

# Georgia Association for Play Therapy's (GAPT) Annual Conference

## 2023 Registration Brochure



GEORGIA  
ASSOCIATION FOR  
PLAY THERAPY

**GAPT'S ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
MARCH 10-11, 2023**

**"Addressing Trauma of all  
Ages Using Sand-Based and  
Expressive Play Therapy  
Approaches"**  
(In-person conference; 12 CEs)



*Presenter: Marshall Lyles*  
LPC-S, LMFT-S, RPT-S

Register at [www.gapt.org](http://www.gapt.org) or use the QR code below (by scanning it with your phone's camera).





# Mental Health Professionals Applying the Therapeutic Power of Play!

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[www.gapt.org](http://www.gapt.org)

**We look forward to seeing you at the 2023 Georgia Association for Play Therapy Conference!**

This brochure will provide important information regarding conference, presentation and materials, registration, continuing education, hotel accommodations, and other agreements/policies. Please read this document in its entirety. For questions or needs regarding conference registration, email [info@gapt.org](mailto:info@gapt.org)

**Host:** The Georgia Association for Play Therapy (GAPT)

**Date:** Friday, March 10, 2023 – Saturday, March 11, 2023

**Location** (in-person conference): Hilton Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

### **Schedule (based on Eastern Standard Time; EST)**

#### *Friday, March 10, 2023*

8:15 am – 8:45 am	Sign In
8:45 am – 9:00 am	GAPT Annual Meeting
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Training (with a 15 minute break at 10:30 am)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch (included in your registration fee)
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Training (with a 15 minute break at 3:00 pm)
4:30 pm	Sign Out

#### *Saturday, March 11, 2023*

8:15 am – 8:45 am	Sign In
8:45 am – 9:00 am	Morning Activity
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Training (with a 15 minute break at 10:30 am)
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch (included in your registration fee)
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Training (with a 15 minute break at 3:00 pm)
4:30 pm	Sign Out

**Workshop Title:** Addressing Trauma of all Ages Using Sand-Based and Expressive Play Therapy Approaches

### **Presenter Information**

Marshall Lyles, LPC-S, LMFT-S, RPT-S, lives in the Austin, Texas, area and has over 20 years of practice in family and play therapy. Drawing on lessons learned from working with attachment trauma in a variety of mental health settings, Marshall regularly teaches on trauma, expressive therapies, and attachment-informed family work around the globe. Marshall has published in professional journals and magazines in addition to contributing to the books *Counseling Families: Play-Based Treatment* and *EMDR with Children in the Play Therapy Room: An Integrated Approach*. Marshall has also co-authored a book titled *Advanced Sandtray Therapy*.

### **Workshop Description**

The brain and body are equipped with incredible defense mechanisms designed for protection against traumatic experiences. Although critical for survival, the long-term and tragic impact of untreated traumatic stress is often disintegration of memories as well as deep wounds in the core self. Play-based trauma theories present a case for understanding that traumatically held memories, especially those involving caregivers, need to be handled with certain care for clients of all ages. Play and expressive therapies, at their core, offer natural



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opportunities for such trauma-sensitive treatment planning through a welcoming of right brain to left brain contact. Attention to material selection and expressive techniques can be used to enhance trauma-informed and relationally-sensitive concepts. This workshop will address these ideas while giving participants ample time for experiential practice with layering in play therapy and expressive arts into a multimodal sandtray-based approach. Due to the content and experiential nature of these activities, strong emotions might surface for some participants.

#### APT Content Areas

The 12 CEs for this workshop will cover the following APT content areas: Theory (2 hours), Skills and Methods (5 hours), and Special Topics (5 hours).

