



Play Forward: Mentoring for Play Therapists Information Pack



WHY MENTORING?

Would you like:

- Guidance for your personal and professional development in the play therapy field from a seasoned play therapist?
- An opportunity to explore issues and concerns in a confidential and supportive relationship?
- Satisfaction of contributing and giving back to the play therapy field, while making a difference to someone else?
- A chance to enrich your interpersonal and leadership skills?

ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

Play Forward: Mentoring for Play Therapists aims to support the personal and professional development of the next generation of play therapists. This is achieved by pairing mentees with experienced mentors who can guide them on their professional journey. Mentors provide support and feedback for the mentee to achieve their developmental goals.

The mentor may help the mentee achieve or work toward personal or career goals, introduce the mentee to new ways of thinking, challenge a mentee's limiting assumptions, share valuable life lessons, and so much more.

Powered by





WHAT DO WE MEAN BY MENTORING?

mentor: (noun) an experienced and trusted adviser.

Mentorship is a developmental relationship in which one person, usually more experienced or senior, takes time to assist the career, professional or personal development of someone else, who is known as a mentee. Mentoring is most often a one-on-one relationship but is sometimes done in groups.

A mentoring relationship is one that is built on trust, in which there is an exchange of knowledge, experience, and goodwill.

Some examples of what our mentors may assist with:

- Act as a source of information and insight
- Suggest relevant options regarding career development or strategies for achieving professional goals
- Recommend possible resources to improve specific skills
- Help the mentee address professional challenges in their work life
- Discuss issues of professional ethics
- Discuss workplace related issues and options for how these may be addressed

WHY IS MENTORING IMPORTANT?

Participants in mentoring programs report a number of benefits from their participation: improved confidence, self-awareness, clearer career direction, better communication skills, listening skills, feedback skills, more assertive communication, and enhanced management skills.

The *Play Forward: Mentoring for Play Therapists* program is an important component for developing and sustaining satisfying professional careers for play therapists.

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

For mentees, some of the common benefits of mentoring include:

- Exploring issues and concerns in a supportive and confidential relationship
- Obtaining experienced guidance and support
- Learning from the experience of others
- Exploring your career development plan
- Receiving feedback and developmental guidance
- Networking and learning about effective networking

Powered by





Mentoring programs do not just benefit the mentees. Mentors find tremendous learning and development opportunities of their own. Some of the benefits that are frequently reported for mentors include:

- Contributing back to the profession, and gaining personal satisfaction by making a difference for someone else
- Learning and developing mentoring skills and enriching leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Gaining intellectual challenge by working on issues outside day-to-day experience
- Discover fresh perspectives that may assist with their own work
- Increasing profile and expanding professional networks

PROGRAM BOUNDARIES

This program is not about the mentor finding a job for the mentee or a guarantee of promotion. Mentoring is also not considered clinical supervision, and hours spent in this mentoring program will not be considered for Registered Play Therapist™ credential.

WHO CAN APPLY?

To join as a mentee, you must:

- Be an affiliate member or professional member (US or International) of APT
- Have been a member of APT for at least 2 years
- Have been in the field for 5 years or less

To join as a mentor, you must:

- Be a professional member (US or International) of APT
- Have been a member of APT for at least 10 years
- Have been in the field for at least 10 years
- Hold a current and active RPT™, RPT-S™, or SB-RPT™ credential

Both mentees and mentors must also be willing to complete the online training provided, review the support resources available and engage completely in the relationship process, connecting with your mentee/mentor at least monthly.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Mentees and mentors will be asked to complete a short application form to assess their eligibility for the program and to collect details about what they are looking for in a mentoring partner.

Powered by





Mentees will be asked questions about their background, and what they would like to achieve by working with a mentor. Mentors will be asked about the areas in which they feel comfortable mentoring. Please give as much information as you reasonably can as it will assist the matching process

Please submit your application by **Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 5:00pm** (PT) by completing the application on the mentoring platform here: <https://association-for-play-therapy.aomapps.com/play-forward-2024>

You will be advised if there is a suitable match by **Wednesday, April 3, 2024**.

Please note – a maximum of 80 individuals (40 pairs) will be accepted for the 2024 program.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

The *Play Forward: Mentoring for Play Therapists Mentoring Program* is an 8-month program, that runs April 2024 - November 2024.

