



**Mental Health Professionals
Applying the Therapeutic Power of Play!**

2025 GAPT Conference Registration Brochure

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

2025 Registration Brochure

The Georgia Association for Play Therapy's (GAPT)
Annual Conference
Fri, March 14 – Sat, March 15, 2025

Help us celebrate our
30th Birthday!

**"Expanding and exploring play therapy grounded in
the Diversity Informed Tenets"**

Hilton Atlanta Northeast
5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Peachtree Corners, GA 30092

 *Presented by* 

Tonia M. Spence,
LCSW, MSED

Aditi Subramaniam,
LMHC, R-DMT, IECMH-E®

Register:
www.gapt.org



APT Approved Provider 12-316

Celebrate our 30th Birthday with us!

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





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We look forward to seeing you at the
2025 Georgia Association for Play Therapy Conference
and to **celebrate our 30th Birthday!**

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

Host: The Georgia Association for Play Therapy (GAPT)

Date: Friday, March 14, 2023 – Saturday, March 15, 2025

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

Schedule (based on Eastern Standard Time; EST)

Friday, March 14, 2025

7:45 am – 8:00 am EST	Sign In
8:00 am – 8:30 am EST	GAPT Annual Meeting (members vote only)
8:30 am – 10:15 am EST	Training: Welcome & Centering
10:15 am – 10:30 am EST	Break
10:30 am – 12:00 pm EST	Training: Introduction to the Diversity Informed Tenets
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm EST	Lunch (provided)
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EST	Training: Play therapy and Diversity Informed Tenets
2:30pm – 2:45 pm EST	Break
2:45 pm – 4:30 pm EST	Training: Experiential activities and closing
4:30 pm EST	Sign Out
5:00 pm – 7:30 pm EST	<i>Free optional activities to celebrate GAPT's 30th Birthday! Choice of a chair massage, caricature creation or fun photo!</i>

Optional pre-paid childcare for Friday (only) for ages 4/potty trained to age 12

7:45 am	Check in
8:00 am - 4:30 pm	Playful childcare activities
4:30-4:45 pm	Pick up

Saturday, March 15, 2025

7:45 am – 8:00 am EST	Sign In
8:00 am – 8:30 am EST	Special presentation
8:30 am – 10:15 am EST	Training: Why embodiment in our work?
10:15 am – 10:30 am EST	Break
10:30 am – 12:00 pm EST	Training: Weaving and grounding: Diversity Informed Play Therapy
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm EST	Lunch (provided)
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm EST	Training: 'Moving and playing' with the Tenets'
2:30pm – 2:45 pm EST	Break
2:45 pm – 4:30 pm EST	Training: Integration and practice
4:30 pm EST	Sign Out



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Workshop Title: Expanding and exploring play therapy grounded in the Diversity Informed Tenets

Presenter Information



Tonia M. Spence, LCSW, MEd walks boldly in her belief that healing begins with relationships and that liberation is possible when communities hold the power to define and shape their futures. A liberatory practitioner at heart, Tonia's work is deeply rooted in equity, collective care, and the dismantling of oppressive systems that disproportionately harm marginalized communities. For years, Tonia served as Senior Director of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) at the Jewish Board, overseeing clinical programs that provided care across New York City's boroughs. Her work embedded IECMH consultation into schools, shelters, and community spaces, while also supporting IECMH clinics and a therapeutic nursery school. Now, as Program Director of IECMH at the Irving Harris Foundation, Tonia leads funding strategies at the intersections of maternal mental health, IECMH systems, and racial equity. Under her leadership, the

IECMH portfolio has expanded to invest in BIPOC-led mental health initiatives that shift power, resources, and systems, building a world where all pregnant persons, infants, toddlers, families, caregivers, and communities can thrive.

With career spanning roles as a teacher, clinician, play therapist, special educator, advocate, reflective supervisor, and leadership coach, Tonia brings a wealth of interdisciplinary expertise to her work. She partners with leaders to help them live into their values, fostering alignment between personal integrity and professional impact. Tonia also draws inspiration from her educational journey, holding a Master's in Special Education from Bank Street College of Education and a Master's in Social Work from Columbia University. Beyond her credentials, she brings lived experience, a commitment to equity, and an unwavering belief in the transformative power of relationships to reimagine and rebuild systems for justice and liberation.



