

Newsletter *txapt*

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TAPT CONFERENCE. Our own state conference will take place in Austin, TX and be here before you know it. Mark your calendars for April 20th-22nd. Julie Merriman is our Conference Chair. She is working hard to ensure 2012 is the best conference yet. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you in Austin.

Read full article page 3

What an exciting time to be a play therapist. Recent findings in neuroscience continue to validate the efficacy of play therapy.

Read full article below

President's Message



Dear Fellow Play Therapists,

What an exciting time to be a play therapist. Recent findings in neuroscience continue to validate the efficacy of play therapy. The relationship between therapist and child, the right brain to right-brain connection, and the natural

language of play, combine to promote a powerful healing force. Yes, we as play therapists know play therapy works, but now we have further substantiation for our left-brain sensibilities. I am struck by the resiliency of children when given the opportunity to be and play in the presence of an attuned play therapist. They are able to communicate much of their inner life without uttering a word. In writing this I am humbled by the knowledge that you all understand and experience the power of play, and how this awareness motivates you to continue in the work of play therapy. I am so grateful to be part of a community that strives to make the world a better place for children.

TAPT continues to move forward. One of our recent accomplishments is our new Facebook page and Twitter account. The development of our increased on-line presence marks ongoing changes in our commitment to communicate with mental health practitioners and those interested in best therapy practices for children.

You can access our Facebook page: **TXAPT Facebook** Please click, like, and subscribe to the RSS feed to receive updates via e:mail and SMS to receive updates on your mobile phone.



You can access TAPT Twitter at: **TXAPT Twitter.**

Thank you to our Technology Committee chairs Mackinzie Myer and Brenda Hammer for your work in getting these pages up and running. ■

✉ Patti Doumany,
MEd, LPC-S, RPT-S
President, TAPT
president@txapt.org

2011 APT CONFERENCE Huge Success...



*Toast to International Colleagues in Play Therapy
Facebook Page*

The APT conference in Sacramento, California was a huge success. It was wonderful seeing so many Texans represented in what I can only call a huge circle of care. Care for children, care for learning best practices, and care and support for your fellow colleagues.

Attending the APT board meeting increased my awareness of the vast amount of resources available to you through National, State and Local membership. Among the plethora of opportunities are education, leadership, research, and training. You can apply for credentialing, learn about upcoming conferences and workshops, take advantage of the e-learning center, receive the Play Therapy Magazine and International Journal of Play Therapy, and receive email blasts, mining reports, and network with peers.

I recently located these two resource gems.

*John Allen
receives lifetime
achievement award at APT
conference in Sacramento.*

*Garry Landreth,
Tammi Van Hollander,
David Crenshaw
and Joyce Mills*

*John Allen and
Lessie Perry*

Play Therapy Works:

A short YouTube presentation on Play Therapy. You can show it to parents, colleagues, or university students.



Click to view:
Play Therapy Works!

Paper on Touch:

Touch is a powerful form of communication, which can either promote or impede healing. Learn more about touch.



Click to view.
Paper on Touch
(PDF)

Have you read Best Practices in Play Therapy?

Best Practices in Play Therapy is a guideline for play therapists. Sections include, The Therapeutic Relationship, Parents and Family, Confidentiality, Professional Responsibility, Relationships with Other Professionals, Evaluation, Assessment, and Interpretation, Teaching, Training, and Supervision, and Research and Publication.

To read click here:
Play Therapy
Best Practices



Play Therapy works!
Thanks for the work you
do in promoting play
therapy for children. ■



All the best,



Patti Doumany,
MEd, LPC-S, RPT-S
President, TAPT
president@txapt.org

"A Playground for Hope and Healing"

2012 TAPT Annual Conference April, 20-22, 2012
Omni Southpark, Austin Texas

Omni Southpark, Austin Texas • Omnihotels.com Rooms: \$119 • Visit txapt.org for complete details

Be sure to reserve your spot at the 2012 TAPT Conference. There will be a nice selection of breakout sessions on Saturday with topics as varied as Neurobiology in Play Therapy to Dealing with Complicated Divorces with Play Therapy. There will surely be something for every play therapist at every level. You will want to plan to attend the Conference Reception and join an Austin TAPT member for dinner at a local restaurant. This is your time to playfully connect with other play therapists!



Keynote Speaker:
Sueann Kenney-Noziska

Keynote Topic:
Topic Title:
There's a Nightmare in My Closet: Play Therapy Techniques for Abuse & Trauma.