#### Learning Objectives

After the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the two branches of the autonomic nervous system and how they typically manifest during expressive play therapy.
2. List three parts of trauma clients' inner communities that often present in expressive play therapeutic work.
3. Describe trauma-informed components of multimodal play therapy
4. List at least three ways to establish safety in the therapeutic relationship using expressive play therapy.
5. Identify three expressive play therapy techniques that communicate safety to inner communities.
6. Identify necessary play therapy and sandtray protocol adaptations for adult work.
7. Describe how dissociation may present in play therapy.
8. Describe the two aspects of self that are present in clients' trauma worlds during sand-based play therapy.
9. Identify six trauma-informed considerations for processing clients' sandtray worlds during play therapy sessions.
10. Describe three methods for integrating expressive arts play therapy interventions with sandtray.
11. Create trauma-informed treatment plans for expressive play therapy.
12. Explain person of the play therapist themes relevant to maintaining deep trauma work.

#### Required Materials, Participation, and Activities

GAPT will provide each participant with the following workshop supplies: paper plate as the sandtray, sand, paper for writing/journaling, construction paper, coloring instruments (e.g., crayons, markers, colored pencils), and some art supplies (e.g., glue, scissors). **Each participant needs to bring their own symbols/miniatures (between 20-40) to complete sand tray activities.** Participants are also encouraged to bring additional art supplies and expressive materials if desired.

#### Who Should Attend

This conference is intended for play therapy, mental health, school counseling, marriage and family, social work, rehabilitation counseling, alcohol and drug abuse, psychiatric, psychology, pastoral care, nursing, art therapy, drama therapy, and child life specialist professionals and students. There is no prerequisite for this conference other than being a mental health professional with an advanced degree in a mental health-related field or a student working on such a degree.



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#### **Registration, Fees, and Deadline**

Participants are required to complete the conference registration online along with paying the applicable fee(s) at [www.gapt.org](http://www.gapt.org). The conference registration and continuing education payment deadline is **Tuesday, February 28, 2023 or when the workshop reaches maximum capacity.** Registration will not be available thereafter or at the door. Related links for payment(s) are embedded within the e-registration process. Completed forms and payments must both be submitted in order to confirm a seat and/or table space reservation. *Procrastinators beware:* Please understand that the fire marshal and local ordinances limit registration. There are no special exceptions. A waitlist will be started if capacity is maxed. (We are unable to predict when that will occur). We recommend that you register early.

Registration fees include the workshop, handout materials, refreshment breaks, lunch for both days, and some of the required workshop materials. Registration fee is for both days. (Registration cannot be purchased for a single day for this event.) Notification that your conference registration and payment has been received and approved will be sent to the email address that you provide on your registration form along with an e-ticket for entry to the conference.

**\$350 – Professionals who are not GAPT members**

**\$300 – GAPT member rate** (*\*verification required*)

**\$250 – Currently enrolled graduate student rate** (*\*\*verification required*)

\* To qualify for the GAPT member rate, you must be a member of the Georgia APT chapter. Verification is required, and conference registration will be compared to GAPT's most updated member list. If you are not a GAPT member, you will be responsible for the full amount. If you are unsure if you are a current member of GAPT, visit APT's website at [www.a4pt.org](http://www.a4pt.org).

\*\* To qualify for the student rate, you must be a currently enrolled graduate student in a mental health or related program. Additionally, you must complete the information necessary to verify your student status upon registering.

#### **Cancellation and Refund Policy**

All correspondence regarding cancellations, credits, refunds, transfers, etc. must be made in writing to [info@gapt.org](mailto:info@gapt.org). Written cancellation requests that are emailed **before Tuesday, February 28, 2023** will be provided with a refund minus a \$50 processing fee or may be transferred to another person without penalty only if the original registrant notifies GAPT. After Tuesday, February 28, 2023, no refunds, transfers, credits, or other compensation will be granted, as registrants generate a contractual and non-refundable guarantee between GAPT and other parties. It is recommended for attendees to make travel reservations that are one hundred percent refundable. GAPT reserves the right to cancel this conference in the event of unforeseen circumstances. If such occurs, GAPT will attempt to notify registrants at least ten calendar days prior to the conference and refund all registration fees. In all instances, the liability of GAPT is limited to refunding such fees, and GAPT is not responsible for any other lost monies, cancellation fees, deposits, etc. for travel expenses.



