

CRISIS PLAY THERAPY

LEVEL I – CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

July 6-12, 2026 • Chiavenna, Italy
A 57-hour training program

APTI Approved Provider #15-001
APTI Approved Provider #20-602



Scientific Director:
Claudio Mochi, MA, RP, RPT-STM



Certification Program Overview

The contemporary world is complex and dynamic and constantly confronts us with new challenges as people and professionals. The two-level certification program in “Crisis Play Therapy” (CPT) enables those who work with children, families, and communities to acquire fundamental, cutting-edge skills and knowledge to address a variety of crisis and high vulnerability situations induced by natural and human-induced hazards.

Upon completion of the CPT two-level certification program, participants will be able to design and develop clinical interventions and neuroscience-informed psychosocial projects in crisis and high vulnerability contexts with a focus on managing stress, trauma (including intergenerational) and grief caused by a range of situations such as natural disasters (earthquakes, fires, floods), conflict, poverty and migration.

In addition to fostering professional growth and the acquisition of skills, the CPT program includes a personal development component in both levels I and II. Crisis and high vulnerability contexts impact the person and the professional directly and indirectly. The application of play and expressive arts for wellbeing and self-care is a key component of good practice.

The trainers and supervisors are international mental health experts specializing in trauma work, emergency intervention, psychosocial project development, play therapy or expressive arts. They all have a title recognized by one or more authorities in the Play Therapy world.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

June 25, 2026

EARLY BIRD:
February 15, 2026!

VENUE

Ostello al Deserto,
Via al Deserto, 2,
23022 Chiavenna
SO, Italy,
ostellochiavenna.it.

We recommend
flying into Milan
Malpensa Airport.

Start your
Certification
Program in Crisis
Play Therapy.
Enroll now!



Level II
Certification
Program
COMING
SOON!!!

PARTICIPANTS

For Level I

This level is intended for students and professionals in the fields of mental health, education, rehabilitation, healthcare, and social work who have completed or are currently undertaking formal training in the field of Creative Arts Therapies (such as Play Therapy, Expressive Arts Therapy, Art Therapy, etc.).

For Final Certification (level I and II)

Please note that participants are required to possess a solid foundational knowledge of at least one Play Therapy methodology. Those who do not yet meet this criterion are expected to fulfill this requirement by the conclusion of the Certification Program.

Additional requirements for obtaining the final certification will be communicated at a later stage.

Level I – Requirements

To obtain the Certificate “Crisis Play Therapy Level I”, participants must:

- watch all recorded webinars and complete the post-tests (according to APT & APTI standards) **by July 6, 2026**
- attend all in-person classes (**July 6-12, 2026**),
- complete the required readings (further information will be provided to registered participants) **by November 30, 2026**
- develop an individual journal according to the concept of “MAP” in a creative-expressive mode of participants’ choice. The process will be presented online **by November 30, 2026** (day/time to be agreed with supervisors).

Level I – Program Details

Level I of the Crisis Play Therapy Certification Program comprises **four interconnected areas** of study, designed to consolidate the fundamental knowledge necessary to understand the complex dynamics of working in crisis and high-vulnerability contexts, as well as the integration of play and Play Therapy.

Learning is enriched from the outset through a **personal awareness journey**, incorporating expressive and creative introspective activities, group discussions, and targeted readings.

Level I also includes modules that provide **up to 33 CE hours** (see individual references below). Successful completion of Level I grants access to Level II and the final Crisis Play Therapy Certification.

- 1. Prior to arrival, watch the webinars for Module 1-4 and validate them by completing the post-tests.**
- 2. During your stay in Italy, attend Modules 5-13.**
- 3. After returning home, complete any remaining readings and prepare your journal to be presented online by November 30.**

FOUNDATIONS: EXAMINING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CRISIS, PLAY, AND PLAY THERAPY

Module 1 – Building the Foundations: Understanding Crises and Cooperation [1-hour recorded webinar]

Explore the principles of international cooperation and the fundamentals of crisis conceptualization. Start gaining practical insight into designing and managing psychosocial projects in complex humanitarian contexts.

Key topics: International cooperation • Crisis conceptualization • Psychosocial project management

Module 2 – From Concept to Practice: Models for Crisis Play Therapy [2-hour recorded webinar] [2 Non-contact CE Hours]

Discuss process-oriented approaches and explain how the model “Coping with the Present while Building for the Future” (CPBF) and the MAP framework guide effective, context-sensitive interventions integrating play and Play Therapy. Explain when to use Play Therapy and when it may not be appropriate.

