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British Association of Play Therapists

BAPT Supervision Policy

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British Association of Play Therapists

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Supervision Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the framework and guidelines for the supervision of Play Therapists in accordance with the standards set forth by the British Association of Play Therapists (BAPT). This policy aims to ensure that Play Therapists receive effective and ethical supervision to enhance their professional development and the quality of therapeutic intervention to their clients. BAPT's "Guidance for Clinical Supervisors" should also be consulted in addition to this document. Supervision of students undertaking a BAPT accredited Masters in Play Therapy should also consult their individual university's policy on clinical supervision.

2. Definitions

- BAPT defines clinical supervision in Play Therapy as:

"A formal and mutually agreed relationship between a Play Therapist and either another Play Therapist or other suitably qualified Therapist; where the supervisor is a significantly more experienced and competent Play Therapist / Therapist than the supervisee. The aim of this supervision is to monitor, develop and support the supervisee's Play Therapy practice. This supervision will be independent of all managerial relationships."

- A Play Therapy hour is defined as:

"Any one clock hour that involves any action directly relating to the delivery of Play Therapy, including Play Therapy sessions, assessment, parent/carer contact, received supervision and reviews. This does not include any indirect actions, such as line management, supervisory practice, staff meetings, professional liaison etc."

- A NQPT is a Newly Qualified Play Therapist, who has just completed a BAPT accredited Masters in Play Therapy. A Play Therapist is deemed as an NQPT for the remainder of the renewal year in which they qualify, and then a further full year post qualifying. For example, if a student qualified in May 2024, they would remain a NQPT until the renewal cycle in October 2025, when they would be eligible to become a BAPT Full member.
- To become a BAPT Full Member requires a minimum of 100 hours clinically supervised Play Therapy practice.

3. Supervision Structure and Requirements

3.1 Frequency

Play Therapists are required to receive regular clinical supervision of their Play Therapy practice. Supervision is governed by the BAPT Ethical Basis for Good Practice in Play Therapy (Section 1.4), and the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements for membership.

The following table outlines the recommended requirements for clinical supervision for both Qualified Play Therapists (QPTs) and Newly Qualified Play Therapists (NQPTs). NQPT's may need more than the recommended hours depending on the complexity of their cases in order for the work to be safe and ethical.

Caseload	Qualified PTs Minimum Monthly Supervision Hours	NQPTs Minimum Monthly Supervision Hours
Category A: 1-10 children	1 to 1.5 hours	2 to 3 hours
Category B: 11-16 children	1.5 to 2 hours	3 to 4 hours
Category C: 17-20 children	2 to 3 hours	N/A *

****BAPT state that this type of case load is not ethically responsible and ill-advised for Newly Qualified Play Therapists.***

Students undertaking a BAPT accredited Masters course will be required to have clinical supervision at a ratio of 1 hour of clinical supervision to every 2 hours of clinical practice.

3.2 Supervisor Qualifications

All clinical supervisors must meet the qualifications and standards established by BAPT for Play Therapy supervision. They should hold relevant qualifications, experience and memberships, such as BAPT Approved Supervisor® status. However, it is recognised that this is not always possible,

so the supervisee should ensure their supervisor is appropriately qualified and ideally from a related profession. BAPT expects that any supervisor be a member of a governing body, regulated by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) or Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC). The supervisee should ensure that within the supervision contract, their chosen supervisor will have an understanding of BAPT Play Therapy Core Competencies, together with The Ethical Basis for Good Practice in Play Therapy (BAPT), which will be reviewed on a yearly basis within the context of clinical supervision.

Students undertaking a BAPT accredited Masters course will be required to have a BAPT Approved Supervisor[®]. If there are mitigating circumstances, for example, geographical location, students should seek advice from their university. BAPT may use their discretion and allow for a higher ratio of online supervision versus in-room supervision. In all cases, students should seek guidance from their university to ensure the appropriateness of the clinical supervisor.

3.3 Format of Supervision

The manner in which supervision takes place should be the responsibility of the supervisor and supervisee. The ideal is for supervision to take place in person, but the use of video calling is encouraged where geographical or practical restrictions make meeting in person impractical. Email and paper only formats are not accepted as part of supervision.

Students undertaking a BAPT accredited Masters course are expected to have in room together supervision, unless there are mitigating circumstances. In this case, 50% in room together versus 50% online supervision will be accepted by BAPT. At the discretion of BAPT, a student may be able to receive a higher ratio of online supervision versus in room supervision, but BAPT expects that the university will seek guidance from BAPT.

BAPT Full and Retired Members who clinically supervise BAPT registered Play Therapists[®] are required to receive supervision of their supervisory practice, which will also be subject to BAPT Supervision Policy and “Guidance for Clinical Supervisors”.

4. Supervision Content

4.1 Case Presentation

Play Therapists are expected to present their cases in supervision, providing relevant details about the client, therapeutic objectives, interventions and challenges encountered.

4.2 Reflective Practice

Supervision sessions should encourage Play Therapists to engage in reflective practice, exploring their feelings, thoughts and potential countertransference during sessions.

4.3 Ethical Considerations

Ethical dilemmas, boundaries and cultural competence should be discussed within the context of Play Therapy practice.

4.4 Professional Development

Supervisors should support the professional development of Play Therapists by identifying areas for growth, recommending relevant training and promoting ongoing education.

5. Confidentiality

All discussions undertaken between the supervisor and supervisee will adhere to strict confidentiality. The supervisor must ensure that any information shared by the Play Therapist remains confidential unless there are legal or ethical obligations to disclose to the relevant authorities.

6. Documentation and Record-Keeping

Both the supervisor and supervisee should maintain accurate records, but maintain confidentiality of clients discussed. All documentation should adhere to the relevant government legislation and be GDPR compliant.

7. Evaluation and Feedback

It is important to regularly review the effectiveness of the supervisory relationship. Supervisees should be encouraged to provide feedback to their supervisors, and any feedback should be acted upon accordingly.

8. Review and Revision

This Supervision Policy will be reviewed annually or as required by changes in legislation or organisational needs to ensure its effectiveness in supporting supervisors and supervisees of Play Therapy practice.

9. Dispute Resolution and Complaints

For any dispute / complaint relating to the supervisor, (not necessarily a BAPT member), the supervisee should follow the appropriate Professional Conduct / complaints procedure of the supervisor's governing body.

For any dispute / complaint relating to a BAPT member, regardless of whether they are the supervisor or supervisee, please refer to BAPT's Professional Conduct Procedure and Policy 2014.

By establishing and implementing this Supervision Policy in accordance with BAPT guidelines, BAPT Registered Play Therapists® will receive effective and ethical supervision that contributes to their professional growth and the provision of quality Play Therapy services to clients.



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