Summer is here and many of you are enjoying summer vacations and hopefully finding some time to relax.

This has been an extremely dynamic year for CALAPT. Lots of changes and some amazing events behind us, as well as several remaining this year. Please check out our event page to find out more about what we have coming up in your area.

NOCA Regional Play Therapy Conference Co-Coordinators extend a warm welcome and brief introduction of our Events section to see all of our remaining events for 2016, as well as information about our 2017 Regional Conferences. A formal call for proposals for 3 Hour Play Therapy presentations for our Northern California Conference will be going out soon, but feel free to email me now to express your interest if you would like to be considered as a speaker.

A special thanks to all of our officers and board members who give so much of themselves and volunteer their time, energy and passion to make CALAPT a strong, supportive and successful entity!

Jodi Smith LCSW, RPT-S
**Theme:** Engagement and Assessment (Recommended for ages 8-16)

**Goals:** Increase open communication; Gather information about the client; Help client gain insight into school frustration

**Materials:** A long rectangular sheet of paper — An assortment of miniature items, including those with positive and negative connotations (for example, fairy, prince, princess, witch, action figures, monsters, assortment of animals)

**Description:** Divide a long rectangular sheet of paper into as many spaces as the child has been in school plus one (for example, for sixth grade, use 6 spaces plus one more). Write a grade into each space: K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 ... 

Have the child choose a figure from the assortment of miniatures that reminds her/him in some way of the teacher she/he has had. To help the child remember, write down the name of each teacher beginning with the current one.

After the child has picked each figure, have her/him tell you what was picked for each grade level and process with the child what each figure represents for her/him. (See suggestions below.) You can also have the child label each grade level and/or teacher with an adjective, or identify one positive memory and one negative memory about each grade. This can lead to a good conversation about education, specific subjects, and school dynamics. Process questions include:

- I see that you picked ________________ for ____ grade. Tell me about that.
- So when did school become stressful, negative, problematic? What do you think happened to make it like that?
- What would you like to be different at school?

**Discussion:** Many children struggle with feelings of failure and frustration as they proceed through school. At some point they may "give up" and feel like they are "stupid." The activity assesses where things may have started to go wrong for the child. The practitioner can use this tool to determine if there is some historical event that could have led to a downward spiral at school. Children gain a sense of relief and a new ability to hope when they realize that school failure may be multifaceted and not just because they are "lazy."

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**About the Author:** Maxine McCleery Bowden, MA, is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist at West End Family Counseling Center in Ontario, California. She was an educator 20 years and is now a therapist and supervisor.
Save the Dates for Upcoming Events

Southern California Regional Play Therapy Conference
March 6-7, 2017
Etiwanda Gardens, Rancho Cucamonga, CA
Two days of creative and evidence-based play therapy interventions for children and families with LIANA LOWENSTEIN!

Northern California Regional Play Therapy Conference
July 21-22, 2017
San Luis Obispo, CA
Watch your email for the official call for proposals for 3 hour workshops!
For more information or to express interest in presenting, email: jodismithlcsw@me.com

California Play Therapists! Who will be in Louisville in October?
Follow our Facebook posts for information on meet-ups, room sharing and ride sharing!
Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new play therapists!
Chapter Updates

Central Coast Chapter
The Central Coast Chapter’s leadership consists of Pamela Benadiba (President), Alexandra Heuer (President-Elect), Debbie M. Heredia (Secretary) and Allison Locke (Immediate Past President).
For more information contact cccalapt@calplaytherapy.org

Central Valley Chapter: Elisabeth Contreras (Chapter President)
The Central Valley Chapter is so grateful to have experienced a fantastic June presentation “The Sound of Music from a Gestalt Therapy Perspective” with our very own Past President Valente Orozco, LCSW, RPT/S, PPS. The attendees provided excellent reviews!!! Our upcoming event on August 20th will take place in Visalia CA, we are hoping to meeting new local members, gain new memberships and recruit new leadership for next year! More info to follow!

Los Angeles Chapter: Gloria Osborne, MSW (Chapter President)
The Los Angeles Chapter would like to invite you to our 6.0 CEU training on Play Therapy and Law & Ethics on August 13, 2016 at LMU. We are excited to have Quint Paige, MFT, RPT/S as our presenter and look forward to seeing you there. We will also be hosting a 1.5 APT workshop presented by Kimberly Bartlett on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at The Guidance Center in Long Beach.

Legal and Ethical Issues in Child and Adolescent Play Therapy
Register 8/13/16
Presented by Quint Page, LMFT, RPT-S
Chapter Updates

Orange County Chapter:
Sahar Naraghi-Babaei, LCSW (Chapter President)

The Orange County Chapter had a wonderful annual meet and greet on May 7 along with a mini presentation on Art Therapy by Sara DeSmet. It was great to see new and old faces and we hope to see you all at our next meeting!

