



Frequently Asked Questions about Supervision and Certification

Do I have to commit to the certification program in order to receive supervision?

No. We encourage graduates of our Introductory Theraplay & MIM training to seek supervision or form a peer supervision group as soon as possible. Commitment to the certification practicum is not necessary to begin. In most cases, supervision received prior to official application to the practicum can count toward certification.

How do I get supervision if there is no Certified Theraplay Supervisor in my area?

Most people send tape/DVD of their work to The Theraplay Institute and receive supervision notes via e-mail or phone conversation. If you organize a peer supervision group, you may also arrange for supervision from us via conference call.

How long does it take to become fully certified?

At least one year is recommended. The average time is two years.

How much does it cost to become fully certified?

The standard cost of supervision is \$4,000. Above average students may receive permission from their supervisors at mid-term to earn credits in other ways than direct supervision, which can cut the cost by as much as \$1,000.

What are the academic requirements for certification?

A masters degree (or higher) in a mental health field specializing in working with children and families, and a current license to practice your profession. The Theraplay Institute does not take responsibility for the welfare of your clients; therefore you must be qualified to work independently. If you are still working on a masters degree or licensing, you may begin the practicum and earn Associates status until you have completed your training. If you work in social services under the supervision of a licensed professional, you may also earn Associates status as long as you continue to work under supervision.

I'm ready to enter the supervision practicum. What is the first step?

The first step is to send us the required application documents (curriculum vita/resume, consent forms, copy of license). Along with the documents, send the tape/DVD of your MIM and first Theraplay treatment session with the same client accompanied by the supervision forms which are found at the back of the certification requirements document (downloadable from our web page). Your notes should include a summary of your observations of the MIM (not a formal report). The fee for this application is \$200.

What if I want to work with an independent Certified Theraplay Supervisor?

Submit the same materials described above to your supervisor and send The Theraplay Institute the administrative application fee of \$100 and a copy of the required documents. Your supervisor will send us a letter of recommendation after reviewing your first tapes, which will serve as your acceptance into the practicum. Mid-term and final tapes will also be submitted to The Theraplay Institute. Your independent supervisor sets his own rates for supervision.

What are the three levels of certification?

Practicum students receive recognition of their progress upon completion of each of three levels:

- *Theraplay Practitioner Level 1: 8 supervised sessions, \$800*
- *Theraplay Practitioner Level 2 : 20 supervised sessions, \$2,000*
- *Certified Theraplay Therapist : see below*

Payment is "pay as you go", and you need not commit to completing the entire practicum. Please refer to the requirements document for more information about what to submit for each level.

What if I'm only ready to commit to earning Level 1 Theraplay Practitioner status?

That is completely acceptable, and the application process is the same as above. At any time you may decide to work toward the next level if you wish.

Who will be my supervisor; can I request a specific supervisor?

Generally, new students are assigned to supervisors based upon the supervisors' current case load. For students seeking double certification as an RPT, every effort is made to assign a supervisor who is an RPT-S. We attempt to honor special requests whenever possible. Once you are assigned a supervisor, you will generally work with her exclusively except for mid term and final review which is done by a supervisor other than your regular one.

What is the total number of sessions that are supervised?

The total number for full certification is 40. That includes two combination MIM summaries/first session tapes, 2 formal MIM reports, mid term and final evaluations of Theraplay sessions. At least three of the 36 supervised Theraplay sessions must be of work with the parent(s). In addition, students must submit a log record of 200 Theraplay sessions with at least 10 different clients.

What if I work in a setting such as a school where the parents are not involved in treatment?

In order to become certified, you must arrange to have at least one case that involves administering the MIM and working with the parents. Your supervisor can arrange for you to write up the other required MIM reports from tapes of their own MIMs.

What is the recommended protocol for submitting sessions for supervision?

Students should wait for feedback from tapes they have submitted before sending more, and the tapes they subsequently send should incorporate their supervisor's feedback (i.e. should not be of sessions done prior to receiving feedback). Do not send more than three sessions at one time. Every effort will be made to return supervision within two weeks. Your supervisor will contact you if this will not be possible due to travel or backlog of others' supervision.

Is there anything else required for certification?

Yes. Students must complete the three-day Intermediate Theraplay and MIM training in order to earn either Level 2 Theraplay Practitioner or Certified Theraplay Therapist. This training should be taken after you have been using Theraplay techniques in your work for at least three months.

I am an Occupational Therapist/Speech Language Therapist/Special Education teacher or other non-mental health professional, and I want to use Theraplay to enhance my services. Can I enter the supervision practicum?

Yes. You may earn the certification of Specialized Theraplay Therapist which allows you to work within your area of professional expertise.

I am having trouble getting permission to videotape my clients. Is there any other alternative for supervision?

Unfortunately, no, unless you are able to arrange to get live supervision of your work by a Certified Theraplay Supervisor.

How is client confidentiality maintained?

All tapes/DVD's are returned to students after they are supervised. Students are asked to identify clients only by their initials in any paperwork. The tapes are not shared or viewed by anyone but the student's supervisor. Supervisor's notes are destroyed upon completion of certification.

Once I become certified, are there any requirements to maintain my certification?

Yes. Certified Theraplay Therapists are required to maintain membership in The Theraplay Association (currently \$50/year). Dues include a subscription to our newsletter and a free listing on our web directory. In addition, there is a Theraplay Continuing Education requirement which must be met every three years.