

Requirements for Certification as a Foundational Group Practitioner and Group Theraplay® Practitioner

QUALIFICATIONS:

A. Training and Experience

Candidates for Certification as Group Theraplay Practitioner must have completed the requirements to be qualified, licensed, certified, or registered in their own field. In each case we assume a background in the principles of child or human development, an understanding of good practice within their area of expertise, experience in working with children (or adults) in groups, and an understanding of the ethical issues involved in working with their usual population.

Candidates who have extensive experience working with children (or adults) in groups, but who have not yet completed their professional degree, will be admitted into Group Theraplay training and can complete up to the Foundational level of Group Theraplay certification. They can serve as co-leader with a Certified Group Theraplay Practitioner or arrange for ongoing supervision once a month with their certification supervisor. When professional requirements are completed and proof is submitted they can continue beyond Foundational to Certified Group Theraplay Practitioner. Others who work with children and families but are not accredited may achieve Foundational Group Theraplay Practitioner. Should their professional status change, they may seek further levels of certification at a later time. The decision about qualifications will be made at application.

B. Responsibility/liability for the welfare of the group members

The Theraplay Institute does not assume legal responsibility for the welfare of group participants. Therefore it is important that candidates for Certification as Group Theraplay Practitioners either have the credentials that allow them to work with their groups independently or have a regular supervisor who can be responsible for the welfare of the group members. This supervisor is not the same person as the Theraplay Supervisor.

During the certification process, candidates must have fully informed written permission to conduct the group from their supervisor and fully informed permission from the parents of the children in their groups (or group participants if over the age of 15). In professions where it is applicable, candidates should have their own malpractice insurance. A copy of their insurance confirmation should be submitted along with their application for admission to the practicum.

Step I: Training

Satisfactory completion of Group Theraplay: Creating Cooperation, Connection and Community for

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Children in Groups

It is recommended that candidates begin their practicum as soon as possible after completing the introductory course.

Step II: Registration for Practicum

Registration for the Group Theraplay Supervision practicum can be completed in the following ways:

- If a student intends to be supervised by a Theraplay Institute supervisor, the registration documents should be submitted along with the Foundational fee (currently \$1200, includes seven supervision session) to the practicum manager at robin@theraplay.org
- If the student resides within a country with a certified Theraplay Affiliate (currently Finland and Germany), application may be made to that Affiliate according to the requirements of International *Procedures for Obtaining Certification as a Group Theraplay® Specialist, 2006*.
- If the student wishes to be supervised by a certified independent Theraplay supervisor rather than through The Theraplay Institute, the registration documents and should still be submitted to the practicum manager. A registration fee of \$400 is paid to the Institute and supervision fees will be paid directly to the independent supervisor.

Students should submit the following materials:

- Practicum Attestation
- Description of professional experience, i.e. Curriculum Vita or Resume
- A brief (one page) narrative including a personal history and a description of how you intend to use Theraplay Groups in your work
- Copy of professional license or an official transcript of credits from your college, university or professional training organization
- Written permission from supervisor and from group participants or their parents/guardians
- Confirmation of malpractice insurance when applicable

Step III: Practicum Participation

A. Total Number of sessions

Foundational Certificate –8 supervised groups + 16 unsupervised groups = 24 Fully Certified Group Theraplay Practitioner –16 supervised groups + 32 unsupervised groups = 48

Each candidate must complete a minimum of 24 Theraplay Group Theraplay Groups (from 30-60 minutes each) to become a Foundational Group Practitioner and 48 Groups to Certified Group Theraplay practitioner and. Experience with more than one group is valuable and should be done if at all possible. Because it takes time to develop skills and to feel comfortable doing Group work, a minimum of one year or school year is required for completion of Certified Group

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Practitioner and 6 months for Foundational Group Practitioner.

