



Schedule

Registration: 8:00am-8:45am

Welcome: 8:45am-9:00am

Workshop: 9:00am-12:00pm (15min break)

Lunch (on your own): 12:00pm-1:00pm

Workshop: 1:00pm-4:00pm (15min break)

WVAPT Business Meeting: Time TBD *all are welcome to attend*

Pricing	Student	WVAPT Member	Non-Member
Early Bird Price Before 9/5/25	\$100 1 Day	\$105 1 Day	\$125 1 Day
	\$125.00 2 Days	\$170 2 Days	\$200 2Days
Regular Price After 9/5/25	\$100 1 Day	\$130 1 Day	\$150 1 Day
	\$125.00 2 Days	\$220.00 2 Days	\$250 2Days
Students must provide proof of enrollment			

12 Contact APT hours
APT Approved Provider 99-078



Please join WVAPT for the following workshops:

Day 1, presented by Liana Lowenstein, MSW, RSW, CPT-S

Creative Play Therapy Interventions for Children with ADHD (Morning)
&
Creative Play Therapy Interventions for Bereaved Children and Teens (Afternoon)



Day 2, presented by Katrina Jefferson, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S, CTT & Shikeal Harris, MSW, MBA, LGSW

Play Therapy: Ethical Practice in Supporting Children and Families through Grief and Loss (Morning)
&
Play Therapy, ADHD, and the Brain: Integrating Neuroscience into Therapeutic Practice (Afternoon)



WV ASSOCIATION FOR PLAY THERAPY ANNUAL CONFERENCE



In Person at:

**Hilton Garden Inn
65 Priority Dr.
Martinsburg, WV 25403**

**September 26th & 27th
2025**

Register Now!

wva4pt.org

***reduced rates for lodging available until 9/5/25**



Creative Play Therapy Interventions for Bereaved Children and Teens

Description

The use of play therapy interventions creates an engaging context for addressing the unique needs of children and teens who are grieving. Join award-winning author and international speaker Liana Lowenstein, as she equips you with the knowledge and tools needed to work effectively with children and teens who are grieving the death of someone significant in their life. You will learn up-to-date grief theory, an innovative assessment model, and a variety of creative play therapy techniques to help children and teens impacted by drug overdose, suicide, homicide, mass violence, line-of-duty casualties, natural disaster, serious illness, and other types of loss.

Learning Objectives

1. Explain key concepts such as disenfranchised grief, suffocated grief, and the Tiered Model of bereavement services.
2. Implement an innovative play-based model for assessing bereaved children.
3. Apply a variety of play therapy activities to help children and teens impacted by drug overdose, suicide, homicide, mass violence, line-of-duty casualties, natural disaster, serious illness, and other types of loss.

Creative Play Therapy Interventions for Children with ADHD

Description

ADHD is one of the most prevalent disorders diagnosed in children. While there are many different approaches to treating children with ADHD, directive play therapy interventions help to remediate the skills deficits such as short attention span, impulsivity, and hyperactivity. This training will highlight the diagnostic features of ADHD, and will present practical and effective play therapy interventions to help children aged 4-12 improve impulse control; Increase attention and focus; slow down the mind and body; identify constructive ways to use energy; utilize strategies to shift from one activity to the next. Interventions will also be presented for use by parents and teachers to increase positive behavior at home and school. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn new and creative approaches to help get children motivated, focused, organized, and performing closer to their true potential.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify the diagnostic features of ADHD.
2. Identify at least 3 interventions that parents and teachers can use to increase positive behaviors.
3. Identify at least 5 play therapy techniques to help children manage impulsivity and increase attention and focus.

Play Therapy: Ethical Practice in Supporting Children and Families through Grief and Loss

Description

Play therapy is a developmentally sensitive therapeutic modality that utilizes play as a medium for children to express, explore, and resolve emotional conflicts. This presentation focuses on the ethical application of play therapy when supporting children and families experiencing grief and loss. Participants will gain an understanding of grief responses in children, ethical responsibilities in therapeutic relationships, and culturally responsive strategies for supporting families through bereavement.

Learning Objectives

1. Define the theoretical foundations and purpose of play therapy in clinical practice.
2. Explain how grief and loss manifest in children across developmental stages and implications for play therapy.
3. Identify at least three ethical considerations when implementing play therapy with grieving children and their families.
4. Demonstrate understanding of two or more evidence-based play therapy techniques for bereavement support.
5. Apply culturally and ethically appropriate interventions in case scenarios involving play therapy interventions for family grief or loss.

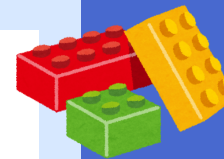
Play Therapy, ADHD, and the Brain: Integrating Neuroscience into Therapeutic Practice

Description

This presentation explores the integration of neuroscience with play therapy in addressing Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in children. Drawing from current brain-based research, it examines how therapeutic play supports neuroplasticity, self-regulation, and executive function in children with ADHD. Attendees will learn how to select developmentally appropriate play-based interventions grounded in brain science, and how to apply ethical and culturally responsive practices when working with neurodiverse children and their families.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the neurological underpinnings of ADHD, including brain regions associated with attention, impulse control, and emotional regulation and implications for play therapy.
2. Explain how play therapy promotes neuroplasticity and executive functioning in children with ADHD.
3. Identify at least three neuroscience-informed play therapy interventions for use with children diagnosed with ADHD.
4. Apply ethical and culturally responsive principles in the delivery of neurodevelopmentally appropriate play therapy.
5. Evaluate play therapy goals using brain-based outcomes related to emotional regulation and behavioral change.



Liana Lowenstein, MSW, RSW, CPT-S

Liana Lowenstein, MSW, RSW, CPT-S, is a Registered Social Worker, Certified Play Therapist-Supervisor, and Certified TF-CBT Therapist who has been working with children and their families in Toronto since 1988. She is a dynamic speaker who has provided trainings throughout North America and abroad, including China, South Africa, Israel, England, New Zealand, Australia, and Slovenia. She is winner of the Monica Herbert award for outstanding contribution to play therapy in Canada.



Katrina Jefferson, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S, CTT

Katrina is a certified trauma therapist and owner of PeaceTree Center for Wellness. In addition to trauma therapy, she is a Registered Play Therapist Supervisor and Licensed Certified Social Worker. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Marshall University and her Master of Social Work degree from WVU. She provides therapy for adults, children, adolescents, and families. With over 25 years of experience she has worked with many public and formal systems providing services to children and families across the state.



Shikeal Harris, MSW, MBA, LGSW

Shikeal is an Assistant Professor and the assistant MSW program director in the Department of Social Work at Marshall University, where he serves as the admissions and recruitment coordinator. He has nearly a decade of direct practice experience in child welfare, behavioral health, and substance use treatment. He practices Play Therapy with diverse populations within the community at the MU Interdisciplinary Behavioral Health Center. He holds a BSW and MSW from Marshall University, along with an MBA from Northern Kentucky University. He is a Licensed Graduate Social Worker currently working towards his LICSW, RPT and pursuing a Doctorate in Social Work at the University of Alabama.