Sueann Kenney-Noziska is a Licensed Independent Social Worker and Registered Play Therapist Supervisor specializing in using play therapy in clinical practice with children, adolescents,

and their families. As part of her clinical work, she provides outpatient psychotherapy to children and adolescents who have been impacted by abuse and trauma.

In addition, Sueann provides case consultation as well as clinical and play therapy supervision. She is an author, instructor of play therapy, guest lecturer, and internationally recognized speaker on the topic of play therapy. Sueann is author of the book "Techniques - Techniques - Techniques: Play-Based Activities for Children, Adolescents, & Families", a manual which highlights the original play therapy interventions she has contributed to the field.

Sueann is known as a dynamic, engaging presenter with a reputation for providing practical and clinically useful play therapy interventions. She is President of Play Therapy Corner, Incorporated, an organization dedicated to supporting and facilitating professional development for counseling and mental health professionals who use play therapy in their clinical practice. Sueann is actively involved in the play therapy community and serves on the Executive Board of Directors for the California Association for Play Therapy.

She received her Bachelors of Psychology with honors from the University of South Dakota (1993), Masters of Social Work from San Diego State University (1998), and a Specialized Certificate in Play Therapy from the University of California San Diego (2001). Sueann has several original play therapy interventions referenced in different publications.



Keynote Closing Speaker and Sunday Supervision Presenter:
Dr. Sue Bratton

Sue Bratton, Ph.D., LPC, RPT-S is Director of the Center for Play Therapy and Associate Professor at The University of North Texas. She is a Past President of the Association for Play Therapy and has served on the APT Board of Directors for 6 years.

Dr. Bratton is a respected lecturer, author, researcher, and clinician with 20 years experience in individual and group play therapy, activity therapy, and filial/family play therapy. She is known nationally and internationally for her training workshops and presentations and has presented extensively throughout the United States and in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, England, Ireland, Mexico, Korea, and Canada.

Dr. Bratton has also served as a consultant to school districts throughout the United States and guest lectured at several universities. She is active in the professional community, both at the state and national committee level and has published at the state and national level on a variety of topics related to play therapy, filial/family play therapy, activity therapy, expressive arts, play therapy supervision, and play therapy research. She is probably best known for her publications based on her meta-analysis of play therapy outcome research.

Dr. Bratton is also co-author of Child Parent Relationship Therapy (CPRT): A 10-Session Filial Therapy Model, and the accompanying CPRT Treatment Manual and CD-Rom and The World of Play Therapy Literature. Dr. Bratton has also been recognized for her professional contributions including recipient of the 2006 University of North Texas President's Council Outstanding Teacher Award and the 2007 National Play Therapy Research Award for her treatment protocol and research on Child Parent Relationship Therapy (CPRT).

Texas Association for Play Therapy Chapter News

Alamo Chapter



The Alamo Chapter meets in February, April, June, October, and December on the second Monday of the month. The business meeting begins at 6:30 followed by a presentation for 2 hours of CEUs.

Meetings are held at the Jewish Community Center at the corner of N.W. Military Highway and Wurzbach Parkway in San Antonio.

Coastal Bend Chapter



The Coastal Bend Chapter is proud to participate in the Family Outreach of Corpus Christi's Annual Legacy Run for the second year! Family Outreach is a local agency that provides counseling services to local

individuals and families and works very hard to end child abuse in the Coastal Bend. Chapter members will be at the run early Saturday morning to greet participants with a smile and hand out medals to families who participate together.

Due to unforeseen complications, we had to reschedule our Fall Retreat this year. We are in the process of working on a date in early 2012, but still plan to have our annual Membership Drive where local therapists can earn continuing education hours and secure annual membership for an extremely discounted rate! Last year, we were able to offer 3 hours of CEU credit plus annual membership for only \$30!

Future Presentations:

- Amanda Foy is scheduled to present on Ethics at the October 2011 meeting.
- CBC-TAPT plans to pair with the local Marriage and Family Therapy group for our annual December collaborative training.
- Risk Gaskill will be presenting at our - rescheduled - 2011 Retreat - new date To Be Announced.

Other:

We are also in the planning stages for our Spring Training and securing speakers for

regular monthly meetings during 2012.

The Coastal Bend Chapter meets at noon on the fourth Wednesday, every other month, at the First Baptist Church on Ocean Drive. We offer one free CEU at each meeting for members, and annual membership is only \$20! We continue to see many TAMU-CC students in attendance at the monthly meetings, in addition to licensed professionals from the area. Saturday trainings and retreats routinely bring in attendees from our surrounding areas. We encourage all of our chapter members to also become members of APT so that they can enjoy the wonderful benefits including journals, magazines and discounts on training and supplies.



Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/cbctapt or join our mailing list by emailing cbctapt@yahoo.com! We are looking forward to a wonderful new year of learning, playing and helping children and families reach their full potential!

Current Officers:

Current President:

Laura Blomgren, MS, LPC-Intern

President-Elect:

Vacant

Past-President Coastal:

Angela Baxley, MS, CSC, LPC-Intern

Secretary:

Ludi Montemayor, MS

Treasurer:

Lori Fredrickson, MS, LPC, RPT

Member at Large:

Paula Rosenstein, Ph.D., LCSW

Student at Large:

Vacant

Chapter Director:

Amanda Foy, MA, LPC, LSSP

Far West Chapter



Quarterly presentations / membership meetings are held at St. Clement's Church in El Paso. Quarterly presentations / membership meetings: September, December,

March, and June. Elections for officers are held during the September presentation / membership meeting.

Hill Country Chapter



Hill Country Chapter meets monthly on the 2nd Friday of the month at the Austin Child Guidance Center. Membership meeting is 11:30 to 12:00 with presenta-

tion from 12 to 1 pm were 1 CEU can be earned.

We hold an Annual Winter Retreat at Rocky River Ranch in Wimberly, TX. During the retreat you can earn 6 CEU's. This year's date is set for Jan 27 and 28, 2011.

The title is "Harnessing the Creativity and the Power of Play Therapy."

Dr. Joey Achacoso is our featured presenter on Friday evening. He will do a presentation for us on "Creativity and Movement in Family Play Therapy" on Friday night. Our featured speaker for Saturday is Dr. Linda Homeyer.

Join us for this wonderful event. Cost is \$130 dollars and includes, overnight stay, three meals, snacks, 6 CEU's, and membership in HHC-TAPT.

Check out our website for more information. www.austinplaytherapy.com



North Texas Chapter



Officers and contact information:

President:

Connie B Moulder
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Treasurer:

Carol Wolfe
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Secretary/Webmaster:

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Chapter Representative:

Yulia Pronchenko
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Member at Large:

Shab Behzad
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Nominations & Elections Committee:

Darlene Vanchura, MA, LPC-S
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John Clark, M.Ed., CSC, LPC, RPT
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Kay McDonlad, LPC
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Continuing Education Coordinator:

Dr. Brandy R. Schumann,
PhD, LPC-S, RPT-S, NCC
brandyschumann@hotmail.com

Future presentations:

November 18, 2011:
Kristin S. Fuhrmann, MEd, LPC, RPT
"Play Therapy with Children
in the Medical Setting"

December 10, 2011 – N/A

January 13, 2012 (Friday)- Jane Avila

Winter Workshops:

February 11, 2012:
Jennifer Baggerly
"A Knife to Mom's Throat:
Trauma Informed Play Therapy." (3 hrs)
Jennifer Ware, M.Ed., LPC &
Dalena Dillman Taylor
- Ethical Considerations
in Group Play Therapy -.

March 10, 2012:

Julie Merriman,

PHD, LPC-S, NCC, RPT-S
"Expressive Arts in Play Therapy"

May 12, 2012:

Jenny Gomez, LPC-S, RPT-S and
Jennifer Jenkins,
M.S., LPC-S, NCC, RPT-S
- Play Therapy with Divorced Families -.

Comments:

We are aspiring to provide CE presentations every month except for the month of April because of the state conference. Based on the results of the membership survey, we will provide two meetings on Fridays rather than Saturdays this year. Therefore, we are hoping to accommodate members who expressed difficulty attending Saturday meetings. Our CEU coordinator, Brandy Schuman, is working hard on checking the requirements for being CEU provider for social workers, psychologists, and other credential organizations that our members have listed.

We are trying to expand our chapter and membership. In July, Connie Moulder set up a table at the Center for Play Therapy Summer Institute to promote our chapter and recruit new members. We are also planning to pass out information on North Texas Chapter during Center for Play Therapy Fall conference on November 4th, 2011.

Rio Grande Valley Chapter



Meetings and trainings are offered quarterly. For more information email

rgvc_of_tapt@yahoo.com or visit our website at rgvctapt.bbnow.org

Sam Houston Chapter



The Sam Houston Chapter (SHAPT) began our new year with our Annual Dinner Meeting. This annual meeting gives us a chance to renew our relationships with one another, network with new colleagues and practice our commitment to being lifelong learners and dedicated professionals interested in the practice of play therapy.



