



AutPlay® Therapy Certification Program

AutPlay® Therapy is a specialized play therapy and behavioral therapy treatment approach for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other neurodevelopmental disorders. AutPlay® was created by Dr. Robert Jason Grant to address the unique needs of children and adolescents with neurodevelopment disorders who enter into a therapeutic process with a licensed mental health practitioner.

AutPlay® is an integrative family play therapy approach with theoretical underpinnings in various play therapy theories and behavioral therapy, all of which incorporate evidence-based practices and empirical support for treating ASD. More specific content and protocol of AutPlay® Therapy can be reviewed on the AutPlay® Therapy website – www.autplaytherapy.com. A current list of providers who have completed certification training is maintained and displayed on the AutPlay® website as well.

Completion of AutPlay® Therapy Certification Training signifies that the practitioner has met the requirements to be a Certified AutPlay® Therapy Provider. Certification in AutPlay® Therapy requires the practitioner to complete the AutPlay® Therapy Certification Training (16 CE Hrs). Practitioners are also required to read the AutPlay® Therapy book and complete a post training exam. AutPlay® Certification Training includes symptomology, special considerations, and diagnosis of ASD, an overview of neurodevelopmental disorders, an intensive examination of the AutPlay® protocol including the phases of treatment, assessment strategies, target treatment areas, parent involvement and training, and limit setting procedures. The certification training further presents the AutPlay® Follow Me Approach (FMA) which is designed for children with a more severe impairment. Participants engage in experiential activities, role play practice, case conceptualization, and treatment planning as they complete their certification.

Benefits of AutPlay® Therapy Certification:

- Knowledgeable in a comprehensive approach to using the integration of play therapy and behavioral therapy to treat children and adolescents with ASD and other neurodevelopmental disorders.
- Advancing knowledge of ASD and other neurodevelopmental disorders.
- Understanding and implementing a specific mental health protocol for addressing the variance of ASD (from mild to severe impairment).
- Lifetime Certification with access to continuing education regarding autism and related conditions.
- Name and contact information maintained in the AutPlay database and displayed on the AutPlay website.

Development of the AutPlay® Therapy Certification Training:

AutPlay Therapy began as an effort to provide an effective evidence-based protocol for mental health professionals working with children and adolescents affected by autism. A special focus involved providing a play therapy approach which could be implemented in a community mental health clinic.

At the time of the inception of AutPlay, most established autism treatments were not mental health based nor designed for mental health professionals. As AutPlay formed, it became apparent that mental health professionals working with the autism population would benefit from a formal certification program, not only to ensure a thorough understating of autism, but to provide validation as a professional with advanced training in autism.

Before the AutPlay Therapy Certification Training was official and ready to be offered to participants, the Association for Play Therapy (APT) was contacted to review the AutPlay Therapy Certification materials and verify the training met the standards for receiving play therapy continuing education hours. APT is the governing body in the United States for the Registered Play Therapist and Registered Play Therapist Supervisor credentials. APT approved the content and process of AutPlay Therapy Certification for continuing education hours. www.a4pt.org

The International Board for Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) was also contacted to review AutPlay Therapy Certification training materials to be approved for IBCCES continuing education hours. IBCCES is an international organization that governs autism related credentialing. IBCCES reviewed the AutPlay training materials and process and approved the AutPlay certification training as meeting the standard of IBCCES for continuing education hours related to autism. www.ibcces.org

Robert Jason Grant Ed.D LLC, the parent company of AutPlay Therapy is an approved APT continuing education provider, approved training partner with IBCCES, and an approved continuing education provider for the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).

AutPlay certification provides an extra layer of accountability, reference, and professional identity that has been lacking in the mental health community regarding working with children and families affected by autism. Beyond a competency expectation, certification is also designed to provide a level of confidence for the mental health professional and the ability to reference a specialize training experience. AutPlay Therapy continues grow and update as more evidence-based practices emerge and advances in autism understanding increase.