

YELLOW STREAM PROGRAM

Certificate in Portable Play-based School Counseling

Who Should Attend?

The yellow stream programs are designed for those practitioners who wish to add to their play therapy training resume. All hours accumulated in the yellow stream count towards play therapy certification. Practitioners require a total of 30 days of play therapy training as one part of their requirement for certification. This course prepares Counselors and Teachers to use play-based activities when working in school settings.

Entrance Requirements

Completed or attending post-secondary education

Location of Training

Training program is held at your site or at the Rocky Mountain Play Therapy Institute in Calgary, Alberta Canada.

Course Description

The “Portable Play-based School Counseling Certificate” Program is divided into 5 modules. Each module will include specific topics related to school counseling. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in experiential activities that are easy to implement in the school setting. The portable play therapy bag will be introduced and participants will receive training on the use of the play objects in the bag. The goal of this program is to introduce play-based expressive activities as a way to work with children in the schools. Case vignettes focus on common referrals in school settings.

Module Descriptions

Module 1:

- Counselor self-awareness
- What is play-based therapy?
- Approaches to the Play Therapy Dimensions Model (Consciousness and Directiveness)
- Play Spaces and Play Objects: “Portable Play Therapy”
- Portable Play Therapy Kit – Introduction
- Play Modality #1 Puppets
- Play Modality #2 Clay and Play Dough
- The Power of play – use of symbols and metaphors

Module 2:

- Adapting puppets and dough to special referral issues
- Experiential exercise: Play history
- Play Modality #3 Therapeutic Games
- The directiveness continuum / Case conceptualization
- Play Modality #4 Art Making
- Tracking Form: Tracking Play Therapy

Module 3:

- Using music and movement in small spaces
- Client moderating factors – who is the child?
- Play Modality #5 Therapeutic Storytelling
- Play Modality #6 Portable Sandworlds – Introduction to the portable trays and experiential activities
- Consciousness dimension and use of interpretations
- Case conceptualization and planning

Module 4:

- Warm-up exercise
- Case Presentation – Present a case you have worked on and describe the school-based activity/intervention used.
- Play based group work in schools
- Play based classroom interventions
- Summary and Homework

Module 5:

- Ethics and practice guidelines in school based counseling
- Working with teachers in school settings
- Teacher feedback form
- Providing teacher interventions
- Play based classroom interventions
- Hand-in “Case conceptualization”

Learning Objectives

To provide school based counselors portable tools for working in school settings and to assist them to work with mild to moderate school problems.

Upon successful completion of the course each participant will have gained:

- An introduction to play-based activities suitable for use in the school setting
- An opportunity to work with play objects in the portable play therapy bag
- An introduction to working with groups in the school
- An introduction to working with whole classrooms using play-based activities
- An appreciation to ethics and guidelines related to the school system
- Engagement skills
- Ways to connect and work with classroom teachers

Methods

- Experiential activities
- Video clips
- Case examples
- Reading assignments
- Written case conceptualization
- Case presentation

Awards

Participants will receive a Certificate in Portable Play-Based School Counseling from Rocky Mountain Play Therapy Institute. This certificate confirms the completion of 40 hours of specialized play therapy training approved by APT (Approved Provider #06-179), and CACPT. All training hours count toward certification or registration as a play therapist.

The certificates will be awarded on the basis of:

- Satisfactory attendance (no whole module may be missed unless there are extenuating circumstances. A makeup assignment may be requested depending on time missed).
- Completion of readings
- Satisfactory completion of a written case conceptualization
- A successful presentation of a case study

How can I apply these skills?

Participants will be able to utilize basic play-based activities with students in the school setting. Additionally, play in groups and in the classroom may be utilized. Participants will more effectively communicate with and include classroom teachers.