Key topics: Process-oriented play and Play Therapy interventions • The CPBF model • The MAP concept

Module 3 – Healing Through Play: Neuro and Emotional Perspectives [3-hour recorded webinar]

Identify the impact of stress, trauma, and grief and how play, informed by neuroscience, becomes a pathway to healing and resilience.

Key topics: Stress, trauma & grief • Neuro-informed play • Resilience through play

GROUNDWORK: PREPARING PLAY THERAPISTS FOR TIMES OF CRISIS

Module 4 – Foundations of Community Psychology in Play Therapy [2-hour recorded webinar] [2 Non-Contact CE Hours]

Explain the principles of community psychology in Play Therapy and analyze communities from a holistic, culturally sensitive perspective. This module introduces play therapists to their roles in times of crisis and helps to start preparing the groundwork for community-focused interventions.

Key topics: Community psychology principles in Play Therapy • Cultural humility • Crisis-driven community mobilization

SCHEDULE

57 hours of which:

- 41 hours in-person training
- 8 hours recorded webinar
- 7 hours mandatory reading
- 1 hour online journal presentation

In-person:

Classes are held from Monday, July 6 to Sunday, July 12, 2026 (total 6.5 days).

Arrival on July 5 after 4:00pm and departure on July 12 after 4:30pm.

Start 9:00am.

Morning break 10:30-10:45.

Lunch 12:15pm-1:15pm.

Afternoon break 2:45-3:00.

End 4:30pm.

Two of the days end at 5:30pm. A half-day break, with no training, is planned at the midpoint of the program.

Online:

8 hours of recorded webinars ([available online from April 2026](#) and are expected to be viewed before July 6).

+ 1 hour for creative presentation of the journal [by November 30, 2026](#) (day/time to be agreed with supervisors).

Module 5 – Skills for Connection: Play Therapy in Psychological First Aid

[3-hour in-person] [3 Contact CE Hours]

Apply core Play Therapy techniques for attunement, empathy, and co-regulation when supporting children, adults and groups with Psychological First Aid. This module guides play therapists in deepening the groundwork and exploring their professional roles in times of crisis.

Key topics: Psychological first aid • Attunement & empathy • Coregulation skills in Play Therapy

Module 6 – Assessment and Group Dynamics in Play Therapy

[6-hour in-person] [6 Contact CE Hours]

Discuss the process of needs assessment for adults, children, and groups, and utilize the principles of group dynamics to design effective Play Therapy interventions in crisis contexts. Play therapists gain tools for preparing the groundwork for interventions.

Key topics: Needs assessment • Group dynamics • Evidence-based practices • Play Therapy tools

Module 7 – Reflection and Ethical Practice in Crisis Play Therapy

[2-hour in-person] [2 Contact CE Hours]

Identify internal reflection to navigate feelings of helplessness, the desire to rescue, and ethical challenges, while maintaining a community-oriented approach. This module helps play therapists prepare the groundwork for ethical, sustainable practice in crises.

Key topics: Self-reflection • Managing emotional responses • Ethical Play Therapy and good practice

PLAY-BASED INTERVENTIONS AND PLAY THERAPY

Module 8 – Foundations of Play in the Community

[3-hour in-person]

Explore how play can assess children's needs, foster connections, and relieve stress. Learn the roots of community play and how to co-construct a sense of safety during crises through community mobilization.

Key topics: Children assessment through play • Community play • Engagement & stress relief

Module 9 – Empowering Children Through Play Therapy

[6-hour in-person] [6 Contact CE Hours]

Use Play Therapy techniques to strengthen children's emotional regulation and connection. Explain how to involve parents and caregivers, apply group Play Therapy activities in high-vulnerability contexts, and use attachment-based approaches during crises.

Key topics: Coregulation & connection • Parental involvement • Group Play Therapy • Attachment Play Therapy

METHOD

Teaching includes the presentation of theory, video and live demonstrations, case studies, feedback on participants' work during the activities.

Participants will experiment firsthand with drawing, painting, collage, modeling materials, costumes, writing, poetry, movement, and more.

All is done in a playful and positive learning atmosphere.

Furthermore, the program encompasses individual and group activities held in outdoor environments.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We are committed to making the training accessible to everyone. Please let us know if you have any special needs.

Module 10 – Advanced Play Therapy Techniques

[6-hour in-person] [6 Contact CE Hours]

Select individual and group Play Therapy techniques for working with traumatized children. Discuss the integration of sandtray, narrative, drama, and movement-based interventions to support healing and resilience.

