housed Online

Glossary of Terms	online
Competencies	online
Application Denial, Complaints, and Appeals	..online

All approval determinations are made at the sole discretion of APT based on all information received and reviewed, and that APT may approve or deny applications or renewals based on any and all information received during the application and renewal process or otherwise, including information that may be obtained independently or from third parties.

Credentialing Standards for the School Based-Registered Play Therapist™ Credential

Mission

To promote the value of play, play therapy, and credentialed play therapists by advancing the development of mental health of all people including emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing. As a diverse, equitable, and inclusive professional organization, we embrace:

- Increased appreciation of play and play therapy by the public
- Ethical practice of play therapy informed by research, education, and training
- Recognition of education grounded in seminal and historically significant play therapy theories

Statement of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As an integral component of our organization, APT is committed to achieving and maintaining a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). We are at our best when the principles of DEI are fully embedded in our governance, leadership, and organizational policies. Our unwavering goal is to generate programs and processes resulting in ongoing meaningful and sustainable organizational change toward DEI.

As part of this commitment, APT made DEI additions to the credentialing program in 2023. These changes can be seen in the educational requirements of the SB-RPT™ Credential as well as in the continuing education requirements.

APT credentials are conferred without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin.

Program Intent

The intent of the APT Credentialing Program is to develop national standards for the competent practice of play therapy and the provision of play therapy supervision. We confer the Registered Play Therapist™ (RPT™), Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™ (RPT-S™), and School Based-Registered Play Therapist™ (SB-RPT™) credentials upon those who meet these national standards to help consumers identify licensed clinical mental health professionals, with specialized training and experience in play therapy. The credential focuses on promoting professional accountability and requires ongoing professional growth and development that ultimately improve mental health services to the most vulnerable populations, especially children.

We confer our School Based-Registered Play Therapist™ (SB-RPT™) credential upon those licensed or certified school counselors or school psychologists to help consumers identify those with specialized training and experience in play therapy.

To earn this prestigious credential, please observe these steps:

- Review this Guide.
- Contact our office with questions.
- Submit your completed application and fee with supporting materials.

Application & Annual Fees

Applications are welcome upon the completion and documentation of all credentialing requirements. An SB-RPT™ application will remain open for a maximum of 12 months after review of the application to permit the applicant to address any deficiencies identified during the review process. Once earned, the credential must be renewed annually.

Play therapy specific continuing education is due every 3-years (see **Section 09** for renewal criteria and process) to maintain the SB-RPT™ Credential.

SB-RPT™ Application Fee		SB-RPT™ Annual Renewal Fee	
Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
\$210.00	\$340.00	\$ 70.00	\$190.00

Application fees: The non-refundable application fee of \$210.00 (or \$340 for non-members), includes complimentary initial 12-month activation fee upon approval. Non-members interested in joining APT may include membership fees with this application.

Annual Renewal fees: Renewal fees are billed and due annually upon your anniversary date (see **Section 09** for renewal criteria and process). APT Membership is applied for, and billed separately from Credentialing fees.

APT reserves the right to unilaterally revise, from time to time, the terms and conditions, this Guide, governing policies, approval and renewal criteria, and other facets of this agreement.

SB-RPT™ Application Instructions

Review the School Based-Registered Play Therapist™ Credentialing Standards and then contact APT for questions or clarifications. Your Credentialing application should be complete before submitting (incomplete applications will not be accepted), and include these items:

1. Complete, signed, and dated application, including attestation.
2. Copies of the following:
 - a. A current and active unconditional independent license or certificate as a school counselor or school psychologist from the State Department of Education.
 - b. Graduate university transcript(s) from an accredited university.
 - c. Form A documenting clinical and play therapy experience and supervision.
 - d. Form B documenting play therapy instruction, with all supporting documents attached (including play therapy CE certificates).
3. Non-refundable application fee
4. Applications **must be submitted in hard copy** format by USPS or courier (UPS, FedEx, etc.) to the address below. Applications received via email or fax will not be accepted.

Association for Play Therapy
 401 Clovis Avenue, Suite 107
 Clovis, CA 93612
 559-298-3400, info@a4pt.org

You will receive a confirmation email from APT upon receipt of your application. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. APT will notify applicants within 10-12 weeks via email regarding the status of their application. Should there be a change in your licensure status at any time during the application process or once approved, you are required to immediately notify APT in writing.

