



# North Dakota Association for Play Therapy Newsletter

June 2025

## President Message:

Welcome to summer!!! We have had an exciting conference this year in Fargo where many of us were able to connect, meet, network, and learn!! I genuinely hope that everyone who was able to attend and participate gained new connections, tools, techniques and strategies to help you grow in your practice. Remember that your hard work and dedication to training ultimately impacts all those families that you reach on a daily basis!

We have been working on a goal to increase our numbers of providers with APT membership up to 40 to meet national membership goals and we have increased our membership up to 39!! Your membership matters and helps us continue to provide training, education and many resources for members and the community while also supporting the many providers who serve children and families.

I want to thank all of you for your continued work and dedication to the field of play therapy. We serve some of our most vulnerable populations and help to move our state forward as we work nationally to change the perceptions and understanding the unique challenges our clients face and promoting therapy in the language children understand ~ Play!



Sincerely,

Andrea Walker, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S  
NDAPT President

# The 2025 Annual Play Therapy Conference was held in Fargo June 17-19th





# Conference Fun!





Thank you to all of those who were able to join us and help make our 2025 Annual Play Therapy Conference a success. We experienced 2 days of Sand Tray Training by Andrea Walker and wrapped up the final day with a great ethics presentation by Anna Thompson & Ariana Best. We look forward to seeing everyone next year in the same location. The dates for 2026 have been set for June 10-13, 2026. Mark your calendars!

## 2025 Conference Vendors

Self Esteem  
Shop



Discovery  
Toys



Bridget  
Meranda



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

## 2025 RPT's-North Dakota Branch



### Registered Play Therapists- RPT

#### Mary Jo Anderson, RPT

Moorhead  
Minnesota

#### Staci Ekblad, RPT

Williston  
North Dakota

#### Colleen Fahy, RPT

Grand Forks AFB  
North Dakota

#### Jennifer Fetsch, RPT

Grand Forks  
North Dakota

#### Farryn Helm, RPT

Fargo  
North Dakota

#### Jennifer Kizima, RPT

Minot  
North Dakota

#### Bridget Meranda, RPT

Grand Forks  
North Dakota

#### Jessica Mertz, RPT

Fargo  
North Dakota

#### Sandra Richter, RPT

Minot  
North Dakota

#### Anna Thompson, RPT

Bismarck  
North Dakota

#### Katie Wayt, RPT

Fargo  
North Dakota

### Registered Play Therapist Supervisors- RPT-S

#### Ariana Best, RPT-S

Bismarck  
North Dakota

#### Angela Cavett, RPT-S

Fargo  
North Dakota

#### Rene Mooney, RPT-S

Thief River Falls  
Minnesota

#### Tina Nordaune, RPT-S

Williston  
North Dakota

#### Andrea Walker, RPT-S

Great Falls  
Montana

#### Jeff Williams, RPT-S

Grand Forks  
North Dakota

## Are You Interested in Learning More About Play Therapy?



Free Consultations to learn  
more about becoming a  
Registered Play Therapist  
and help to navigate if this is  
the best route for you!!

### Group & Individual Supervision Available

**Andrea Walker, LCSW/LICSW, RPT-S**

**Child and Family Therapist**

**Registered Play Therapist ~ Supervisor**

**406-642-0506**

**[Andrea@beyondwordscat.com](mailto:Andrea@beyondwordscat.com)**

# Level One Theraplay & MIM



September 22-25, 2025



1112 Nodak Dr, Fargo, North Dakota 58103



Alexis Greeves, LPCC, RPT-S



## What is Theraplay?

Theraplay is a therapist-guided psychotherapy that focuses on parent-child relationships and has been accepted by SAMHSA as an evidence-based practice. It:

- Enhances attachment, self-esteem, and trust in others through joyful engagement
- Elicits cooperation and improves behavior issues in children through positive connection
- Creates an active and empathic connection between child and parents
- Results in changed view of the self as worthy and lovable, and of relationships as positive

## How does it differ from other modalities?

- It directly involves the parents or caregivers in change
- It focuses on the “here and now”
- Progress can be made quickly
- It focuses on strengthening the parent-child relationship
- The “Theraplay Way” flows easily from clinical setting to home
- Theraplay is appropriate for all ages - infancy through adolescence
- It is active, interpersonal, and fun

## Learning Objectives include:

- Administer and Analyze the MIM, an observation of the parent-child relationship
- Utilize the MIM as a guide for treatment planning
- Describe the four dimensions of Theraplay and demonstrate one activity from each dimension
- Describe ways to adapt Theraplay treatment to meet the needs of a child with complex trauma
- Describe how to guide parents to participate in a Theraplay session

## Who Should Attend?

Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Social Workers, Clinical Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, School Counselors, Play Therapists, Infant Mental Health Professionals, Special Education Teachers, and others...

Scan the QR code to register or contact us at 847-256-7334.



# Welcome to the New ND APT Members

**Karen Van Fossen**

**Ashley Thompson**

**Madison Schindler**

**Matt Orr**

**Sarah Dillinger**

**Elizabeth Meyer**

**Amanda Arso**



**NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF PLAY THERAPY**



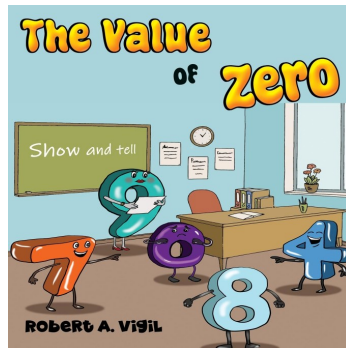
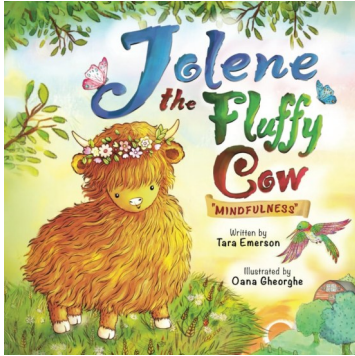
## **Why Play Therapy?**

**"Play is the highest form of research."**

**- Albert Einstein**



## Bibliotherapy Recommendations for your play room



**North Dakota  
Local Authors with books  
related to mental  
health**

Stay Connected  
with NDAPT



Facebook:



ND Association for Play  
Therapy

Instagram:



nda4pt  
North Dakota Association for Play Therapy

<https://playtherapynd.com/>

### NDAPT Board Members

Executive Director	Carol Schneweis
President	Andrea Walker
Vice President	Bridget Meranda
Secretary	Tina Nordaune
Treasurer	Amanda Weston
Member Elect	Jennifer Kizima



Alissa Fugazzi  
Ariana Best

**Thank you to Amanda Weston for all your time and dedication  
on the ND APT Board!**

**Welcome to the newly elected ND Board Members:**

**Amy Ham, Sandy Richter & Cianna Rabbithead**