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### **Continuing Education**

This program is co-sponsored by the Georgia Association for Play Therapy and *The Institute for Continuing Education*. The Conference offers a total of 12.00 contact hours (6.00 hrs. per day). Continuing education is awarded on a daily basis with full attendance required for the days attended. Partial daily CE credit is not offered.

The continuing education processing fee is \$30.00 per person and may be paid with registration. CE application and evaluation form(s) will be available on site. CE verification is mailed to attendees following the Conference. If you have questions regarding the program, continuing education learning objectives, faculty, or other issues, contact *The Institute* at: 800-557-1950 / email: [instconted@aol.com](mailto:instconted@aol.com)

***NOTE:*** *To receive continuing education credit, applicants must complete all CE materials, sign in/out at designated locations, and submit an evaluation form for the events attended.*

***NOTE:*** *It is the responsibility of the attendee to determine if CE credit offered by The Institute for Continuing Education meets the regulations of their state licensing/certification board.*

**Psychology:** NOT OFFERED for this training.

**Counseling/ MFT:** For counselors seeking credit, The Institute for Continuing Education will submit a co-sponsorship application to NBCC for this program. This website will be updated regarding accreditation.

**Social Work:** Application for social work continuing education credit has been submitted. This website will be updated regarding accreditation.

**Marriage/Family Therapy:** The Institute for Continuing Education is recognized by the Florida Department of Health, Division of Social Work, Counseling, MFT, Provider BAP 255, expiration 03/2025.

**Play Therapy:** The Institute for Continuing Education is approved by The Association for Play Therapy to sponsor continuing education specific to play therapy. The Institute for Continuing Education maintains responsibility for the program. APT Provider 98-040.

**Nursing:** The Institute for Continuing Education is an accredited provider in nursing by the Alabama Board of Nursing, Provider 1124, expiration 03/2026.

**Non-Credit Events:** Registration, breakfast, lunch, reception events, committee/business meetings, networking sessions.

**Ethics Hours / Academic Credit:** This program offers no “ethics hours”. This program is not “academic” credit and CE hours awarded are not eligible toward fulfillment of a degree.

**Skills Level:** Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced. Attendees are urged to review the session descriptions to determine appropriateness for professional and personal needs.

**Instructional Methodology:** May include lecture, demonstration, audio/visual, case examples, experiential practice of techniques, large and small group discussion.





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#### **E-Marketing Opportunity**

GAPT members (only) have the option to pay a \$30 fee to include a one sheet, electronic marketing material in a marketing slide show. Pay the fee and email the marketing material (a business card or a single-sided flyer) before **Thursday, February 16, 2023** using this weblink: <https://forms.gle/QXUxynDPkhSSgK2m8>. It is encouraged to make the marketing material information/verbiage big enough to be viewed on a presentation screen (and to not crowd the information). Acceptable formats include .jpg, .tiff, and .pdf files. Any marketing materials over one page or emailed after the deadline will not be included and all fees paid will be forfeited. If you are not a GAPT member, see options to become a sponsor or vendor.

#### **Hotel Accommodations**

The Hilton Atlanta Northeast offers a special room rate for GAPT conference registrants at \$129 per night plus taxes. Hotel reservations are required **before Thursday, February 16, 2023**. Reservations can be made directly via:

- Phone: (770) 447-4747 or toll free at (800) 678-4120 and use the group code: GAPT22
- Online group link:  
<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=ATLHPHF&groupCode=GAPT22&arrivaldate=2023-03-09&departuredate=2023-03-11&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

If you wish to cancel a hotel reservation, no cancellation charges will be posted if notice is received by 11:59 pm EST on the day prior to arrival and a cancellation number is obtained. If you experience challenges with reservation or cancellation, contact Sandi Franklin at (678) 533-3320.

