

## Joining BAPT – The Portfolio Route

### *Why join the British Association of Play Therapists?*

1. BAPT is a registered charity and not for profit organisation.
2. It is governed by a board of volunteer play therapists and enthusiastic affiliated professionals who are passionate about play therapy.
3. BAPT is regulated by the Professional Standards Authority.
4. BAPT maintains an open register of play therapists and supervisors.
5. BAPT members operate at a local and national level in order to continue the promotion of the benefit of play therapy for children.
6. BAPT is closely linked and with validated BAPT Approved Training® MSc Play Therapy courses in the UK, Roehampton, University of South Wales and Queen Margaret University/With Kids, Scotland.
7. As a member you will be entitled to use the protected title “BAPT Registered Play Therapist®” indicating a level of expertise and professional practice reviewed and approved by BAPT®.
8. Continued professional development requirements are 10 hours of direct play therapy development and 6 hours of indirect development.
9. BAPT® maintain the British Journal of Play Therapy.

***I am a play therapist who trained on a non- BAPT course why do I need to provide a portfolio of work to join?***

BAPT have a training and education committee who oversee the validation of the play therapy qualifying courses in the UK. This is done through yearly bi-meetings with course directors, Uni - Link reps who provide a link between the university students and BAPT and maintain a student membership register, with reduced membership fees and concessions for the yearly conference.

BAPT are not able to oversee or validate training from other organisations. Therefore, due to the Professional Standards Authority guidelines we must as an organisation ask other qualified play therapists to reflect on their practice through the portfolio route. This is the same procedure if you wished to join BACP who may also ask you to sit an exam.

This is no reflection on you as a practitioner or the training you have invested time and money on, rather a condition of holding a PSA register of play therapists of which BAPT need to provide evidence and demonstrate to the Authority that all members meet the Accreditation Standards.

***What you need to have in place before you start.***

1. Personal therapy confirmation as follows:
  - a. 0-2 yrs post qualification - 60 hours of personal therapy
  - b. 2-5 yrs post qualification – 30 hours of personal therapy
  - c. 5 yrs + post qualification – 15 hours of personal therapy
2. Reflective statement/account to demonstrate how your experience of personal therapy has impacted and informed your professional practice as a Play Therapist.
3. A personal statement from your therapist confirming there is no known reason why the applicant should not practice as a Play Therapist with vulnerable children. BAPT will seek confirmation of this statement.
4. Evidence of a CPD log for the last three years including certificates

5. If you have been qualified for less than three years, then at least a year of CPD will be required.
6. Reference from an employer or professional who has used your service and Clinical Supervisor.
7. DBS or PVG disclosure up to date
8. Personal indemnity insurance.
9. Education and qualifying certificates

### ***Preparing for the portfolio.***

It is not a requirement you should know everything about play therapy, this is why CPD development is an essential part of being a therapist. The portfolio application may challenge your knowledge but is not designed to catch you out. It is designed as a professional tool with which to reflect on your knowledge and identify any gaps (if any) which may require you to read a little further. This process improves your knowledge and skill set indicating areas you may like to know more about in the future.

Preparing in advance is the most helpful way to ensure you do not lose the will halfway through the application!

**All case work evidence MUST BE ANONYMISED COMPLETELY. Your portfolio will be rejected if it is not.**

1. Consider a piece of work you have done and write it up (if you have not already done so) as a short case study. This is good practice as a qualified play therapist and helps to reflect on personal practice. This will be invaluable for your portfolio, as a reference point to evidence your practice and knowledge.
2. You will need evidence of three reports – assessment, midway and ending. This will provide evidence of professional and ethical practice and your therapeutic process and communication skills.
3. Have a copy of the following (free on the BAPT website):
  - a. BAPT ethical basis for good practice in play therapy

- b. BAPT Personal qualities of a play therapist
- c. BAPT play therapy core competencies

### ***Ready to start?***

### ***Advice from a Play Therapist who has completed the portfolio route***

At first glance the form can seem lengthy and complicated. However, there are steps you can take which can make it more manageable.

1. The answers should be short and to the point.
2. It is important to demonstrate linking theory to your Play Therapy practice.
3. Please ensure you reference your evidence so that the reviewers are clear which evidence you are citing for each question.
4. Although there are key points to each question, you are not required to include them all, these are only guidelines.
5. Each question has a case study mentioned **remember** you are only required to have one case study which you can use to evidence your practice throughout the application.
6. This evidence only needs to be a line or two from your case study or your reports to show e.g. your understanding of core competencies or an ethical principles.
7. Refer to books you have read, training undertaken, supervision, personal therapy, group supervision to illustrate your own development as a play therapist.
8. Your experience is invaluable, be proud of it and try to convey this in your application.
9. Remember if you are not sure about something ask BAPT, they will do their best to help.
10. Get a folder and an index.
11. Sections should include
  - a. Personal paperwork
  - b. References, clinical supervision log, statement from personal therapist

- c. Reflective statement about personal therapy
- d. Evidence – case study, reports
- e. CPD log
- f. Application form
- g. Portfolio log including references

12. MAKE A COPY before posting/emailing or clicking the online button.



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