



Frequently Asked Questions – Schools

How does the school make a referral for a pupil to receive Play Therapy?

- The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will receive referrals from staff of pupils who might benefit from play therapy, using the standard referral form in writing, by telephone or email enquiry.
- The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will guide teachers on the criteria for referral and selection. The therapist will be responsible for carrying out assessments and advising which children should receive play therapy, in consultation with school staff.

How would the needs of individual be assessed?

- The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist may observe referred pupils in classroom situations and, where possible, parents will be interviewed.
- The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will be responsible for managing their own case load and will decide the balance between individual and group work, based on the needs of each child following assessment

Who is responsible for ensuring there is an enhanced CRB check and professional indemnity?

- The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will ensure that their enhanced CRB check and professional indemnity insurance are up to date.

What other services do the Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist offer in addition to time spent with the pupil in therapy?

- Observing classes
- Assessing children
- Meeting with staff
- Reviewing cases
- Producing written reports
- Collection of data from School and parents
- Attending staff meetings
- Attending case conferences/LAC reviews/CAF's
- Interviewing parents

(Where possible)

Is there a procedure in place if the Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist is unable to attend a given session or series of sessions?

- In the event of the Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist being absent due to sickness, missed sessions will be made up at a later date to be agreed by both parties. The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will inform the school at all times if they are unable to attend sessions

How will the Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist ensure they practice to their full capabilities and professionalism?

- The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will attend regular Clinical Supervision and will take cases that they need to explore in order to keep themselves and pupils safe and to function to their full capability.
- The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will respond as soon as possible to any concerns raised by the school and work with the school to reach an acceptable solution.
- The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will inform the school of any concerns they have regarding the therapeutic play sessions.

Quality Assurance

- Therapeutic Play Specialists and Play Therapists subscribe to the highest professional standards and development as defined by Play Therapy UK (PTUK).
- Confidentiality; within each school, the sharing of information is central to the process. Beyond the school and Open therapeutic Services, confidentiality will be preserved.
- Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist work within an ethical framework and code of practise (for full details please refer to the PTUK website, www.playtherapy.org.uk)
- Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist attend regular Clinical supervision and as a professional membership requirement undertake continued professional development training.
- Staff hold U.K. and internationally recognised qualifications and are members of PTUK.
- PTUK is committed to the ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of Play therapy interventions and continues to collect Clinical data from outcomes data which supports the value of this intervention.

What would the school provide?

- The school will provide a room, free from interruption which will not be entered by school staff or pupils during the course of the intervention. The same room should be consistently available on therapeutic play/therapy days. There should be access to a sink and ideally a secure space to store children's creative work and some necessary equipment.
- The school should provide the Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist with access to creative resources such as paint, paint, glue and other resources such as musical instruments/ puppets etc that are reasonably requested and necessary for the intervention.
- Ensure that relevant staff have an understanding of the interventions and are available for referral and review meetings and on- going communication.
- Staff are involved in the therapeutic process by sharing relevant information about pupils who are involved in a therapeutic intervention.
- Inform Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist of any significant changes in circumstances of the children they are working with.
- Inform the Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist of any relevant pupil or staff absences or conflicting school activity where possible in advance of a session. The school will phone or text message the Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist as early as possible on the morning of absence of a pupil to avoid an incurred travelling expense.
- To arrange case conferences/meetings (where possible) to coincide with the Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist attendance at the school.

When will the Play Therapy sessions start?

Therapeutic play/therapy will begin after assessment, and after parental consent has been given.

How many sessions can be carried out during the day?

The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will provide up to a maximum of 4 individual sessions per day or two group sessions or a combination of two individual sessions and one group. There will be time after each session for writing thorough clinical notes and resetting the room. During the day, there will also be periods for meeting parents and sharing information with staff. The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will be pleased to attend relevant meetings. The Therapeutic Play Specialist/Play therapist will provide a written report post intervention.