

## Program Criteria Overview

This chart summarizes the criteria that applicants must satisfy to earn the Registered Play Therapist (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 in a three-phase approach. See **Section 06** for additional information on the integration of these criteria.

Section	Credentialing Criteria						
01 - License	Required to hold a current, active, and unconditional individual state license to independently provide clinical mental health services in one of the following general practice disciplines: counseling, marriage and family therapy, psychiatry, psychology, or social work.						
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; <b>cultural &amp; social diversity</b> ; and ethics.						
03 - Play Therapy Instruction	<div>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 seven (7) years from institutions of higher education or APT Approved Providers. A maximum of fifty (50) non-contact hours may be included. See Terms for definition of non-contact.</div> <table><tr><td>Phase 1-Instruction</td><td>Phase 2-Instruction</td><td>Phase 3-Instruction</td></tr><tr><td>Document 35-55 hours</td><td>Document 55-70 hours</td><td>Document 45-60 hours</td></tr></table> <div>See <b>Section 03</b> for primary areas that must be covered within each phase.</div>	Phase 1-Instruction	Phase 2-Instruction	Phase 3-Instruction	Document 35-55 hours	Document 55-70 hours	Document 45-60 hours
Phase 1-Instruction	Phase 2-Instruction	Phase 3-Instruction					
Document 35-55 hours	Document 55-70 hours	Document 45-60 hours					
04 - Supervised Play Therapy Experience	<div>Required to include documentation of a minimum of 350 direct client contact hours, under the supervision of a Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor (RPT-S).</div> <table><tr><td>Phase 1-Experience</td><td>Phase 2-Experience</td><td>Phase 3-Experience</td></tr><tr><td>Document 50-75 hours</td><td>Document 100-150 hours</td><td>Document 100-175 hours</td></tr></table> <div>See <b>Section 04</b> for additional information on the appropriate acquisition of play therapy experience.</div>	Phase 1-Experience	Phase 2-Experience	Phase 3-Experience	Document 50-75 hours	Document 100-150 hours	Document 100-175 hours
Phase 1-Experience	Phase 2-Experience	Phase 3-Experience					
Document 50-75 hours	Document 100-150 hours	Document 100-175 hours					
05 - Play Therapy Supervision	<div>Required to include documentation of a minimum of 35 hours of play therapy supervision and <b>five (5) session observations</b> during the accumulation of the supervised play therapy experience.</div> <table><tr><td>Phase 1-Supervision</td><td>Phase 2-Supervision</td><td>Phase 3-Supervision</td></tr><tr><td>Document 5-10 hours and supervisor must view/observe at least 1 session.</td><td>Document 10-15 hours and supervisor must view/observe at least 2 sessions.</td><td>Document 10-20 hours and supervisor must view/observe at least 2 sessions.</td></tr></table> <div>See <b>Section 05</b> for additional information on supervision guidelines.</div>	Phase 1-Supervision	Phase 2-Supervision	Phase 3-Supervision	Document 5-10 hours and supervisor must view/observe at least 1 session.	Document 10-15 hours and supervisor must view/observe at least 2 sessions.	Document 10-20 hours and supervisor must view/observe at least 2 sessions.
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