Should you continue to have questions after reviewing the SB-RPT™ Credentialing Standards, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you!

Association for Play Therapy

401 Clovis Ave., Suite 107
 Clovis, CA 93612
 Tel (559) 298-3400 / Fax (559) 298-3410
info@a4pt.org www.a4pt.org

Program Criteria Overview

This chart summarizes the criteria that applicants must satisfy to earn the SB-RPT™ credential. The criteria are designed to ensure well-rounded education and training in play therapy.

Successful completion of the credentialing criteria includes the completion and documentation of a minimum number of hours in play therapy instruction, clinical experience, and supervision.

Section		SB-RPT™ Credentialing Criteria
01 -	License	Current and active individual state license or certificate from the State Department of Education to independently practice as a school counselor or school psychologist.
02 -	Educational Degree	Required to hold a master's or higher clinical mental health degree in one of the following disciplines: counseling, marriage and family therapy, psychiatry, psychology, or social work with demonstrated coursework in: child development; theories of personality; principles of psychotherapy; child & adolescent psychopathology; cultural & social diversity; and ethics.
03 -	Clinical Experience	Clinical experience required by the State Department of Education school counselor or school psychologist license/certification, <i>--plus, two (2) years of continuous work in school setting post licensure/ certification.</i>
04 -	Supervised Play Therapy Experience	Required to include documentation of a minimum of 500 direct client contact hours , under the supervision of a Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™ (RPT-S™) for a period of no less than one (1) school year.
05 -	Play Therapy Supervision	Required to include documentation of a minimum of 50 hours of play therapy supervision and five (5) session observations during the accumulation of the supervised play therapy experience. Supervisors providing 10 or more hours of supervision must observe at least one (1) play therapy session during supervision. A maximum of 25 hours of the 50 hours of supervision may be in a group setting. These supervised hours must be completed during or after the applicant earned his/her master's degree.
06 -	Play Therapy Instruction	Required to include documentation of at least 150 hours of play therapy specific instruction, accrued in a time period of no less than two (2) years and no more than ten (10) years from accredited universities or APT Approved Providers. Limits to the number of non-contact hours and additional stipulations are listed in Section 06 .

For answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the [SB-RPT™ FAQ page](#) on the APT Website.

Once earned, the credential must be renewed annually. Play therapy specific continuing education is due every 3-years (see **Section 09** for renewal criteria and process) to maintain the SB-RPT™ Credential.

Section 01 - Verification of State Department of Education License or Certification

Attach a copy of your current, active, and unconditional State Department of Education individual license or certification indicating that you are legally permitted to independently practice as a school counselor or school psychologist. Do NOT submit original copies as all materials will be destroyed after review. An add-on specialty license (e.g., addictions, art therapy, dance/movement therapy, art therapy counseling, etc.) is not acceptable in lieu of a clinical mental health license.

APT only accepts licenses or certification that are issued by a State Department of Education that promulgates school counselor or school psychologist standards and practices and that investigates and penalizes violations of such standards and practices. Licenses that are limited, conditional, or restricted in any way are not accepted.

APT confers “practitioner credentials.” If you are a school-based practitioner, you must maintain an active license or certificate from the State Department of Education in the state in which you practice. It is your responsibility to update the licensure expiration date in your credentialing profile upon renewal of your license.

If you are not currently practicing, you must hold an active license issued by a state licensing board whether or not you are practicing or residing in that state in order to maintain the SB-RPT™ credential.

Section 02 - Verification of Graduate Degrees and Core Content Coursework

Applicants must hold a master's or higher clinical mental health degree in one of the following general practice disciplines: counseling, marriage and family therapy, psychiatry, psychology, or social work. Please be advised that add-on specialties (e.g., addictions, art therapy, dance/movement therapy, etc.) or specialized degrees (e.g., dance therapy, art therapy counseling) cannot be substituted for a general clinical mental health degree in any of the aforementioned general practice disciplines. Attach a copy of your graduate transcript(s) issued by an accredited university and list specific courses that meet each of the core areas on the credentialing application. The date your graduate degree was conferred must be clearly visible.

