



CHILD CHATTER



LOUISIANA Association for Play Therapy

THE NEWSLETTER OF LAPT

Volume 10 - Issue 2

LAPT Board Members

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Membership

Kristy Brumfield, PhD, NCC
Newsletter & Website

Erin Martin Dugan, PhD, LPC, RPT-S
Promotions & Publicity

*"Our greatest
Natural resource
Is the minds
Of our children."*

- Walter Elias Disney

Letter from the President of
LAPT : September 2008

Hello Everyone,

On behalf of LAPT, we hope all of you fared well during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. How fast this summer has gone. I hope all of you have had some fun, some relaxation, and played a lot during the summer.

Your LAPT Board members have had a busy summer. Some have done some personal traveling (Ann went to the British Isles and Carolyn went to China), while others have had babies (Erin had a girl named Eileen and Ray had #3, a boy named Jackson), yet another, LeAnne is expecting twins in October! Marcie and her husband, Danny, were in Cape Cod where Danny put on a summer seminar. Scott is working on his Ph.D., while Erin, Kristy, and LeAnne have continued to teach. Several of the Board have been hard at work

on our 2009 Conference, namely Marcie, Erin, and Marcia.

Speaking of "conference"...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

What: LAPT 2009
Annual Conference

When: March 6 & 7, 2008

Where: Loyola University,
New Orleans, LA

Keynote Speaker, March 6:
Dr. Sue Bratton,
Family Play Therapy

Sectionals, March 7:

These will include 1.5 hour and 3 hour workshops geared to meet the needs of those beginning the Play Therapy journey as well as topics to address the needs of more seasoned Play Therapist. There will also be workshops for those of you working towards your RPT/S. Some of these topics will address issues such as the History of Play Therapy, and introduction to Play Therapy, Play Therapy for grieving children and adults, Play Therapy for survivors of sexual abuse, Play Therapy for Substance Abuse Issues, Sandplay with couples, Sandtray with families, Play Therapy Theory and on and on.

The Conference promises to be exciting, entertaining, and educational.



Look for your **Registration Brochure** to be mailed in the next few months. Visit our website at www.la4pt.org to receive updated information about the conference and LAPT.

ALSO, DO NOT FORGET...

What: 25th Annual International Play Therapy Conference.

When: October 14-19, 2008

Where: InterContinental Dallas Hotel, Dallas, TX

Go to the APT website www.a4pt.org for additional information and to register online.

LAPT, in conjunction with APT, is committed to providing you with the most up to date information regarding the use of Play Therapy as a proven theoretical model. LAPT offers Play Therapy education through our annual conference. Several of our Board members and members-at-large offer Play Therapy trainings throughout the year. By visiting the www.la4pt.org and www.a4pt.org websites you can stay abreast of all trainings offered not only in Louisiana, but also throughout the country.

PROMOTING PLAY THERAPY:

LAPT continues our **Membership Drive**. Each of you can help to spread the word about Play Therapy by talking with your colleagues and encouraging them to attend our Annual Conference and join LAPT.

Remember, you do not have to be a Board Member or RPT/S to **promote Play Therapy**. You can do a presentation about Play Therapy at your local NASW or LPC meeting, to your local OCS, or to your local churches or civic organizations, or anyone else who will listen. *Please be sure to let the Board know when you present a Play Therapy topic.* If you would like assistance in presenting or just some suggestions, please feel free to contact any of your Board Members.

We want to see you become more involved in your organization. Please let one of us know if you have an interest in serving on the Board or if you have a topic you feel comfortable presenting at future workshops.

LAPT can only be successful in promoting Play Therapy if **you are involved as a shareholder.**



Stay playful and remain young at heart.

Ann Landry, LCSW, RPT-S

President, LAPT



LOUISIANA PRIDE

Recent LAPT Members to earn RPT

Stacey Woods Boitnott, LPC, Slidell

Michelle Niemeier PhD, LP, Gretna

Alexis Wedgeworth, LPC, New Orleans

Please send us an email detailing your recent achievements or examples of how you promoted play therapy to the newsletter editor.