B. Number of supervised sessions

Foundational Group Theraplay Practitioner

To earn a Foundational Certificate a total of 8 supervised Group Theraplay sessions and 16 unsupervised session must be completed. The Group Session Supervision form and the Fidelity Checklist are required with each supervised session. The 8th supervised session is considered your Foundational evaluation and must be submitted to The Theraplay Institute with a Group Self Description by Dimension form which rates the body of your work rather than a single session. All forms can be found on our website at

<http://www.theraplay.org/index.php/supervision/certification/supervision-certification-forms>.

Certified Group Theraplay Practitioner

To earn a Certified Group Theraplay Certificate a total of 16 supervised Group Theraplay sessions and 32 unsupervised sessions must be completed. The Group Session Supervision form and the Fidelity Checklist are required with each supervised session. The 16 supervised sessions will include the Foundational evaluation (8th session) and Final evaluation (16th session). The 8th session and 16th session must be submitted to the Theraplay Institute for evaluation to earn Foundational and Full certification. A Group Session Supervision form and the Fidelity Checklist and a Self-Description by Dimension form is required as part of the Foundational and Final evaluation submission. All forms can be found on our website at

<http://www.theraplay.org/index.php/supervision-certification/supervision-certification-forms>

C. Supervision Options

- On-Line supervision is the preferred way to receive supervision from The Theraplay Institute. Instructions for electronically transferring your videos and arranging an on-line supervision meeting with your supervisor will be provided by The Theraplay Institute. In the rare instance when on-line supervision is not practical, The Theraplay Institute will accept DVDs or drives, which will be destroyed upon completion of supervision. If you would prefer to have your videos returned, you will be responsible for paying postage.
- Individual supervision can be done when there is a supervisor near the candidate, or if the candidate wishes to bring video to one of The Theraplay Institute offices for supervision. Supervisors may agree to on-site supervision with additional charged for travel.
- Supervision groups can be arranged if there is more than one practicum student in an area. Group participants can earn additional credit for observing others' supervision at the rate of .5 credits per hour up to three total for those earning Certified Group Practitioner only.

D. Video Formats

The Theraplay Institute only accepts digital formats either on a thumb drive or via a file

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sharing platform such as Citrix Fileshare.

E. Record-keeping

Candidates should keep records for all of the supervised sessions including: date of session, date the video was mailed, payment information and date of receipt of supervision comments. The candidate should also keep a record of all unsupervised sessions, including name of group and date of session.

F. Payment

Payment must be made before starting supervision for Foundational level and again before starting Full Certification. All payments can be made through our website www.theraplay.org under the “store” tab or by check if the bank is in the US. When submitting a video, the candidate should clearly indicate if session is a regular Theraplay session or if the session is for their Foundational evaluation or Final evaluation. All practicum registration and supervision fees are non-refundable.

G. Refund Policy

All Practicum registration and supervision fees are non-refundable upon starting the actual practicum. If due to unforeseen circumstances the supervisee is unable to begin supervision and would like a refund they will be subject to \$200 processing fee.

Step IV: Evaluation

We recognize that Group Theraplay requires special skills and aptitudes and that it is not appropriate for everyone. In order that candidates not waste both time and money, supervisors will attempt to determine as early as possible when a candidate is not showing aptitude for Group Theraplay. In that case they will be helped to understand this and to withdraw from the program.

All 8th session and 16th session videos should be submitted to The Theraplay Institute.

When submitting a 8th or 16th session, the student must include (a) the name of the supervisor, (b) a list of the completed supervised sessions, (c) a list of the total number of sessions completed to date, and (d) a letter from the supervisor recommending the student for Foundational or Certified Group Practitioner evaluation. The usual background information should be included.

In cases where the application documents were placed on file at an International Affiliate, those session should be sent with the same documentation as above plus a letter from the Affiliate stating that the applicant's documents are complete and that the supervisor is in good standing.

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A Theraplay supervisor who has not been the candidate's regular supervisor completes the evaluations of the 8th session and the 16th session videos. Evaluators rate the candidate's performance as Pass, Fail or Probationary Pass. A probationary pass will be accompanied by recommendations for change and possibly a requirement for additional supervised sessions.