Your transcripts must indicate that you have completed coursework in these six (6) required core areas:

1. Child Development
2. Theories of Personality
3. Principles of Psychotherapy
4. Child and Adolescent Psychopathology
5. Cultural & Social Diversity
6. Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues

Applicants must document a minimum of six (6) graduate-level courses to satisfy the six (6) core content area requirements. Each course may be applied to only one core content area; however, multiple courses may be used to fulfill a single core content area. Courses used to fulfill the required core content areas cannot be applied toward the 150-hour play therapy instruction requirement. Keep in mind that course titles may not always match the exact names of the APT's core areas. **Table 2.1** offers examples of potential graduate course titles and descriptions for each core content area.

Table 2.1 – Core Content Areas

Required Core Content Area	Course Descriptions and Examples
Child Development	This content area on lifespan development covers how humans learn, mature, and adapt from infancy to adulthood to elderly phases of life (e.g., Life Span Development, Human Behavior in Social Environment – HBSE I).
Theories of Personality	This content will cover a variety of personality theories, their history, and applications (e.g., Counseling Theories, HBSE II).
Principles of Psychotherapy	In this content area, the counseling process and skills are discussed through an array of theories (e.g., Counseling Process & Skills, Social Work Practice, Pre-practicum).
Child & Adolescent Psychopathology	The types and symptomology of mental disorders, their assessment, treatment, and related research in psychotherapy for the disorders are covered in this content area (e.g., Abnormal Psychology or Behavior, HBSE III, DSM, Diagnosis & Treatment, Mental Emotional & Behavioral Disorders).
Cultural & Social Diversity (Coursework must address global concepts of diversity)	A foundational course covering key diversity concepts, including types of diversity, multicultural counseling theories (e.g., critical race theory, relational-cultural theory), identity development, power differences (e.g., privilege, marginalization, and oppression), visible/invisible minority status, intersectionality, social justice, advocacy, etc.
Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues	This content area introduces ethical principles, professional guidelines, and issues pertaining to special groups (e.g., Intro into the Profession, SW Policy and Issues).

If you would like assistance in determining whether your academic program covered the six (6) content areas listed above prior to submitting your application, please complete the [Transcript Review form](#) available on our website.

Section 03 - Verification of Clinical Experience

All applicants must have successfully fulfilled the clinical experience requirements established by the State Department of Education for obtaining a school counselor or school psychologist license or certification. These requirements typically include a combination of supervised practicum hours, an internship in a school setting, and any additional training mandated by the state.

In addition to meeting the initial licensure or certification requirements, applicants must have completed a minimum of **twenty-four (24) consecutive months** of full-time professional experience in a school setting after obtaining their license or certification. This experience must be directly related to the applicant's role as a school counselor or school psychologist and should involve providing direct support services to students, collaborating with educators and families, and contributing to the overall development of school-based mental health and counseling programs.

Applicants are required to complete and attach **Form A, Part 1**, which serves as official documentation of their clinical experience. This form must be completed accurately and signed by the applicant, certifying the validity of their clinical experience.

Instructions for Completion of Form A, Part 1:

Applicant must use the forms included in the SB-RPT™ Credentialing Application to document the required twenty-four (24) months of continuous work as a school counselor/school psychologist, in a school setting post licensure/ certification.

- **Applicant's name and phone number** must be included.
- **Dates of Employment** should identify the time period in which the applicant was employed and include the school district.
- **Signature** is required by applicant on Part 1 of Form A.

Section 04 - Verification of Supervised Play Therapy Experience

Play therapy experience must be obtained under the supervision (or consultation – see [Terms](#)) of a current and active RPT-S™ who is recognized by their licensing boards as eligible to supervise; expected to know and abide by their respective ethics and standards; subject to disciplinary action by their respective licensing boards and accountable for the actions of their supervisees..

In order to ensure instruction, clinical experience, and supervision are integrated:

- Applicants must complete a minimum of **500 hours of direct play therapy experience** and **50 hours of simultaneous supervision**.
- Supervised play therapy experience hours must be accrued in a time period of no less than two (2) years and no more than ten (10) years.
- Through the supervised play therapy experience, applicants are expected to demonstrate play therapy competencies (competencies listed in **Section 05**).

To obtain competency, assessment of the supervisee's play therapy knowledge and skills is essential. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to share with their supervisor attendance certificates or graduate transcripts for play therapy instruction received while under supervision. This interchange helps inform the supervisory process and aids in the integration of the acquired knowledge through demonstrated practice. Attendees are encouraged to seek play therapy-specific education which supports and integrates material related to APT's core competencies.

Instructions for Completion of Form A, Part 2:

Applicant must use the forms included in the SB-RPT™ Credentialing Application to document a minimum of **500 hours of direct play therapy experience**.

