Training mental health professionals to work effectively with children and adolescents by helping them resolve difficulties using the language they know best.
You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.
What is Play Therapy?

Play therapy is a set of skills learned and practiced by professionals from multiple realms of mental health.

The Play Therapy Certificate program accepts applicants currently training or practicing within the fields of:

- Clinical Mental Health
- Marriage and Family Therapy
- Social Work
- School Counseling
- Psychology
- Psychiatry

The Play Therapy Certificate program is offered under Stetson University's Department of Counselor Education.
“Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood, for it alone is the free expression of what is in a child’s soul.”

– Friedrich Froebel, founder of the first kindergarten
The Play Therapy Certificate program offers both a 150-hour continuing education track and a 9-hour graduate credit track that prepares mental health professionals to work with children, adolescents and their families using the most effective and developmentally appropriate theories and techniques.

Three certificate courses are designed to address the history, theories, techniques and applications of play therapy:

- Play Therapy Theories & Practices
- Play Therapy with Families & Special Populations
- Play Therapy & Expressive Arts Techniques

A final case conceptualization project is also required for completion of the certificate program.

Courses can be applied toward the education requirements necessary for individuals seeking national Registered Play Therapist credentials.

Stetson University is approved by the Florida Department of Health under Florida Statute 491 to offer continuing education for social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors.

Additionally, Stetson University is an approved provider of continuing education by the Association for Play Therapy. For additional information about the practice of play therapy and the requirements for becoming a nationally recognized Registered Play Therapist, please visit the Association for Play Therapy website at www.a4pt.org.

APT Approved Provider #13-358
For children to ‘play out’ their experiences and feelings is the most natural dynamic and self-healing process in which they can engage.

- Dr. Garry Landreth, Internationally recognized play therapist and educator
Application Requirements

Play Therapy Certificate students are either currently enrolled in or have graduated from a mental health-related master’s or doctoral degree program.

Minimally, students are expected to have successfully completed graduate level coursework in the areas of child development, counseling theories, and basic counseling skills appropriate to their profession.

Interested applicants are asked to submit:

• The Play Therapy Certificate Program Application
• One-Time Application Fee
• Professional Résumé
• Official Transcripts

To apply, visit: stetson.edu/play-therapy

For application information, contact:
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Play is the natural language of children.