



British Association of Play Therapists

Preparing to Become a BAPT Approved Supervisor[®]

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British Association of Play Therapists
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Why become a BAPT Approved Supervisor[®]?

Becoming a clinical supervisor should be a natural career progression for a BAPT Registered Play Therapist[®]. It can feel daunting to think about, as in this line of work we rely on the guidance of our very own * “Yoda’s”, wise Play Therapists that support our difficult dilemmas and help us to make sense of the work that children do in the playroom. The guiding light that ensures we look after our own wellbeing, reflect with us on the struggles children face in systems that are often not child sensitive.

“That couldn’t be us, could it? We don’t have enough knowledge or experience to supervise other play therapists.” This is often the reason cited to not become a supervisor.

Play Therapists are often introverts who prefer to work quietly in the background. But ask any Play Therapist to talk about their work and they become animated and enthusiastic with insightful reflections and a deep passion for their work and the work of children. Children are our surprise teachers and throughout this work we learn every day the remarkable healing power of Play Therapy.

If you have been qualified for longer than 3 years with over 300 hours of supervised play therapy work as a full BAPT member, think about becoming a BAPT Approved Supervisor[®] for the following reasons:

1. A retirement income plan when you are unable to hide under tables in a play therapy session. (A sad fact but realistic)
2. Supervisors are in high demand all over the UK.
3. With three MSc courses in Play Therapy, students can only be supervised by BAPT Approved Supervisors[®]
4. Supervising students is highly rewarding as you will be shaping play therapists of the future.
5. You will continue to expand on your knowledge and experience from regularly hearing other Play Therapists process.
6. The pay can be from £50 to £115 an hour depending on your experience and where/how you are working.
7. Supervision is a professional scaffold support system that keeps Play Therapy ethical in protecting children, families, play therapists and supervisors.
8. You have the skills, knowledge, and experience, now is the time to have confidence in them.
9. There are opportunities to work face to face and online.
10. You can set your own timetable, work as little or as much as you wish.

**Yoda is a Star Wars™ reference to a wise master*

What do you need to do?

Reflect on your potential supervision skills.

- Chat to your own supervisor about becoming a supervisor, they will have lots of advice to offer. Does it feel comfortable talking about it?
- Be involved in group supervision or Play Therapy forums, offer to talk about cases and listen to others talking about theirs. How does it feel when you are reflecting on other Play Therapist's work?
- Do less experienced Play Therapists seek you out to chat about cases? Do you enjoy this? What works well?
- Do you talk to other people about Play Therapy such as Social Workers, Education Staff, Health Staff, Children's Panel? Which aspect of this do you enjoy or challenging?
- Do you work in multi-disciplinary teams? Consider your role in these teams what gives you confidence, what do you feel you need to know more about?
- Engage in peer support/supervision groups.

Clinical Supervision Training

It is highly recommended that you enrol in a clinical supervision course. At the present time we do not recommend a particular course although there is a BAPT Approved course. Any course that will cover the basics of setting up Clinical Supervision practice will be of great benefit and is an investment in your future.

In the future BAPT are looking to develop a specific Clinical supervision specific to the dynamic of working with children and young people. This will need suitably qualified experienced supervisors so this will be another opportunity for work.

Supervision courses range in price from £500 to £1500 depending on what you choose so balance this against future employment /self-employed opportunities.

BAPT Documents that are useful to read and be familiar with:

BAPT Guidance for Clinical Supervisors
BAPT Supervisor Policy
BAPT Ethical Basis for Good Practice in Play Therapy
BAPT Play Therapy Core Competencies
BAPT Equal Opportunities Statement and Policy
BAPT Professional Conduct Procedure and Policy 2014

Most important download and read is the BAPT Approved Supervisor Application Form

Good preparation reading material

Play Therapy Supervision: A Practical Guide to Models and Best Practices
by Staci L. Born and Casey E. Baker 2022

Techniques and Interventions for Play Therapy and Clinical Supervision Hardcover –
2020
by Laura Jean Fazio-Griffith (Editor), Reshelle Marino (Editor)

Supervision Can Be Playful: Techniques for Child and Play Therapist Supervisors
by Athena Drewes, Eliana Gil, et al. 2023

Becoming and Being a Play Therapist: Play Therapy in Practice
by PETER AYLING 2019

Creative Supervision: The Use of Expressive Arts Methods in Supervision and Self-
Supervision (Arts Therapies) by Mooli Lahad Aug 2000

Practical Supervision: How to Become a Supervisor for the Helping Professions
by Penny Henderson , Jim Holloway , et al. 2014

We look forward to hearing from you.

Any questions please email supervisors@bapt.uk.com