Aditi Subramaniam, LMHC, R-DMT, IECMH-E®, is a licensed mental health clinician and registered dance psychotherapist with more than twenty years of experience in the field of mental health in India and Boston. She works as the Director of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Policy, at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC) leading statewide infant and early childhood mental health workforce development efforts and a partnership between MSPCC and the Massachusetts Association for Infant Mental Health (MassAIMH) focused on enhancing, diversifying, and supporting the infant and early childhood mental health workforce to improve access to services for children age birth – 6 and their families. Under her leadership, Ms. Subramaniam collaborates with partners across the state and nation to address gaps and opportunities in workforce

needs in the early childhood system to result in equitable outcomes for all.

Ms. Subramaniam is both a clinician at heart and a reflective systems leader, committed to justice-informed policy, implementation, and practice toward creating equitable systems to meet the needs of Massachusetts' youngest children and their families. She serves as faculty at UMass Medical's Early Relational Health Fellowship. Her areas of interest include reflective practice; community and family-focused initiatives; workforce and systems development; healing-centered care; and the integration of the expressive arts in psychotherapy in working with families and systems. She is a National Zero To Three Academy Fellow, a certified DC 0-5 trainer, and is endorsed as an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor- Clinical®. The principles and practices of liberation and the arts as healing are foundational in her everyday work and lens. She lives in Boston, MA with her husband and daughter. She is a trained Indian classical and folk dancer and continues to enjoy dancing in community, yoga, and making art. She is humbled by parenting and learning from the wonders of childhood with her daughter.



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Workshop Description

This workshop will explore and dive deeper into the Diversity Informed Tenets, which is a set of guiding principles and practices that strengthen the commitment and capacity of infant, child and family professionals, organizations and systems. It will invite participants to begin the necessary work of embracing principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging within the self. Participants will engage in experiential exercises, self and group reflective activities, case examples and somatic and embodied practices that center a multicultural and social justice grounding in play therapy to better serve children and families. The following therapeutic powers of play will be addressed: facilitating communication, fostering wellness, enhancing social relationships (attachment) and supporting co-regulation.

APT Content Areas

The 13 CEs for this workshop will cover the following suggested APT content areas: Play Therapy Social and Cultural Diversity (7 hours), Play Therapy Skills and Methods (2 hours) and Play Therapy Special Topics (4 hours).

Learning Objectives

After the workshop:

- 1) Participants will build a shared understanding on the Diversity Informed Tenets as a guiding framework in their practice as play therapy professionals.
- 2) Participants will explore Tenet 1 from the Diversity Informed Tenets framework as a way to center critical self-awareness in practice as play therapists.
- 3) Participants will engage in experiential activities to reflect on Tenet 1 and center reflection.
- 4) Participants will explore core principles of play therapy from a diversity informed perspective.
- 5) Participants will build a shared understanding on relationship-based principles in play.
- 6) Participants will integrate relationship-based principles as a way to expand play therapy practice with children and families.
- 7) Participants will explore the links between movement psychotherapy and play therapy to foster embodied therapeutic processes.
- 8) Participants will build a practical toolkit with movement psychotherapy activities in play that are centered in culturally responsive practices.
- 9) Participants will engage in movement psychotherapy activities to expand embodied processes with the Diversity Informed Tenets.
- 10) Participants will explore historical and cultural perspectives of play and play therapy while holding the Tenets as a grounding principle.
- 11) Participants will engage critically with play therapy activities to diversify and deepen therapeutic practices.
- 12) Participants will explore practicing two key principles from the Tenets in their play therapy work.
- 13) Participants will reflect on the integration of diversity informed and embodied practices into their play therapy practice.

Required Materials, Participation, and Activities

GAPT will provide each participant with workshop supplies. Participants have the option to bring their own note taking equipment (computer, paper/pen) and/or additional unique somatic, dance/movement, or music materials.



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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.

Registration, Fees, and Deadline

Participants are required to complete the conference registration online along with paying the applicable fee(s) at www.gapt.org. The [conference registration](#) and continuing education payment deadline is **Tuesday, February 28, 2025 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, conference handouts, 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. Please note that we use *Zeffy* to process conference registrations, who request a platform donation. To avoid this added fee, scroll down to “order” -> “support the 100% free platform we use!” -> click the down arrow to press “other” and enter “\$0.00”.

