

PLAY THERAPY

The Play Therapy Certificate offers graduate students (those in M.A. Counseling, M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy, and MSW programs) and mental health professionals the curriculum they need to meet the Association of Play Therapy's educational instruction requirements to become a Registered Play Therapist. This certificate offers courses that most mental health professionals do not receive in their degree programs. It prepares emerging and established professionals with the education they will need to serve younger generations competently.

Program Outcomes

Graduates of the Certificate in Play Therapy will:

- Apply play therapy theories and approaches to clinical practice.
- Demonstrate proficiency in play therapy assessment and techniques.
- Apply ethical principles and ethical decision making to play therapy assessment and practice.
- Develop sensitivity to cultural, religious, and spiritual diversity throughout the play therapy process.

Program in Play Therapy

Certificate:

Certificate in Play Therapy (<https://catalog.bethel.edu/academic-programs/college-of-health-sciences/graduate-programs/play-therapy/play-therapy-certificate/>)

PLTH 700 • Introduction to Play Therapy and Techniques 3 Credits

Exploration of the essential elements and principles of play therapy including history and ethics. Examination of play therapy theories and approaches. Application of techniques and skills to various challenges faced by children and adolescents.

PLTH 705 • Child and Family Play Therapy Assessment 2 Credits

Examines child development and play, applying assessment techniques with children, adolescents, and families. Analyzes play-based themes and metaphors, considers ethical, spiritual, and cultural factors, and conducts the full intake process, including diagnostic interviewing, developmental and family assessments, and treatment planning.

Special Notes: PLTH 700 is a recommended prerequisite.

PLTH 710 • Foundational Play Therapy 2 Credits

Applies foundational play therapy theories and techniques with children and families. Analyzes themes from their use, explains their rationale, and considers ethical, spiritual, and cultural factors. Reflects on personal biases and adapts approaches to support diverse and underserved populations.

Special Notes: PLTH 700 is a recommended prerequisite.

PLTH 715 • Non-Directive Play Therapy Theories and Techniques 2 Credits

Demonstration of knowledge of non-directive play therapy theories and techniques. Articulation of rationale, analysis of themes from application, and exploration of ethical, spiritual, and cultural considerations. Application of techniques and reflection on personal biases when working with diverse and underserved populations.

Special Notes: PLTH 700 is a recommended prerequisite.

PLTH 725 • Trauma and Play Therapy 1 Credit

Exploration of the Neurobiology of trauma and the impact of trauma on children and their play. Examination of the philosophy of therapeutic play with traumatized children. Play Therapy strategies and approaches in therapeutic work with children. Application of play therapy strategies and techniques into therapeutic work with children and families.

Special Notes: PLTH 700 is a recommended prerequisite.

Play Therapy 2

PLTH 730 • Introduction to Sandtray 1 Credit

Exploration of the philosophy and principles of Sandtray. Examination of Sandtray strategies and approaches in therapeutic work. Application of Sandtray into therapeutic work with children, adolescents, and families.

Special Notes: PLTH 700 is a recommended prerequisite.

PLTH 735 • Attachment-Based Approaches in Play Therapy 1 Credit

Exploration of the philosophy and principles of Attachment-Based Approaches. Examination of Attachment-Based Techniques. Application of techniques and strategies of Attachment-based approaches into therapeutic work.

Special Notes: PLTH 700 is a recommended prerequisite.