This year's meeting was held on Aug. 26 at Foundry Church. Tom Stevens, M.A., LPC, RPT and Past-President of SHAPT presented on "Engaging Parents in the Play Therapy Process". We learned many tips for helping parents maintain the counseling relationship for their children. Thanks, Tom, for the great kick-off to our new year!

On September 17, we hosted a meeting at Trader's Village entitled "Building Your Playroom". Attendees met prior to the meeting to begin discussing the fundamentals of selecting toys for the playroom. Then we walked through many booths looking for new treasures for our playrooms. Along the way, we discussed the many ways that we would use our new finds and processed cases that we've had and how the toys were used in the therapeutic process. Kim Abernethy, M.A., LPC, RPT lead the group through Trader's Village. Many great new toys were purchased!



Sam Houston Chapter (Cont.)

The Sam Houston Chapter is looking forward to more opportunities this fall for learning and networking with fellow play therapists. On November 4, we will host a meeting “Bridging Theory to Play Therapy Practice” at the Children’s Assessment Center. This round table presentation will highlight three theories in play therapy – Solution Focused Theory and Play, Reality Theory and Play in the School Setting, and Child-Centered Play Therapy with Adolescents. Elsa Leggett, Ph.D., LPC-S, Mary Hestand, M.Ed., LPC-Intern, and Pedra Ane, M.A., LPC-S, RPT-S will lead the discussion on integrating these theories into our play therapy practices.

On January 28, we are hosting our Annual Winter Workshop featuring Steve Armstrong, Ph.D., LPC-S, RPT, Founder of the Sandtray Therapy Institute. Dr. Armstrong will present on “Humanistic Sandtray Therapy”. This workshop will be held at Foundry Church on Jones Road and will offer 6 CEU’s. Please view our website at www.shapt.org for more information on registration.

On February 24, we will host another meeting featuring Diane Vines, LPC at the Children’s Assessment Center. Diane will present on “Brain-Wise Play Therapy and the Clinical Setting with Children”. And on May 4, Dr. Jeffrey Sullivan will present at our final meeting for the year. Dr. Sullivan will introduce us to “Existential Play Therapy”. This meeting will be held at the University of Houston-Sugarland Campus. We are looking forward to these interesting and informative presentations that will offer 1.5 CEUs each.



SHAPT is pleased to offer play therapy trainings at a variety of locations in the Houston area. We strive to bring quality play therapy to a location convenient to our members and enjoy welcoming new members and visitors in these diverse locations. Additionally, SHAPT is embracing the use of technology to communicate with our members. In addition to our website, you can now learn about upcoming meetings and events on Facebook, Twitter and our President’s Blog. Please “Like” us on Facebook at SHAPT (Sam Houston Association for Play Therapy).

You can also follow us on Twitter @SHAPT1.

 **Respectfully yours,**
Wendy J. Stackel, LPC, RPT
Chapter Representative

TAPT BOARD MEETINGS

Many of you may not be aware that your state board is working all through the year. We hold quarterly Executive Board meetings, in addition to our entire board meeting twice per year. Much goes on behind the scenes. Board members not only work in their elected board positions, but are actively engaged working on committees and working at their local chapters.

One of the highlights of our last meeting included a presentation by Linda Homeyer. Linda educated the entire board on the history of TAPT. Linda’s message not only led us through the highlights of the TAPT journey, but inspired and reminded us of the reason TAPT exists. The bottom line: To help the children of Texas. When keeping children as the focus of TAPT, the hours of volunteering, attending meetings, phone calls, planning and organization all become worth the effort. Thank you Linda, for your teaching, wisdom, heartfelt inspirational message, and for your countless hours of work for the sake of children. ■

Dan Homeyer Grant Award Update

Congratulations to Homeyer Research Award recipients Yulia Pronchenko and Natalya Lindo!



Natalya Lindo



Yulia Pronchenko

About the The Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award

Dan Homeyer supported Linda Homeyer’s involvement in play therapy in many small and large ways. He encouraged her through graduate school, trips, meetings and service to TAPT. In 2004, Linda Homeyer gave an initial donation of \$5,000 to TAPT to establish a fund in Dan’s name and set up a continual endowment of the fund.

The TAPT Research Award honors his support of play therapy by naming the Research Award in his name.

The TAPT Research Award honors his support of play therapy by naming the Research Award in his name.

Two \$500 research awards are granted twice a year, once in the Fall and once in the Spring, to any student /faculty in Texas. Research projects must be pre-approved or endorsed by a university. Grant applications are accepted twice a year, with deadlines for submission on March 1st and October 1st. Homeyer award recipients Recipients are invited to present their findings at the next annual TAPT Conference. ■