



The British Association of Play Therapists

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Interim Clinical Supervision Guidance: 1st year of Full membership

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1. Introduction

The delivery of sufficient quantity of high quality Clinical Supervision is central to the Play Therapy profession, its members and the general public. This guidance paper clarifies and defines the British Association of Play Therapists (BAPT) Clinical Supervision requirement from newly qualified Play Therapists.

Play Therapists are required to receive regular clinical supervision of their Play Therapy practice. Various BAPT regulations prescribe minimum standards and quantities. This guidance paper confirms the standards and quantities required for the 1st year of full membership of the BAPT.

Supervision is governed by the BAPT Ethical Basis of Good Practice in Play Therapy and the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirement.

2. Clinical Supervision requirement

The Ethical Basis for Good Practice in Play Therapy states:

“All Play Therapists, including Supervisors, are required to receive on-going, appropriate, formal and regular supervision independently of their managerial relationships.

Supervisors have a responsibility to maintain the good practice of Supervisees and to protect clients from harm and bad practice.

Supervision must be provided by an appropriately qualified and experienced Play Therapist, except where no such Play Therapist exists in the geographical region. In such circumstances the Play Therapist must receive supervision from an appropriately qualified and experienced Child Therapist.

Supervision must involve face to face contact, except in circumstances where physical distance between the Play Therapist and an available Supervisor precludes such contact.

Play Therapists must receive supervision adequate to maintaining their level of competency, functioning and good practice.”

British Association of Play Therapists (2002)

3. Type of Clinical Supervisor

The type of clinical supervisor for the 1st year of full membership is as follows:

Qualification: Clinical supervision must be provided by a BAPT qualified Play Therapist. Play Therapy qualifications not accredited by BAPT are not accepted. Clinical supervision of full and student members will therefore be provided by a full member of BAPT. Where BAPT full members are not available to supervise, please see *geographic location* section below.

Clinical experience: Clinical supervisors will hold significantly greater experience of Play Therapy practice than their supervisee. Other professional experience is not considered appropriate unless it relates specifically to qualified child therapy practice. ‘Significantly greater experience’ is defined as a minimum of two years greater experience than the supervisee. Two years must include on-going supervised Play Therapy practice and therefore include a minimum of 200 post-qualified completed Play Therapy hours.

Geographic location: Where no BAPT full members are available for supervision, members may seek other appropriately qualified and experienced child therapists. This will include one of the following:

- i. ACP registered Child Psychotherapist
- ii. HPC registered Arts Therapists
- iii. BPS Chartered Clinical Psychologist
- iv. UKCP registered Family Therapist
- v. FRCP registered Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist

No other qualifications are acceptable. The above professionals must have also completed a minimum of 250 post qualified therapy hours with children and/or young people. Professionals contained in the above list who have not completed this number of client hours are not acceptable.

NOTE: Only when there are no qualified Play Therapists available in the members’ geographic area will the above professionals be accepted. Therefore, BAPT members in the South East of England are significantly less likely to be supervised by other professionals.

4. Format of Clinical Supervision

Telephone/Webcam usage: Clinical supervision will always involve face-to-face supervision, except where geographic location significantly precludes this. In such circumstances, telephone or webcam supervision will be accepted. Email and paper only formats are not accepted as part of supervision. Telephone and ‘webcam’ supervision must be supplemented with audio, video and/or written details of the supervisee’s clinical practice.

Group Supervision: Group supervision will not include more than four supervisees. Group supervision quantities will be calculated by the addition of one half of the required supervision (see quantities below), i.e. 1 individual supervision hour is equivalent to 1.5 group supervision hours, 2 individual supervision hours are equivalent to 3 group supervision hours.

Peer supervision: Peer supervision is not acceptable for Play Therapists in their 1st year of full membership.

5. Quantity of Clinical Supervision

The BAPT CPD Portfolio requires full members in the 1st year of qualification to receive 1 clinical supervision hour for every 4 play therapy client hours. The required quantity of supervision is equated by utilising the 1:4 ratio.