\$375 – Professionals who are not GAPT members

\$325 – GAPT member rate (**verification required*)

\$200 – 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.

** 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. Written cancellation requests that are emailed **before Tuesday, February 28, 2025** will be provided with a refund minus a \$75 processing fee or may be transferred to another person without penalty only if the original registrant notifies GAPT before the expressed deadline. After Tuesday, February 28, 2025, 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



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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.

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 13.00 contact hours (6.50 hours per day). Continuing education is awarded on a daily basis with full attendance required for both days attended. Partial daily CE credit is not offered.

The continuing education processing fee is \$30.00 per person. If desired, it must be paid with online registration (as no fees will be accepted on-site). CE application and evaluation form(s) will be available on site, and GAPT will cover the fee for mailing when pre-paid with online registration. 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

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.*

More information is forthcoming upon approval from various continuing education boards. Please see the separate handout with current CE information updates.

Hotel Accommodations

The Hilton Atlanta Northeast offers a special room rate for GAPT conference registrants at \$149 per night plus per night taxes and other fees. Hotel reservations are required **before Wednesday, February 12, 2025**. Reservations can be made directly via:

- Phone: (770) 447-4747 or toll free at (800) 678-4120 and use the group code: GAPT
- [Online group link:](https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=ATLHPHF&arrivalDate=2025-03-13&departureDate=2025-03-15&groupCode=GAPT&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink)
<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=ATLHPHF&arrivalDate=2025-03-13&departureDate=2025-03-15&groupCode=GAPT&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>

Free self-parking is available. 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 the hotel representative at (678) 533-3320.

Childcare Option

This year, there is an option for childcare for conference participants on Friday only, as children are not permitted in the conference room itself due to APT/GAPT conference policy. The childcare fee is \$35 per child, and it must be pre-paid with [childcare registration](#). The child's minimal age is 4 years old, and



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the child must be potty trained with the ability to use the restroom independently (but can be escorted to the restroom by childcare staff). The child's maximum age is 12 years old. Pack your child a lunch and snacks to bring with them, as this fee does not include lunch provided for conference attendees. If you would like to purchase your child lunch, it can be done so at the hotel's restaurant or for an added fee of \$65 per child (with the latter being paid at the same time that the childcare fee is paid; this amount is the same that GAPT's pays for Friday lunch for each participant).

E-Marketing Opportunity

Participants have the option to market their practice, services, and products at the 2025 GAPT Conference via an e-file within a GAPT PowerPoint presentation or in the conference registration bags for a fee of \$30 per page. Each payment covers one printed or electronic marketing material (or the option for both for \$55). Participants need to pay using the [marketing registration](#) prior to submission of materials.

- Email the one-page marketing material (PowerPoint size) to info@gapt.org after confirmation of payment. (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.)
- Mail printed marketing materials to GAPT, 1350 Wooten Lake Rd NW #207, Kennesaw, GA 30144

All materials must be received before **Wednesday, February 12, 2025** with confirmation of payment. Any marketing materials over one page (without payment) or emailed after the deadline will not be included and all fees paid will be forfeited.

Becoming a GAPT Gold Sponsor

Would you like to become a GAPT Gold sponsor for our 30th birthday?! If so, make payment via this [sponsorship registration](#) and email info@gapt.org with your marketing materials by February 12, 2025. Benefits include the following:

- 1) Three conference registration seats (not including CEs)
- 2) One vendor table with two representative seats
- 3) GAPT conference PowerPoint branding on both days of the conference
- 4) Printed marketing materials in the GAPT conference bag and the inclusion of branded materials to conference participants
- 5) GAPT website branding (before the conference and for at least one year after the conference);
- 6) Verbal acknowledgment during the conference with an option to share about services/products with conference participants
- 7) Personalized contact with a GAPT representative to assist with all needs. Email info@gapt.org to get the process started.

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.

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



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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 coordinators, Yolanda Fountain Hardy or Melissa Brown via written documentation (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.

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 or other communicable diseases. GAPT will put required measures in place to provide a safe environment for its event attendees as necessary. 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, 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 or positive test to COVID or another communicable disease.
- If exposed to COVID or another contagious illness or if experiencing illness symptoms 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.

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.

Thanks for reading this important GAPT Conference information.

We look forward to meeting you at the GAPT annual conference and celebrating our 30th birthday!
If you have any questions or challenges, please contact info@gapt.org.