

# NDAPT ANNUAL PLAY THERAPY CONFERENCE

JUNE 10-12<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

CLUBHOUSE HOTEL & SUITES  
4400 15TH AVENUE S, FARGO ND

**DAY 1 & 2: JUNE 10-11**

## **THE ART OF REBUILDING: PLAY THERAPY FOR FAMILIES NAVIGATING DIVORCE**

*Ann Meehan* LPCC, RPT-S<sup>TM</sup>

Explore how play therapy can support children and families through one of the life's challenging transitions. This dynamic training dives into the emotional impact of divorce on children, development considerations across age groups, and the play therapy theories and interventions that foster healing, safety and connection.

Participants will learn practical tools for every state of the divorce process- from intake and assessment to navigating co-parenting dynamics and maintaining clear therapeutic boundaries. The training includes frameworks, real-world case examples, printable interventions, and guidance for handling complex situations such as subpoenas, loyalty conflicts, and communication barriers. Join us to gain a comprehensive understanding of how to help children feel seen, supported, and secure as they rebuild their world through play.

### **About the Presenter:**

Ann Meehan helps child and teen therapists trade stress and survival for confidence, clarity, and effectiveness in the playroom. A LPCC and RPT-S and EMDR Consultant, she delivers trainings that are practical, playful, and packed with strategies therapists can use the very next day. She has a mission to equip child therapists with the tools and confidence to thrive in their work. Ann runs The Playful Therapist Blog, Meehan Mental Health Services Training Center, owns Create Wellness Center for Children & Adolescent Therapy, and is the current president of the Minnesota Association for Play Therapy.

## Learning Objectives:

- Describe over 25 Play Therapy interventions that are appropriate to use with divorce and separated family systems.
- Identify at least 6 Play Therapy Theories that can be used effectively with children of divorce and separation.
- List and describe at least three signs of distress as a result of parental divorce and separation across the 6 stages of childhood development.
- Demonstrate the ability to understand and describe the role of play therapists with divorcing and separating family systems.
- Describe at least five ethical and legal considerations and concerns when working with divorce in play therapy.
- List at least 6 referral resources when working with kids and families of divorce and separation.
- Describe the four stages of divorce and how a child's play therapy may be impacted by each stage.
- Identify at least 10 treatment tasks specific to divorce and play therapy.
- Describe at least 7 steps in the intake process therapists should take to maintain boundaries in play therapy with families of divorce and separation.
- Identify at least 5 strategies to help increase trust and effective working relationships with parents for play therapy parent sessions.
- List at least 10 therapeutic strategies to use with parents of divorce and separated family systems to increase stability, safety, predictability, and consistency.

**DAY 3- JUNE 12**

## **INTEGRATING NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE IN PLAY THERAPY PRACTICE**

*Tina Nordaune* MS, MSW, LCSW, CTS, CFRC, EPT/C, RPT-S™

*Amy Ham* MS, LPC/LPCC-S

Explore the integration of Native American cultural values and traditions within play therapy practices. Develop cultural responsive skills to support Native American children and families by incorporating storytelling, symbolism, connection to nature, and community centered values. Learn about the impact of historical and intergenerational trauma, honoring family and community relationships, and promoting emotional expression and healing through culturally respectful play therapy approaches.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Identify key cultural values, traditions, historical experiences, and the impacts of historical and intergenerational trauma within Native American communities that influence the use and effectiveness of play therapy with Native American children and families.
- Describe how play therapy interventions can be culturally adapted to align with Native American practices such as storytelling, symbolism, connection to nature, and community-centered values while remaining sensitive to cultural and generational trauma.
- Demonstrate culturally responsive play therapy strategies that support emotional expression, resilience, identity development, and healing for Native American youth impacted by individual, collective, and intergenerational trauma.
- Explain methods for engaging Native American caregivers and families in the play therapy process to strengthen communication, relational safety, cultural continuity, and culturally grounded support systems.

**PRE CONFERENCE: JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>**

## **FOUNDATIONS IN PLAY THERAPY: CHILD CENTERED PLAY THERAPY**

*Angela Cavett* Ph.D, LPC, RPT-S™

In collaboration with Chrysalis Behavioral Health & Training Center NDAPT will be offering the following Pre-Conference. A minimum of 10 participants is required to offer this preconference. This training is located at:

**Location:**

Chrysalis Behavioral Health & Training Center  
1620 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue S, Fargo, ND

**Arrival Instructions:**

Text (701)260-0713 when you arrive

Child Centered Play Therapy is an ideal approach for those first implementing play therapy as it provides the relationship between therapist and child to hear their worlds through the language of play. This workshop is an introduction to Child Centered Play Therapy for mental health providers. Child Centered Play Therapy is a nondirective theory that guides interactions with the child in the play therapy room. Child Centered Play Therapy allows novice play therapists insight into children's worlds through the language of play. This workshop will provide the principles and objectives of CCPT. Themes in play will be discussed. Interactive and experiential learning will allow for practice of child centered skills including limit setting, tracking, and reflecting.

**Learning Objectives:**

After this workshop, participants will be able to:

- List the objectives of child-centered play therapy
- Discuss the basic principles of Child Centered Play Therapy
- Identify the use of play themes in child-centered play therapy
- Use role play to practice child-centered play therapy skills
- Explain therapeutic limit setting in the playroom
- Describe ways to engage parents in play therapy

Content Level: Beginner and Intermediate