



News Release

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UNCC designated Approved Center of Play Therapy Education

(Clovis, CA) The University of North Carolina Charlotte Multicultural Play Therapy Center has been designated as an Approved Center of Play Therapy Education, according to Bill Burns, CAE, executive director of the Association for Play Therapy (APT).

Play therapy is a form of mental health counseling or psychotherapy by which licensed mental health professionals incorporate the use of play to better communicate with and help clients achieve optimal mental health. It is particularly effective with children because, just as adults use words to communicate ideas and feelings, children use play. APT recently launched its Approved Center program to acknowledge those universities generating substantial play therapy research, publications, graduate instruction, supervised clinical experiences, and other programs.

During its initial three-year approval period, the Multicultural Play Therapy Center estimates that it will offer introductory and advanced play therapy graduate instruction, supervised clinical experiences, supervisor training, and generate articles for various professional publications. These programs may be applied to satisfy state licensing requirements and to earn the Registered Play Therapist (RPT) and Supervisor (RPT-S) credentials conferred by APT.

The Center was founded in March by its director, Phyllis Post, PhD, LPC, RPT, UNCC Professor and Coordinator of Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy.

"Because the rapidly increasing use of play therapy is also boosting demand for more university play therapy programs, APT applauds the University of North Carolina Charlotte for approving the establishment of the Center," says Burns. "We are confident that, under Dr. Post's leadership, it will significantly advance our growing field and serve those who counsel clients, particularly children, in schools, public agencies, private practices, and other venues."

APT, a national professional society, estimates that play therapy is routinely utilized by literally thousands of licensed psychologists, social workers, counselors, and marriage and family therapists within and outside of the United States. Noting membership has doubled during the last decade, Burns reports that nearly 20% of accredited universities now offer some combination of play therapy graduate instruction and supervised play therapy experiences.

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For more information about Play Therapy or the Association for Play Therapy, consult the APT website, www.a4pt.org.