#### **ADA Accommodations**

GAPT is glad to make reasonable efforts to accommodate participants with different abilities, which will be made in accordance with the law. If the participant needs ADA accommodations, the participant needs to discuss his/her specific needs at least two weeks prior to the conference date via email at [info@gapt.org](mailto:info@gapt.org) or by calling (678) 395-4965 ext. 50.

#### **Photos/Videos**

GAPT reserves the right to take pictures and/or videotape during the conference. Your presence at the conference constitutes your consent to our use of your voice, image, and likeness for any purpose for no additional consideration, and you waive any rights to review or approve any such use. You release us from any claim or liability arising out of our use of your voice, image, and likeness.

#### **Grievance**

If a participant has a concern regarding any aspect of the conference, it is expected that the participant will address it with the Training Committee Chair, Yolanda Fountain, Ph.D., LPC (GA), LCMHC (NC), RPT-S, ACS, NCC via verbal and/or written documentation ([info@gapt.org](mailto:info@gapt.org)) aimed at achieving a satisfactory resolution for the participant. To assure fair treatment for all participants and attempts to anticipate problems, the board of directors may be included in the process.



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#### **Illness Policy and Liability Waiver**

GAPT's priority is the health and safety of our event participants, staff, and exhibitors. Our goal is to hold a safe event, recognizing it is not possible to remove all risks, in particular concerning COVID. GAPT will put required measures in place to provide a safe environment for its event attendees as necessary. Policies for each event will be set according to CDC and public health recommendations, federal, state, and local regulations applicable at the time of the event, and what GAPT deems necessary to manage the risk for its event attendees. GAPT may change, update, or add to these requirements at any time as it deems prudent to best protect the health and safety of attendees and others, and attendees must comply with relevant policies and requirements as communicated by GAPT. We all need to do our part in minimizing the spread of illnesses so that we have a safe and wonderful learning environment!

*Safety protocols for in-person attendance:* Due to the ongoing environmental challenges with illnesses and the pandemic, GAPT cannot be held liability for COVID or other illness cases arising because of event attendance and currently requires all attendees at GAPT in-person meetings and events to:

- Acknowledge that travel and gathering involves risk of sickness, including sickness from COVID
- Agree to hold harmless GAPT and its affiliates, partners, employees and agents from and against claims, liabilities, ad expenses arising from injury, sickness or death from the contraction or spread of COVID or other communicable disease due to travel to or attendance at an event hosted by GAPT
- Take precautions and use common sense actions to reduce the risk of COVID and other illness transmission via choosing some or all of the following: engage in frequent hand washing/sanitizing, social distance, wear a mask in public areas when not consuming food or beverage, minimize face touching (especially since we will be playing in the sand!), and/or avoid risky/overcrowded environments during the tenure of the conference
- Behave responsibly by not attending any GAPT events if feeling ill or if there was recent exposure to COVID or another communicable disease.
- Affirm that you will only attend the event if you have tested negative for COVID on the day that you arrive.
- If exposed to COVID or another contagious illness or if experiencing illness systems before or during the event, you agree to leave the event area and seek the appropriate medical attention, including a COVID test. You will immediately inform GAPT event staff should a COVID test be positive during the event or within 14 days following the event by emailing [info@gapt.org](mailto:info@gapt.org).

GAPT will not be providing testing on site. Temperatures may be taken at the door and compliance is required if so. Failure to comply with all safety protocols and the prevention requirements as listed above or related directions from GAPT representatives on-site may result in the loss of the right to attend or participate in GAPT events, including forfeiting any registration fees paid.

#### **Exhibitors**

If you are interested in being a sponsor, table vendor, or donator for the Georgia Association for Play Therapy's annual conference, please complete the Exhibitor Agreement and make payment.

**Thanks for reading this important GAPT Conference information.**

We look forward to meeting you at the GAPT annual conference!  
If you have any questions or challenges, please contact [info@gapt.org](mailto:info@gapt.org).