LAPT Conference Sponsors / Exhibitors

**Would you like to place an advertisement in the
LAPT Annual Conference Brochure?**

(It is sent to 4,000+ therapists in Louisiana and your flyer can be inserted in the conference packets given to all attendees)

**Would you like to have an exhibit at the
LAPT Annual Conference?**

(With 100+ attendees, display for 2 days in the
Conference Registration area)

If interested or if you would like more information, contact Ray Melerine at rayray_75@hotmail.com or (337) 249-7279.

Mission Statement

To promote the value of play, play therapy, and credentialed play therapists.

To satisfy this mission, the Association for Play Therapy will advance the psychosocial development and mental health of all people by providing and supporting those programs, services, and related activities that promote the:

1. Understanding and valuing of play and play therapy.
2. Effective practice of play therapy through education, training, and research.
3. Recognition, incorporation, and preservation of diversity in play therapy.
4. Development and maintenance of a strong professional organization to accomplish these objectives.

Meet a LAPT Board Member

My name is: Erin Dugan

What I do for the board: Co-Chair, Conference

Why and when I joined the board: I joined the Board in 2006 because I wanted to become more affiliated with the Louisiana Branch of APT.

I play at (where I work and what I do for fun): LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans – I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling and the Clinical Director of the LSUHSC Play Therapy Clinic.

When I am not working or providing play therapy services - I play with my new 14 week old infant, Eileen!

Where I learned to play (school/trainings): First introduced during my masters' studies at UNO, later developed greater interest at The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss).

Why play therapy: Play therapy works for me because it provides a hands on connection and open doors of communication for children experiencing challenges and/or trying to overcome adversities.

My favorite play therapy book (why?): Play Therapy – The Art of the Relationship – it covers everything – I take it with me always!

My favorite children's book: I Love You Forever – I cried the first time someone read it to me at a conference, and then every time I read it to my sweet baby! It truly connects parents and their children.

My favorite play therapy technique: Reflection of Feelings – I believe that the development of the child's ability to self-express is fostered through reflections from the therapist and parents.

My favorite play therapy quote: "This is a place that you can choose what you would like to do."

APT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

25th Annual International Play Therapy Conference

Intercontinental Dallas Hotel

Addison, Texas

October 14-19, 2008



- Programs offering 40 hours of continuing education credit
- New, Unique, and Advanced Topics
- Activities to enjoy with your friends and families
- Addison perfectly blends the diversity of a big city with the ambiance of a small town

For more information or
to register online go to

www.a4pt.org

Representing Louisiana

The following LAPT Members will
be presenting at the
APT Conference in Dallas:

Scott Riviere from Lake Charles will present 2 workshops. (1) High-Tech Play Therapy: Using technology and the new media with teenagers & (2) Step-Up: Using Play Therapy to Help Step-families THRIVE!

Suzanne McCann from Montz (along with Wendy Caplin & Karen Pernet) will present **Healing Hearts in the Aftermath of Trauma: Group Filial Therapy for Families**

Danny Yeager from Lafayette will present **Strengthening Executive Function in Children with ADHD: A Play Therapy Approach**





LOUISIANA

Association for Play Therapy

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The Newsletter of LAPT

Letter from the Editor

Space is available for those wishing to advertise continuing education opportunities, products, or other services. The following rates have been adopted: full page - \$100; half page - \$50; quarter page - \$25. A discount of "4 for the price of 3" is given if you choose to advertise in 4 consecutive issues.

If interested, please contact Ray Melerine, (337) 249-7279, fax (337) 497-1045, or send e-mail to rayray_75@hotmail.com.

We welcome contributions to the newsletter, such as play therapy techniques, website recommendations, and books. LAPT reserves the right to reject or accept any submission.

I look forward to continuing as your newsletter editor and hope to hear from you soon.

Ray Melerine

Play Therapy

"The systematic use of a theoretical model to establish an interpersonal process wherein trained play therapists use the therapeutic powers of play to help clients prevent or resolve psychosocial difficulties and achieve optimal growth and development."

Why play?

Play is a child's natural form of communication just as talking is an adult's natural way of communication. Children, even children who are quite talkative, express themselves more fully through their play. Emotions are often difficult to understand for children and even more difficult to express. Play provides a non-threatening way for children to express themselves.