School Based-Registered Play Therapist

The new credential for School Counselors

Dr. Mary Fry, PhD, LCPC, RPT-S
Use of Play Therapy in the Schools

• Individual Counseling
• Group Counseling
• Experiential Activities for Classroom Lessons
Difference Between Counseling & Therapy

Counseling

• Use counseling skills
• Based on counseling theory
• Meets the social or emotional needs of individuals or groups of individuals

Therapy

Same as counseling but -
• More in-depth
• Informed consent with parent
• Regularly scheduled sessions for more than 4-6 times

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Is Play Therapy Appropriate in Schools

• Play is child’s language
• Play can build trust and rapport with counselor
• Play can decrease anxiety
• Use of play can teach social skills
• Play prepares child for real world
New Credentials

• Master’s Degree or mental health degree
  – Child Development
  – Theories of Personality
  – Principles of psychotherapy
  – Child & Adolescent Psychopathology
  – Ethics
Clinical Experience

• General Clinical Experience required by State Department of Education School Counselor or School Psychologist license/certification

• 2 years of continuous work in school setting post licensure/certification
Play Therapy Training

• 150 ceu hours of play therapy specific instruction from institutions of higher education or APT-Approved Providers (limit 50 non-contact hours)
Supervision

• Supervision by an RPT-S for a period of no less than 1 school year
• Documentation of a minimum of 600 direct client hours utilizing play therapy plus 50 hours of concurrent supervision (no more than 25 in group)
• Must be completed during or after the applicant earned his/her Master’s Degree
Renewal

- Annual: Current and active state license or certificate
- CE cycle (every 36 months): 18 hours of play therapy specific instruction from institutions of higher education or APT Approved Providers.
- 3 hours of DSM specific training (or diagnosis/psychopathology)
More information

QUESTIONS?