

Special Message: COVID-19 and the Attainment of Play Therapy Instruction

We hope you, your loved ones, and community are safe and well. As the impact of the Coronavirus continues to evolve, APT is continually monitoring its ramifications on our play therapy community. One topic we have consistently revisited is "live webinars" being classified as "non-contact training".

APT values online learning platforms as an adjunctive form of learning and believes that the bulk of play therapy education should be experienced in a live, in-person format that allows for face-to-face experiential exercises, group discussion, Q & A, and enlivening discussion. The 2020 revisions to the credentialing standards reflect this belief and were established to protect the integrity of the RPT and RPT-S credentials and uphold a high standard of care so the most competent professionals are caring for our most vulnerable populations.

With that being said, APT also values the needs of our members, registrants, Approved Providers and Centers, and those looking for contact training hours as they work toward meeting the credentialing requirements during these unusual times.

For those working on the attainment of instructional hours towards credentialing:

- Effective May 15, 2020 through August 31, 2020, APT Approved Providers may *temporarily* offer "contact" hours for online continuing education if the training meets all of the following conditions:

1. is offered via a synchronous telehealth format that has interactive capabilities to ensure full attendee presence and engagement throughout the duration of the training,
2. length of play therapy training is a minimum of two hours, one-hour workshops will not be accepted, is limited to 40 participants or less,
3. includes a post-test that reflects a level of engagement and skill acquisition appropriate for post graduate level continuing education instruction with multiple choice questions and limited true/false questions, and
4. includes the following statement on the certificate of attendance:

**Due to COVID-19 health concerns, this one-time online event has
been approved by APT for (# hrs) CONTACT CE Hours.**

Note: Approved Providers are welcome to continue offering non-contact training to groups larger than 40 and awarding non-contact play therapy hours in accordance with the Approved Provider Standards.

- Additionally, graduate play therapy courses fall under the "contact" hour format whether offered in-person or online. This is a longstanding policy held by APT that affords the student 22.5 hours of play therapy instruction for every semester credit. Play therapy instruction hours may be obtained via graduate play therapy courses when:
 1. the course is visible on a graduate transcript with a passing grade or is audited (see the RPT Credentialing [Standards](#) for additional information), and
 2. a copy of the syllabus is provided and demonstrates play therapy content throughout the description, learning objectives, required readings, and class assignments.

For those already credentialed:

APT understands that the impact of COVID-19 has affected the ability to obtain the necessary contact continuing education for renewal. As a response to the widespread closure of facilities, public health department advisories, and/or cancellation of play therapy contact training, any registrant with continuing education due **between March 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020**, may submit all non-contact training hours to fulfill the 18 hours of play therapy continuing education. Current registrants may also consider one of the two options included above to fulfill their 18-hour CE requirement.

APT believes these options will address the needs of our play therapy community while continuing to hold the high standards reflective of the RPT and RPT-S credentials. As we continue to monitor the COVID-19 state and federal orders regarding physical distancing, APT will make adjustments as are necessary or prudent.

We hope these actions demonstrate our continued commitment to our play therapy community, the field of play therapy, and the vulnerable populations served.