

# INTENSIVE CHILD-CENTERED PLAY THERAPY TRAINING

FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SEEKING TO DEVELOP  
COMPETENCY IN CHILD-CENTERED PLAY THERAPY

**AN EXPRESSIVE THERAPY APPROACH TO PROVIDING POWERFUL  
EVIDENCE-BASED THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS TO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS.**

**April 22-24, 2024**

Burnaby, British Columbia

8:1 PARTICIPANT-TO-LEADER RATIO

*Sponsored by:*



GROVE CENTRE  
FOR CHILD AND  
FAMILY THERAPY

*Presented by:*

**Christopher Conley**  
MA, RCC, RMFT, CPT-S, RPT-S

Registered Clinical Counsellor  
Registered Marriage & Family Therapist  
Certified/Registered Play Therapist Supervisor  
Certified Filial Therapy Therapist, Supervisor & Instructor

## ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

### **Christopher Conley**

MA, RCC, RMFT, CPT-S, RPT-S

Christopher is a Certified Play Therapist Supervisor (CPT-S) with the Canadian Association for Play Therapy and a Registered Play Therapist Supervisor (RPT-S) with the (American) Association for Play Therapy. He has over twenty-five years of clinical experience with families and children ages 18 months to 18 years. He is a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) with the BC Association of Clinical Counsellors, Registered Marriage and Family Therapist (RMFT) with the Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and Clinical member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). He holds a Master of Arts degree in Counselling and Psychological Services.

Christopher has written articles and has conducted workshops nationally in Canada on topics including play therapy, filial therapy, attachment-based parent education and relational classroom management. He is a board member of the International Institute of Filial Therapy Professional Education and is a past board member of BCPTA and CAPT.

## ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Child-Centered Play Therapy is the most prominent model of play therapy. It was developed by Virginia Axline based on the principles Client-Centered Therapy by Carl Rogers. Its premise is that if a therapist creates a safe therapeutic environment a child will initiate the therapeutic work they need to do to resolve presenting issues. It is an evidence-based therapeutic intervention for children ages 3-12 and older. Participants in this workshop after returning to their office will be able to competently and confidently conduct CCPT with their clients.

Play is a child's natural medium of communication, symbolic language. Play serves important child developmental purposes including motor, social, emotional, intellectual and mastery. Play represents the child's attempt to organize and integrate their experiences and internal world. It is by expressing, through play - the process of externalizing the images and symbols from the inner world, through a creative medium that is witnessed in sensory form and honoured by a skilled and trained therapist who is fully present - that a deeper level of growth and healing occur. Child-Centered Play Therapy is an empirically supported approach that helps children express feelings, heal trauma, develop emotional regulation and problem-solving skills, and enhance self-esteem.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to: 1) understand language as images in a child's play; 2) identify the underlying theoretical principles, goals, stages, and intake, assessment and treatment process; 3) confidently and effectively recommend child-centered play therapy to parents as the most appropriate therapeutic intervention; 4) demonstrate child-centered play therapy skills with competence and confidence; 5) describe appropriate playroom setup and toy selection and rationale; 6) identify themes of play sessions and the process of understanding the meaning of play therapy sequences; 7) understand how to engage parents in the child's therapeutic process; 8) discuss some of the primary research that evidences the efficacy of this child therapy approach.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Psychologists, social workers, mental health therapists and counsellors, family therapists, play therapists and other experienced professionals working with children and adolescents.

## PREREQUISITE TRAINING/READING

Participants are required to have prior training and supervised experience working with children in a therapeutic environment. No prior play therapy experience is required. Participants are encouraged to read the book *Child-Centered Play Therapy*, VanFleet et al (2010). A master's degree in counselling psychology or clinical social work or equivalent is preferred. Please include a brief description with your registration form of your professional background, particularly related to clinical services with children. Please contact Christopher Conley with any questions.

## TRAINING METHODS

Training involves didactic information, case presentations, video and live demonstrations and significant role-play skills practice fully observed by the instructor. Participants receive direct verbal and written feedback from the instructor.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Training hours meet foundation training and continuing education training requirements for CAPT. Training hours meet continuing education training requirements for BCPTA. Christopher Conley is approved by the Canadian Association for Play Therapy to provide continuing education training and foundation training specific to play therapy. BC Play Therapy Association recognizes Christopher Conley as an approved provider of play therapy training. Christopher Conley maintains responsibility for this program.

CAPT Foundation Training and Continuing Education Training Approved Provider 09-101, 19.5 hours.  
Theories/approaches 10 hours, techniques 6.5 hours, special populations 3 hours.

Attendance for all contact training hours is necessary to receive attendance certificate, partial hours cannot be provided. Successful completion of student evaluation is necessary for foundation training credit hours toward certification from CAPT.

## FEES & CANCELLATION POLICY

**Early registration fee** (fully paid by March 31): **\$690.00 CAD + GST**

**Regular registration fee** (paid after March 31): **\$795.00 CAD + GST**

Written cancellations received before 30 days prior to training date will receive a full refund. Written cancellations received before 14 days prior to training date are subject to a \$200 cancellation fee, with the remainder being refunded. Unfortunately, no refunds can be given after 14 days prior to training date unless another participant substitutes, subject to \$200 cancellation fee.

Registration fees include training hours, training materials and refreshments. Lunch is not included. Fees in Canadian funds. Registrations are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Please review cancellation policy. A Square invoice will be sent to you after your registration has been reviewed and accepted.

## REGISTRATION

Please email your registration information to ensure space is available and for review of prerequisites (if required). Registration is complete once payment is received. Please do not make payment until you have received confirmation of your registration. Download registration form on trainings page at [grovecentre-trainings](https://grovecentre-trainings.com).

## TRAINING LOCATION & SCHEDULE

7382 Winston St, Suite 105, Burnaby, BC V5A 2G9

**Monday April 22 – Wednesday April 24, 2024 • 9:00am – 5:00pm**

Parking: on street (limited) and in 2 rows at rear of building. See website for directions and parking instructions.

Covid vaccinations are strongly encouraged to attend training. Contact us with any special needs as we are committed to making training accessible to all interested participants. Contact Christopher with any questions at [train@grovecentre.ca](mailto:train@grovecentre.ca).



## GROVE CENTRE FOR CHILD AND FAMILY THERAPY

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