- **Play Therapy Experience:** To be completed by applicant and verified by supervisor.
- **Applicants:** If necessary, make and distribute copies of this form to all applicable parties to be returned to you or to APT: 401 Clovis Ave., Suite 107, Clovis, CA 93612, Tel (559) 298-3400 / Fax (559) 298-3410.

Section 05 - Verification of Play Therapy Supervision

To provide play therapy supervision, supervisors must hold the RPT-S™ credential; be recognized by their licensing board as eligible to supervise; expected to know and abide by their respective ethics and standards; subject to disciplinary action by their respective licensing boards and accountable for the actions of their supervisees. In some situations, peer supervision or ongoing consultation may be used to meet this requirement.

To ensure instruction, clinical experience, and supervision are integrated:

- Applicants must complete a minimum of **50 hours of play therapy supervision** and **500 hours of simultaneous play therapy experience**.
- Supervision should be received at a ratio of 1 to 10. One hour of supervision for every 10 hours of play therapy experience.
- A minimum of five (5) session observations are required in order to meet the supervision requirement.
- Play therapy supervision hours must be accrued in a time period of no less than two (2) years and no more than ten (10) years.
- In accordance with APT's [Play Therapy Best Practices](#), applicants demonstrate a [multicultural orientation](#) that encompasses cultural humility, cultural comfort and cultural opportunities specific to play therapy treatment with diverse populations through ongoing training.

Play Therapy Supervision

Types of Supervision:

1. Individual Supervision: Consists of one supervisor and one supervisee.
2. Group Supervision: Consists of one supervisor and at least two but not more than 10 supervisees. Maximum group hours accepted is 25 of the 50.
3. Individual in Group Supervision: You may obtain individual supervision hours within a group only if focus was on your play therapy case notes, reports, or session video and does not exceed 10 supervisees. There is no limit to the number of hours that may be obtained in this manner.
4. Contact or In-Person Supervision: Occurs when you meet in-person with your supervisor to discuss case notes, reports, session video, or by simultaneously but separately watching and discussing your session video. There is no limit to the number of hours that you may obtain in this manner.
5. Non-Contact or Distance Supervision: Occurs when you meet with your supervisor via telephone or online to discuss your play therapy case notes, reports, or session video. There is no limit to the number of hours that you may obtain in this manner.

Supervisor Observations

Supervisor observations are necessary to assess the supervisee's competencies, qualifications, professionalism, and other matters germane to the practice of play therapy. **A minimum of five (5) session observations are required for the successful completion of the supervision requirement.**

It is beneficial to both supervisor and supervisee if observations take place at different stages during the therapeutic relationship. Supervisors providing ten (10) or more hours of supervision must observe at least one (1) play therapy session.

The observation requirement may be met via in-person observation, two-way mirror, videotaped, audiotaped, telehealth, transcribed session, or mock/role-play session.

Supervisee Required Competencies

It is the supervisor's obligation to identify gaps in knowledge and/or skill sets, to provide recommendations for remediation, when necessary, and to protect the integrity of the play therapy field and the vulnerable children and families play therapists serve. This is achieved through the formal assessment of supervisees' play therapy competencies. Multicultural orientation is of specific importance because it allows for the provision of play therapy services to underrepresented or marginalized groups.

APT identifies the following areas of competencies as essential to the competent practice of play therapy, irrespective of theoretical orientation:

Competency 1: Knowledge & Understanding of Play Therapy

The play therapist will:

- 1a.** Demonstrate knowledge of the history of play therapy
- 1b.** Demonstrate understanding of the therapeutic powers of play
- 1c.** Demonstrate knowledge of the therapeutic relationship in play therapy
- 1d.** Demonstrate knowledge of seminal/historically significant play therapy theories and models
- 1e.** Apply theories and stages of childhood development in play therapy
- 1f.** Identify and apply ethical practices in play therapy
- 1g.** Demonstrate an understanding of the play therapy treatment process (e.g., treatment goals and plans, documentation, intake/termination, and tracking of treatment progress)
- 1h.** Demonstrate knowledge of family & systemic theories in play therapy
- 1i.** Demonstrate knowledge of childhood-related problems and mental health diagnosis/disorders
- 1j.** Demonstrate an understanding of the diverse impacts of childhood trauma (e.g., neurobiological, systemic, social) and the implications in play therapy
- 1k.** Demonstrate knowledge of assessment in play therapy