We have postponed our two-hour July meeting. The new date will be sent out soon. We still have our October 22 meeting during which time we will have a free training! Please stay tuned for more specific information.

Sacramento Chapter
Jennifer W. Tutt, LCSW (Chapter President)

It is hard to believe that the year is half over. I hope this message finds you all well and enjoying using play in your work with your clientele.

The Sacramento Chapter is looking forward to having Clair Mellenthin, LCSW present at Shriners Hospital for Children in Sacramento, CA on September 24, 2016. We hope to see you in Sacramento in September!! We will round out our year in November with a 1.5 CE where we look forward to a 1.5 CE by Kate Craig, LMFT, who will present on Animal Assisted Play Therapy.

Register

Clair Mellenthin
Child and Family Therapist
LCSW, RPT-S

The Power of Play:
Proven Strategies for Trauma and Attachment in Children & Adolescents

September 24, 2016
in Sacramento
Chapter Updates Part 2

San Bernardino Chapter: Reannin Weinstein (Chapter President)

The Central Coast Chapter’s leadership consists of Reannin Weinstein (President), Felisha Callum (President-Elect), Mari Ulate (Secretary), and Brianna Belcher (Immediate Past President).

For more information contact sbcalapt@calplaytherapy.org

San Diego Chapter
Shirla Pamp, LMFT, RPT (Chapter President)

The San Diego Chapter had an amazing turnout for our Psychodynamic Play Therapy Workshop on June 18th presented by Dr. Scott Boles. Thank you to all that are helping spread the word about our events and the healing powers of Play Therapy! Our next 1.5 CE event "Creating Play Therapy Treatment Plans for Schools, Agencies and Private Practice" will be presented by Sarah Scott Dooling, LCSW, RPT-S on September 10th from 10-12pm at the National University Headquarter Building in Torrey Pines. We hope to see you there! Stay Playful!

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
Kate Leyva, LMFT (Chapter President)

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter had their 6.0 event with presenter Ken Swartzenberger. It was a great turn out of local play therapists as well as support from other chapters. A special shout out to all the current and previous CalAPT officers who attended the event. It was awesome to see you all there. We have already received excellent feedback on Ken's presentation with a strong interest for more from Ken. Also a special thank you to Ken for such a thoughtful and well prepared training.

At the training I found myself wanting more time for connection. I want to encourage all of our members and play therapists (both near and far) to attend our next event on July 15th. We will be having a networking lunch in Lafayette from 12:00-1:30. This will be a chance to learn more about CalAPT and our local chapter as well as get to know other play therapists. Please keep your eye out on the website for details regarding this event.
2016 California Association
For Play Therapy Executive Board

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The Association for Play Therapy (APT) is the parent organization of CalAPT. The Association for Play Therapy observes a dual membership policy. Dual membership requires that persons joining CalAPT join APT, and that persons living in California who join APT also become members of CalAPT.

The purpose of dual membership is to increase collaboration and interaction between APT and its state branches – a partnership CalAPT supports!

Being an APT member provides you with discounted rates for full day trainings, Quarterly Journals, and the Play Therapy Magazine. Membership also allows for discounted rates for the Annual National Play Therapy Conference. To renew your membership please talk with your nearby chapter or visit the APT Website at: http://www.a4pt.org/memberapp.cfm

We encourage all play therapists and CALAPT members to seek formal credentialing with the Association for Play Therapy. For more information, go to http://www.a4pt.org/?page=Credentials or contact:

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DISCLAIMER: The aim of the CALAPT Newsletter is to provide a forum for discussion of a wide range of articles representing various theoretical models, treatment approaches, concerns and activities in play therapy. Inclusion of a specific article does not reflect CALAPT official position or endorsement unless otherwise stated. The data and statements herein are the sole responsibility of the authors concerned.
2015 Summer Intensive Training in Gestalt Therapy with Children and Adolescents, Presented by: Felicia Carroll, LMFT, RPT-S
This Training is designed to build theoretical understanding and clinical skills.

A Coloring Book of Healing Images for Adult Survivors of Child Abuse (2015), by Ellen Lacter. Psychoeducation, healing suggestions, 119 illustrations, heavyweight paper suitable for most art media

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Kimberly Bartlett LCSW, RPT-S

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The newsletter is published 5 times yearly in January, July, June, August and October. Deadlines are 60 days prior to these dates. For information Email Jodi Smith, LCSW, RPT-S at jodismithlcsw@me.com or download the newsletter ad form at:
http://www.calplaytherapy.org/NEWSLETTER.html