Key topics: Trauma-informed Play Therapy • Individual & group techniques • Sandtray, narrative, drama & movement

BEYOND THE PLAYROOM

Module 11 – Play and Expressive Arts for the Support System

[6-hour in-person]

Learn how to use play and expressive arts to support adult clients and the support systems, promoting emotional expression, stress relief, and resilience.

Key topics: Play & expressive arts • Supporting the support system • Stress relief through creativity

Module 12 – Expanding the Therapist’s Window of Tolerance through Play Therapy and Creative Arts

[6-hour in-person] [6 Contact CE Hours]

Use Play Therapy techniques and Creative Arts to increase self-awareness and emotional regulation. Identify personal triggers and apply strategies to expand the personal window of tolerance. List fundamental tools to strengthen resilience and sustain healthy therapeutic practice.

Key topics: Therapist self-awareness • Emotional regulation • Play Therapy techniques for professional well-being

Module 13 – Expressive Arts for Communities

[3-hour in-person]

Discover how expressive arts can be applied with communities. Learn how to create the Safest Possible Environment (SaPE) through a shared group experience.

Key topics: Community art • SaPE principles • Group experience

PLAY THERAPY CREDIT HOURS

The number of Contact Play Therapy Credit Hours **(29)** and Non-Contact **(4)** contributes to obtaining or renewing Registered Play Therapist™ (RPT™) credentials. APT credits are awarded to mental health professionals only; APTI credits are awarded to professionals in the fields of mental health (Play Therapy), education, rehabilitation, health, and social sectors (Therapeutic Play).

For professionals outside the mental health field, enrollment in the program is possible if the Play Therapy methodologies will be applied in the context of their own discipline and the activities will be carried out in connection with a mental health professional.



Become a specialist in the use of play & Play Therapy in crisis situations. Enroll now!

The Academy



The International Academy for Play Therapy (INA) is an international reference for training professionals in the most effective Play Therapy methodologies, with a focus on trauma and work in crisis and high-vulnerability contexts. With a dynamic and cutting-edge structure, the Academy integrates Play Therapy training with expressive arts, neuroscience, and clinical application within sustainable and culturally sensitive psychosocial projects.

Its activities have been carried out across six continents and dozens of countries, in collaboration with leading clinicians, professors, and researchers in the field of child psychotherapy. INA is an approved provider of continuing education in Play Therapy by the Association for Play Therapy (APT) in the United States (#20-602) and by the Association for Play Therapy Italy (APTi) (#15-001).

Founded in 2015 in Lugano, Switzerland, by Isabella Cassina and Claudio Mochi, INA is a nonprofit association recognized as being of public utility by the Republic and Canton of Ticino (N. DDC 71055). It operates for purposes of social solidarity at both national and international levels, serving individuals, families, and communities, with particular attention to the needs and well-being of children.



Image: Lugano, Italian-speaking Switzerland.
Home of the International Academy for Play Therapy.
A 1 hour 45 minute drive from the training venue.

Trainers & Supervisors

(in alphabetical order)

Isabella Cassina

MA, TPS, CAGS, PhD Cand.

from Switzerland



A multifaceted professional with over 15 years of experience in humanitarian interventions and psychosocial projects for children and families in crisis contexts across South America, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia. A former Head of Social Services at the Swiss Red Cross, she transformed psychosocial support in reception centers by leading innovative projects grounded in play therapy. Holding a Master of Arts in International Cooperation from the University of Geneva and advanced certifications in play therapy and expressive arts therapy, she is currently completing a PhD in Switzerland. A university lecturer, speaker, and director of Project Management at the International Academy for Play Therapy, she serves as a board member of APTI and a founding member of IC-PTA. She is an author of books and articles, editor of the Italian Play Therapy Magazine, and creator of educational games for families and schools.

Lisa Dion

LPC, RPT-S™

from the United States



An international teacher, creator of Synergetic Play Therapy, founder and president of the Synergetic Play Therapy Institute, co-founder of the Synergetic Education Institute, creator of the Business of Therapy and host of the Lessons from the Playroom podcast. She is the author of Aggression in Play Therapy: A Neurobiological Approach for Integrating Intensity, and is the 2015 recipient of the Association for Play Therapy's "Professional Education and Training Award of Excellence".

Clair Mellenthin

PhD, LCSW, RPT-S™

from the United States



A renowned clinical supervisor, international speaker, and acclaimed play therapist. She is the creator of Attachment Centered Play Therapy. As the author of best-selling books like Attachment Centered Play Therapy, she brings unparalleled expertise to the field. With a wealth of experience as a play therapist and professor, Clair has significantly impacted the lives of numerous children and families. Recognized for her contributions, she is a sought-after expert in media, frequently sharing insights on children and family issues at both local and national levels. Clair's commitment to advancing the understanding and practice of play therapy has positioned her as an influential figure, shaping contemporary therapeutic approaches for children and leaving an enduring mark on the field.