Competency 2: Clinical Play Therapy Skills

The play therapist will:

- 2a.** Apply and articulate the therapeutic powers of play
- 2b.** Demonstrate relationship and rapport building skills (e.g., empathy, safety, unconditional positive regard) by utilizing 'self' in relationships with children, caregivers, stakeholders in play therapy
- 2c.** Apply assessments that highlight various aspects of the child and/or system and the play therapy process (e.g., conceptualization, diagnosis, family dynamics, treatment suitability and effectiveness, termination)
- 2d.** Articulate and explain the play therapy process
- 2e.** Demonstrate basic play therapy skills (e.g., tracking, reflection of feeling, limit setting, pacing with the client)
- 2f.** Identify play dynamics (e.g., types of play, themes, stages) and incorporate clinical considerations in treatment
- 2g.** Develop play therapy treatment goals and plans congruent with theoretical orientation
- 2h.** Demonstrate understanding of own cultural and social identity and its influence in the play therapy process
- 2i.** Exhibit multicultural orientation to diversity, equity, and inclusion through a culturally and socially diverse playroom and play therapy process
- 2j.** Demonstrate play therapy treatment skills congruent with theoretical orientation (e.g., conceptualization, interventions)

Competency 3: Professional Engagement in Play Therapy

The play therapist will:

- 3a.** Maintain play therapy credentials and involvement in professional play therapy organizations
- 3b.** Consistently evaluate and adjust play therapy practices to meet state and discipline ethical guidelines and codes
- 3c.** Apply ongoing integration of APT's guidelines within the Best Practices and Paper on Touch
- 3d.** Recognize and adhere to the limits of professional scope of competence in play therapy
- 3e.** Seek and integrate play therapy-specific continued education, research, and literature
- 3f.** Seek and integrate play therapy-specific supervision and consultation
- 3g.** Practice self-care to maintain quality play therapy services
- 3h.** Seek and integrate ongoing knowledge regarding cultural and social diversity in play therapy

Instructions for Completion of Form A, Part 3:

Applicant must use the forms included in the SB-RPT™ Credentialing Application to document a minimum of **50 hours of play therapy supervision** with a Registered Play Therapist Supervisor™, concurrent to the play therapy experience documented in Part 2 of Form A.

- **Play Therapy Supervision:** The applicant is responsible for completing the top portion of Part 3, while the supervisor must complete and verify the bottom portion.
- **Play Therapy Competencies:** To be reviewed and discussed with applicant. Applicant should meet all competencies before application submission.
- **Supervisor Attestation:** To be completed by supervisor. This section serves as verification for the information documented on Form A. The supervisor must also verify that the required number of observations have been met and indicate their role in the relationship as either that of supervisor or consultant.
- **Applicants:** If necessary, make and distribute copies of this form to all applicable parties to be returned to you or to APT: 401 Clovis Ave., Suite 107, Clovis, CA 93612, Tel (559) 298-3400 / Fax (559) 298-3410.

Section 06 - Verification of Play Therapy Instruction

Applicants are required to complete 150 hour of play therapy specific instruction in five (5) primary areas, during the simultaneous or sequential completion of both play therapy experience and supervision.

Please review the training materials for each workshop and use your best clinical judgment to allocate hours across the various primary areas. Often, a single training will address multiple primary areas.

Table 6.1 – Play Therapy Primary Areas

Primary Areas	Minimum number of hours
1 - Play Therapy History	5
2 - Play Therapy Seminal or Historically Significant Theories At least 25 hours must be in one Seminal or Historically Significant Theory.	55
3 - Play Therapy Skills and Methods The hours earned in skills and methods should be based on seminal or historically significant theories studied.	50
4 - Play Therapy Special Topics Includes special populations and burgeoning models.	25
5 - Play Therapy Cultural and Social Diversity Topics Coursework must address global and/or specific concepts of diversity. See Terms .	6
Applicant's Choice The additional 9 hours may be earned in any of the categories listed above.	9
Total:	150

Although [Play Therapy Cultural and Social Diversity](#) is listed as a separate primary area, it may be covered a) in a stand-alone course/workshop or b) integrated within the other four (4) primary areas.

Seminal Theories and their Derivatives

In order to preserve and strengthen the credentialing program, APT wishes to distinguish seminal theories and historically significant theories that were derived from them, which have had a lasting impact and have stood the test of time, from newer theories or approaches that have emerged in more recent years and have not yet proven their significance, though they may at some point with more time and empirical evidence.