Mentors and mentees will be matched according to application details and are ***required*** to attend three events; Program Launch, Progress Review, and Program Close, all of which will be delivered via Webinar.

During the program, mentors and mentees will be expected to be in contact with each other at least monthly.

Mentees and first-time mentors will also be expected to complete the Art of Mentoring online training module to prepare them for their mentoring relationship. Acceptance into the program is conditional upon your commitment to completion of the training.

The online mentoring platform will provide your mentoring partner's details, the option to communicate with the Program Manager, and access the training and resources.

During the program, you will receive frequent communications from the Program Manager, giving you helpful tips and information about mentoring and access to other relevant materials available for supporting mentees and mentors.

You will be invited to provide feedback about your experience, during and at the end of the program.

Powered by





TO WHAT AM I COMMITTING?

Activity	Time required
Training, reading and workshops	Up to 1/2 day in total
Preparation and time spent in mentoring conversations & follow-ups	1-2 hours per month
Program surveys	1/2 hour in total

KEY DATES & PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Getting Started	Applications Open	Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 9:00am (PST)
	Program Information Webinar*	Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 2:00pm (PST)
	Applications Close	Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 5:00pm (PST)
	Matches Notified	Wednesday, April 3, 2024
	Online Training	Self-Paced
	Program Launch Webinar	Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 9:00am (PST)
Clarifying Direction & Purpose	First Mentoring Meeting	Matches to schedule as soon as possible following program launch
Mutual Learning	Mentoring Meetings	Matches to schedule monthly meetings
	Mentee Progress Review Workshop Webinar	Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 11:00am (PST)
	Mentor Progress Review Workshop Webinar	Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 2:00pm (PST)
Winding Up & Moving On	Final Mentoring Meeting	Matches to schedule a final meeting prior to program close
	Program Close Webinar	Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 2:00pm (PST)

*Details to register for the Program Information Session are available on the APT website: <https://www.a4pt.org/page/MentorProgram>.

Matched mentees and mentors will receive invitations to register for program events.

Powered by





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

<i>How long will the mentoring program run?</i>	<i>Play Forward: Mentoring for Play Therapists</i> will run for 8 months, from April 2024 – November 2024.
<i>Who can participate in the program?</i>	Applicants must be members of the Association for Play Therapy and meet the program eligibility criteria.
<i>Is there a fee to participate?</i>	Mentors are volunteers and pay no fees. Mentees pay \$50.00 upon acceptance into the program (non-refundable).
<i>How many people can participate in the program?</i>	For the 2024 program, a maximum of 40 mentees will be matched with 40 mentors. Please complete your application as soon as possible if you wish to take part.
<i>How do I apply?</i>	Complete the online application by March 20, 2024, at 5:00 PM (PST): https://association-for-play-therapy.aomapps.com/play-forward-2024 The information you provide will help us ‘match’ the right mentee with the right mentor, based on experience, skills and what you both want to achieve from the program.
<i>When will I know if I’ve been matched, and if so, who I’ve been matched with?</i>	You will hear from us by April 3, 2024, as to whether you have been matched and the next steps to take.
<i>What will I have to do if my application is successful?</i>	If your application is successful, you will need to attend three events; Program Launch, Mid-Program Review and Program Close, all of which will be delivered via Webinars. Please see the key dates table. You will also be asked to complete the Art of Mentoring online training. The training will take 60 – 90 minutes and will help provide you with the knowledge and skills to have a successful mentoring relationship.

Powered by





It will be up to each pair to establish their own timetables for their one-on-one meetings, which should take place at least monthly throughout the program.

What if I am not matched?

We will endeavour to match all mentees that complete the application given we have a suitable mentor. Some mentors may not be matched if their expertise/ experience is not suitable for any applicants. If we don't have a suitable match for a mentor, we won't pair you for the sake of putting you in the program.

If a suitable match is not available, you may be able to apply or transfer for future programs.

Will discussions between mentees and mentors be confidential?

Absolutely! Great mentoring relationships are based first and foremost on trust. Your participation in the program is confidential and you will agree with your mentoring partner on how you will handle confidentiality between you.

Where can I access more information?

For additional information and program registration, please visit <https://association-for-play-therapy.aomapps.com/play-forward-2024> or <https://www.a4pt.org/page/MentorProgram>.

Questions may be directed to the Program Manager using the Contact Program Manager button on the mentoring platform, or email us directly at info@a4pt.org.

Powered by