Step V: Certification

All training and supervision leading to certification as Foundational or Certified Group Theraplay Practitioner must be provided by Certified Theraplay Trainers and Certified Theraplay Supervisors.

Upon completion of all requirements the candidate will receive a certificate from the Theraplay Institute. A Foundation Certificate indicates that the candidate has fulfilled The Theraplay Institute's requirements for training and has achieved a level of competence in conducting Group Theraplay sessions that would allow her to continue Group Theraplay under the supervision of Certified Theraplay Therapist or a Certified Group Practitioner. Certification as a Group Theraplay Therapist indicates that the candidate has fulfilled The Theraplay Institute's requirements for training and has achieved a level of competence in conducting Group Theraplay sessions that would allow her to continue Group Theraplay independently. However, the Certified Group Theraplay Practitioner may wish ongoing supervision if she is working in isolation. It is strongly recommended that additional supervision be received if the graduate begins working with an entirely different population than the one being served during the practicum.

We encourage those who attend Group Theraplay: Creating Cooperation, Connection and Community for Children in Groups to practice the techniques in their own setting. When doing so, it is correct to say that the groups they are leading are based upon the principles of Theraplay groups.

Foundational Group Practitioners and Certified Group Practitioners may call themselves that or refer to their group work as Group Theraplay. They are allowed to use the Theraplay® name in written statements about their work, including brochures, business cards, advertising, and the like. The service mark symbol should be used the first time the word "Theraplay" occurs in a document. The following phrase should be included in the document: "Theraplay® is a registered service mark of The Theraplay Institute, 1224 Belmont Ave, FL 1, Chicago, IL 60657."

Step VI: Continuing Education Requirements

Certified Group Practitioners must complete a Continuing Education requirement every three years and maintain annual membership in The Theraplay Association (currently \$85). The following options are available:

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- Attend the International Theraplay Conference (currently held in odd numbered years in Chicago); cost is the registration fee and travel
- Submit a video for supervision; cost is currently \$125
- Write an article that is accepted and published in The Theraplay Institute newsletter; cost is \$0
- Publish an article about Group Theraplay in a professional journal, cost is \$0
- Present about Group Theraplay at a conference, cost varies
- Participate in a research project sponsored by The Theraplay Institute

Foundational Group Practitioners do not have a continuing education requirement, but must remain members in good standing of the Theraplay® Association (\$55 annually), which includes newsletters, best practice updates and a regular listing on our web directory.

Group Practitioners who are inactive for an extended period may obtain Sabbatical status, and the Continuing Education requirement will be waived. However, membership in The Theraplay Association will be required in order that the specialist be up-to-date on changes and developments in practice. Additional training or supervision may be required to regain active status after a Sabbatical.

FEES FOR PRACTICUM

As of May 2023; subject to change

With a Theraplay Institute supervisor:

Foundational Level <i>(includes registration fee, 7 supervision sessions and Foundational evaluation for Foundational Group Theraplay Practitioner certificate)</i>	\$1200	If using an independent supervisor there is \$400 registration fee. After registration independent supervisors are paid directly for supervision
If continuing to Certified Group Practitioner		If using an independent supervisor there is \$400 registration fee. After registration independent supervisors are paid directly for supervision
Fully Certified Level <i>(includes registration fee, 7 supervision sessions and final evaluation for Group Theraplay Practitioner certificate)</i>	\$1100	
	\$2,400	

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Total for Certified Practitioner		
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With an Independent Certified Theraplay Supervisor:

Foundational Registration fee (includes Foundational evaluation fee)	\$400
Supervision	Rate varies by supervisor
Fully certified Registration fee (includes final evaluation fee)	\$400
Total	\$800 plus supervisor's fees

NOTE: Upon starting the practicum, supervision fees are nonrefundable.

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