Claudio Mochi

MA, RP, RPT-S™

from Italy



Psychologist and psychotherapist with over 25 years of international experience supporting victims of humanitarian emergencies and trauma. An expert in play therapy, he holds a Master of Arts in Creative Psychotherapy and the title of Registered Play Therapist Supervisor™ (APT, USA). He has received international awards, including the "Outstanding Contributions to the Practice and Teaching of Filial Therapy" (2015). A pioneer in the field in Italy, he founded the Association for Play Therapy Italy in 2009 (currently a board member of the IC-PTA) to promote high standards in the practice and teaching of play therapy. A university lecturer, author, and director of the Master's in Play Therapy at the International Academy for Play Therapy, he has delivered lectures and specialized training across six continents, earning recognition as a global leader in innovation, education, and the advancement of quality play therapy.

COSTS & DISCOUNTS

Level I

Early bird registration by
February 15, 2026

 REGISTER NOW

The fee includes: 57-hour training program, post-test and CE Hours (where applicable), Certificate, 7 nights in shared accommodation, and meals.

Transportation fee is not included. Upon request, transportation to and from the airport can be arranged. We recommend flying into Milan Malpensa Airport.

Rooms are assigned in order of registration, starting with double rooms (unless otherwise specified). A double room is therefore not guaranteed for all participants. Each room has a private bathroom with double facilities. The accommodation is not equipped with air conditioning; fans will be available for guests.

If the facility's rooms are fully booked, information on alternative accommodations nearby will be provided. Please note that these are likely to cost more than the training venue.

PROFESSIONALS

Before February 15, 2026:

- Training € 1'990 + double room & board € 800 = € 2'790
- Training € 1'990 + 3-4 people room & board € 700 = € 2'690

After February 15, 2026:

- Training € 2'290 + double room & board € 800 = € 3'090
- Training € 2'290 + 3-4 people room & board € 700 = € 2'990

STUDENTS & GROUPS (minimum 3 members)

Before February 15, 2026:

- Training € 1'690 + double room & board € 800 = € 2'490
- Training € 1'690 + 3-4 people room & board € 700 = € 2'390

After February 15, 2026:

- Training € 1'990 + double room & board € 800 = € 2'790
- Training € 1'990 + 3-4 people room & board € 700 = € 2'690

VOLUNTEERS

Only 3 spots! Handle breakfast and coffee break setup, as well as training room arrangement.

- Training € 1'490 + double room & board € 800 = € 2'290
- Training € 1'490 + 3-4 people room & board € 700 = € 2'190

The registration fee of € 290 confirms registration and is non-refundable. Exceptions are when the participant proposes a suitable professional as a replacement; in that case, any amount already paid by the initial candidate are refunded in full.

In the event that the training is cancelled or postponed by the organizers, INA guarantees a full refund of the fee paid. Participants are responsible for any additional expenses incurred or losses of any kind.

The balance is due by July 1st, 2026 (the registration fee of € 290 is included in the total cost).

The training will be confirmed with a minimum number of registrants and no later than February 20, 2026. We invite you not to purchase non-refundable tickets before this date!

Join the
Play is the Future
2026 Conference,
July 2-4, and get
**an instant € 100
DISCOUNT!!!**



Click here



HOW TO ENROLL IN 2 STEPS

1. Send your expression of interest and Curriculum Vitae to the administration office via the [contact form](#) or info@play-therapy.ch. Let us know whether:
 - a. You have any *dietary restrictions*
 - b. You are a *professional, student or group*
 - c. You wish to apply as a *volunteer* (only 3 spots available)
2. Pay the registration fee of € 290 by bank transfer or PayPal. You will receive a confirmation email from us as soon as possible.

BANK REFERENCES & PAYPAL

International Academy for Play Therapy, Via General Guisan 2, 6962 Lugano, Switzerland.

IBAN: CH34 0900 0000 9122 4447 3 • BIC (SWIFT-Code): POFICHBEXX.

Bank name and address: PostFinance SA, Mingerstrasse 20, 3030 Bern, Switzerland.

Subject: "CPT 2026." Any transfer fees must be borne by the payer.

For [PayPal click here](#).



CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This training and its faculty have no conflict of interest or competing interests in presenting the Conference. There is, moreover, no commercial support of any kind.

Image: Chiavenna, Italy.
Location of the training.