Play Therapy - Seminal Theories and Historically Significant Theories

APT recognizes the following three major branches as seminal theories to the field of play therapy: Cognitive-Behavioral, Humanistic, and Psychodynamic.

APT recognizes the following 10 historically significant theories to the field of play therapy:

1. Adlerian
2. Child-Centered
3. Cognitive-Behavioral
4. Developmental (Viola Brody)
5. Ecosystemic
6. Filial – although not a theory, this approach is historically significant.
7. Gestalt
8. Jungian
9. Object-Relations
10. Theraplay – although not a theory, this approach is historically significant.

To ensure instruction, clinical experience, and supervision are integrated:

- Instruction should be ongoing and in conjunction with (simultaneous or sequential) play therapy experience and supervision.
- Instructional hours must be accrued in a time period of no less than two (2) years and no more than ten (10) years.
- Applicant's play therapy coursework and trainings must demonstrate a well-rounded education in more than one play therapy seminal or historically significant theory.
- Both *Play Therapy Seminal or Historically Significant Theory* and *Play Therapy Cultural and Social Diversity* primary areas are integrated in the play therapy instruction and supervised experience requirements.
- Hours earned in skills and methods should be based on the theoretical model studied.
- A maximum of eight (8) hours of instruction per day will be accepted.
- Effective April 1, 2025, of the 150 hours of play therapy instruction, **a minimum of 75 hours must be met by contact** (in-person) training. The remaining 75 hours may be earned via contact or non-contact training. All webinars, including live webinars are counted as non-contact training. See [Terms](#) for definition of each.

Type of Training	Minimum Required	Maximum Allowed
Contact/in-person training	75	No maximum
Non-contact trainings (all webinars including live webinars)	No minimum	75

Play Therapy Graduate Coursework and Continuing Education

To meet this requirement, APT accepts:

1. Graduate coursework, specific to play therapy from accredited universities when the applicant is a matriculated student at the university. If applicant is not a matriculated student, hours are counted as continuing education. See **Table 6.2**.
2. Continuing education specific to play therapy from APT Approved Providers in good standing at the time of the CE workshop. See **Table 6.2**.
3. Please do not submit original certificates with your application. Instead, only provide copies of your certificates, as any original documents submitted will be permanently destroyed during the application processing and will not be returned.

Table 6.2 – Play Therapy Instruction

Graduate Coursework	Continuing Education from an APT Approved Provider
Each graduate course semester credit equals 22.5 hours of play therapy instruction.	One hour of instruction equals one clock hour.
Not more than 135 clock hours may be earned from the same instructor.	Not more than 100 clock hours may be earned from the same instructor.
A copy of course syllabus & transcript is required for all play therapy graduate courses you wish considered towards this requirement.	Completion certificate must display the sponsor's APT Approved Provider number (i.e., APT Approved Provider XX-XXX).

Items not eligible for instructional credit include but are not limited to:

1. Presentations and/or coursework taught or written by applicant.
2. Clock hours earned from graduate internships and practicum (may be included in **Section 04**).

The Association for Play Therapy (APT) reserves the right to require applicants to complete additional training specifically focused on play therapy if their submitted documentation does not demonstrate sufficient instruction in the five (5) core areas of study. These primary areas include: the history of play therapy, seminal or historically significant theories in play therapy, essential play therapy skills and methods, cultural and social diversity considerations in play therapy, and specialized topics relevant to the field. Applicants must ensure that their training comprehensively covers these areas to meet APT's play therapy instruction requirement.

Disclaimer:

The breakdown of hours was designed to serve as a guide and should not substitute the clinical judgment of the applicant or the applicant's supervisor. Should additional hours be deemed necessary in any or all of the three criteria due to observed deficiencies in competence, APT expects that the additional hours will be obtained and documented in the credentialing application.

While exceeding the minimum required hours in each criterion is encouraged, it is not mandatory, provided that applicants successfully document a minimum of 150 hours of play therapy education, 500 hours of direct play therapy experience, and 50 hours of simultaneous supervision.

Section 07 - Integration of Play Therapy Instruction, Experience and Supervision

APT believes in the importance of providing competent care to clients and ensuring that the SB-RPT™ credentials represent quality play therapy services by the holder. It is recommended that applicants obtain play therapy competency through the intentional integration of direct instruction (**Section 06**) followed by periods of application to clinical cases (**Section 04**) accompanied by supervision (**Section 05**).

