The Power of Play … and Animals:
Professional Applications of Animal Assisted Play Therapy™

We know the power of play and play therapy in helping children and families overcome a wide range of problems and enjoy satisfying lives. We also know that animals hold great interest for most children and many adults, and that animal assisted therapy is gaining in popularity and use. What if we put the two together? It is far more complicated than many people realize. To be ethical in practice and to maximize effectiveness, play therapists must develop competencies in several fields and acquire hands-on experience with the animals with whom they wish to work.

The competencies required and the types of training needed for therapists are included, along with resources for those wishing to practice Animal Assisted Play Therapy™ (AAPT). Videos will illustrate AAPT in action, and case studies will bring it to life. Demonstrations with dogs will provide an opportunity for play therapists to learn about relationship-building, socialization, training and other preparation with their animals. Strong emphasis will be placed on the role and importance of relationships in AAPT.

Learning objectives:

After the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Identify at least six competencies that professionals develop to conduct Animal Assisted Play Therapy™ well.
2. Explain at least three key factors in preparing an animal for Animal Assisted Play Therapy™ work.
3. Describe at least two reasons why therapists must learn animal body language fluently to ensure appropriate practice and risk management when conducting Animal Assisted Play Therapy™.
4. Identify at least three ways to develop, and help clients develop, mutually respectful, reciprocal relationships with therapy animals that relate to human relationships as well.
5. Explain what an AAPT therapist does when a child client becomes upset if the animal does not do what the client wants.
6. Describe two therapeutic advantages to working with therapy animals off-lead and in a natural environment during Animal Assisted Play Therapy™.
Risë VanFleet, PhD, RPT-S, CDBC is a licensed psychologist, registered play therapist-supervisor, and certified dog behavior consultant. Well-known for her 45 years of clinical and training work and dozens of books, chapters, and articles on play therapy and filial therapy, she conducted her first AAPT intervention 37 years ago with fish! During the past 17 years, she has been developing the field of AAPT as a systematic model of intervention. She is a cofounder of the International Institute for Animal Assisted Play Therapy® (IIAAPT), and coauthor of the internationally acclaimed book, Animal Assisted Play Therapy (which expands greatly on her 2008 award-winning book, Play Therapy with Kids & Canines). She runs the Playful Pooch Program as part of her practice, and oversees the training, supervision and certification programs relating to AAPT throughout the world.

Northwest Center for Play Therapy Studies

The Graduate School of Counseling at George Fox University is pleased to be the home of the Northwest Center for Play Therapy Studies (NWCPPTS), established in 2003. Under the direction of Dr. Daniel Sweeney, the NWCPPTS is the largest university-based center focused on the study and promotion of play therapy in the northwest United States.

nwplaytherapy.org

Continuing Education

The Northwest Center for Play Therapy Studies and George Fox University will offer 6.0 contact hours of Continuing Education (CE) for each workshop day.

The following approvals are available:

- National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)
- Association for Play Therapy (APT Approved Provider 03-134)
- National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

George Fox University/Northwest Center for Play Therapy Studies has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 4447. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. George Fox University/NW Center for Play Therapy Studies provides CE through the Association for Play Therapy (APT Approved Provider 03-134) and retains sole and ultimate responsibility for the quality, conduct of, and record-keeping for such programs. This program is approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 88-641347) for six (6) continuing education contact hours.

Conference Location

George Fox University – Portland Center
12753 S.W. 68th Ave.
Portland, OR 97223

Play Therapy Conference Registration

Name

Address

City __________ State _____ ZIP __________

Phone ___________________________

Email ___________________________

Fall Play Therapy Conference fee $139 (before Oct. 19, 2018)
Fall Play Therapy Conference fee $155 (after Oct. 19 or on-site, space permitting)
Student conference fee $99 (proof of full-time student status must be submitted)

Total enclosed* __________

Make check payable to: George Fox University

To register online with your credit card, please go to: nwplaytherapy.org

Or mail your check and this form to:
Northwest Center for Play Therapy Studies
George Fox University
12753 S.W. 68th Ave., P510
Portland, OR 97223

Email confirmation will be sent following receipt of registration.

For more information:
503-554-6104
playtherapy@georgefox.edu

*Cancellations must be received in writing seven days prior to the conference to receive a refund, and are subject to a $25 processing fee. No refunds will be made after Oct. 19, 2018. In the unlikely event of a workshop cancellation, the NWCPPTS is only responsible for a refund of the workshop fee.