Applicants must provide documentation on **Forms A and B**, included in the SB-RPT™ Credentialing Application, to verify that their play therapy instructional hours, clinical experience, and supervision hours:

- were completed within a time period of no less than two (2) years and no more than ten (10) years;
- covered the competency areas listed in **Section 05**;
- and all credentialing requirements have been obtained with the ten (10) years immediately preceding the date on which the application is received by APT.

Section 08 - Attestation by Applicant

As part of the credentialing application process, a comprehensive attestation is included to ensure applicants fully understand the requirements and responsibilities associated with their application. All applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully review the attestation prior to submitting their application to familiarize themselves with the terms, conditions, and obligations outlined therein.

By submitting an application to the Association for Play Therapy (APT), you acknowledge and accept full responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of all information provided. Additionally, you agree to adhere to the terms and conditions specified within the application, as well as the Credentialing Standards established by APT. Failure to provide truthful or complete information may result in delays, denial of the application, or other actions in accordance with APT policies.

Section 09 - Renewal of the SB-RPT™ Credential

To maintain an active credential, please adhere to the processes outlined below. It is important to note that credentialing renewal invoices and all other communications are primarily sent via email. Please make sure your member profile is updated and/or notify APT when changes occur.

APT expects all registrants to be aware of the credentialing standards and requirements of holding a credential from the Association for Play Therapy (APT).

All Individuals that hold the School Based-Registered Play Therapist™ credential must:

1. **Renew their credential annually.** Every 12 months you will receive an SB-RPT™ Renewal Notice at least 60 days prior to your renewal date. To maintain an active credential, a completed renewal form, signed attestation, and renewal fee must be submitted by your renewal date. APT will accept renewals up to two months early.
 - Save time and money by renewing your SB-RPT™ credential for three years. This option is only available for current APT members, at the time their CE is due (every 36-months).
2. **License Update.** All SB-RPT's are required to hold and maintain a current and active individual license/certification as a school counselor or school psychologist from the State Department of Education. It is the responsibility of all credentialed play therapists to ensure that current licensing information is updated annually (or when a state license is renewed), and that information is accurately reflected in their member profile. Non-members must submit documentation of license and all subsequent licensure renewals to info@a4pt.org.
3. **Play Therapy Continuing Education.** In addition to the annual requirements, all credentialed play therapists must also earn at least **24 clock hours** of postgraduate level play therapy CE every three-years, plus **3 clock hours** of DSM training. CE must be earned from accredited universities or APT Approved Providers, and must be presented by graduate-level instructors.
 - a. Of the **24** hours of play therapy CE:
 - (1) a minimum of **12 hours must be contact hours**, the additional 12 hours may be [non-contact hours](#) (which includes webinars), and
 - (2) two (2) hours must be in [cultural & social diversity](#) specific to play therapy.
 - b. Not more than **18 of the 24 hours** may be earned via one or more of these options:
 - (1) Provide play therapy specific, graduate-level instruction at an accredited university.
 - one (1) graduate credit of instruction equals three (3) clock hours of credit. **Limit nine (9) hours.**
 - (2) Provide play therapy postgraduate level continuing education sponsored by APT Approved Providers.
 - one (1) clock hour of instruction equals one (1) hour of credit. **Limit nine (9) hours.**
 - (3) Author a play therapy publication, article, or chapter.
 - 1-15 pages equal one (1) clock hour,
 - 16-50 pages equals three (3) clock hours,
 - 51-plus pages equals six (6) clock hours. **Limit 12 hours.**
 - c. Excess clock hours may not be transferred to the next 36-month CE cycle.
4. **DSM Continuing Education.** Earn **three (3) hours** of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) specific training (or diagnosis/psychopathology). These hours may be contact or non-contact.

Audit

APT conducts audits of no more than 10% of credentialed play therapists annually. If audited by APT, you must provide copies of transcripts from accredited universities or certificates from APT Approved Providers. APT reserves the right to:

- a. request copies of course syllabi or CE certificates,
- b. review and reject the sponsor, content, and presenter of any educational or CE program,
- c. require submittal of additional information to support a renewal application,
- d. obtain information independently or from third parties, including licensing agencies/boards, in review of renewal applications.