

## Posttraumatic Play for Treating Early Childhood Abuse and Trauma



**INSTRUCTOR:** **SUEANN KENNEY-NOZISKA, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S**, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Registered Play Therapist Supervisor specializing in clinical practice with abused, maltreated, & traumatized children, adolescents, and their families. She has over 20 years of clinical experience, owns and operates her private practice, and is part of her community's multidisciplinary team (MDT) on child abuse. Sueann serves on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Family Advocacy & Outreach Network and the Association for Play Therapy's Foundation Board of Directors. She is the former clinical director of Dona Ana County's Children's Advocacy Center (Las Cruces, NM). In addition, she has served as adjunct faculty at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and the University of California San Diego (UCSD).

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Adverse experiences and other traumatic events are common for our children. The short- and long-term deleterious effects of these events are well documented in the literature. Therefore, timely and developmentally sensitive trauma-focused intervention is essential. One mechanism by which children often manage their psychic trauma is through spontaneous or directed posttraumatic play. Posttraumatic play is a form of gradual exposure and systematic desensitization that may promote mastery and control while creating a play-based trauma narrative. Using an integrative, systemic framework, this workshop will help play therapists distinguish between generic and posttraumatic play, emphasize unique aspects of working with traumatized children, and design play therapy responses consistent with play therapists' theoretical orientations. Characteristics of dynamic and toxic posttraumatic play will be explored. A continuum of interventions for toxic posttraumatic play will be provided. These interventions will range from less to more directive. This workshop blends trauma-informed treatment with play therapy and is intended to assist frontline practitioners working with abused and traumatized children.

**Continuing Education Credits: Pending Approval**

**This course meets the qualifications for 6 continuing education units/credits/hours**

If you need a reasonable accommodation or an alternative format for this training event, please contact the Diana DaSilva at [dcdasilva@ruhealth.org](mailto:dcdasilva@ruhealth.org) (951) 955-9175 at least fourteen days (14) prior to the course date.

**DATES:**

**LOCATION: ZOOM**

**DAY 1: MARCH 25, 2025**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 PM**

**DAY 2: APRIL 22, 2025**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 PM**

**DAY 3: MAY 27, 2025**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 PM**

Please register for this course via link:

**[HERE](https://forms.office.com/g/3sFm-wzzfsK)**  
**<https://forms.office.com/g/3sFm-wzzfsK>**

Training is **FREE** to all registrants and funded by: First5 Riverside



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**Course Description:** Adverse experiences and other traumatic events are common for our children. The short- and long-term deleterious effects of these events are well documented in the literature. Therefore, timely and developmentally sensitive trauma-focused intervention is essential. One mechanism by which children often manage their psychic trauma is through spontaneous or directed posttraumatic play. Posttraumatic play allows trauma to be externalized and managed in a compensatory fashion. In addition, posttraumatic play is a natural reparative mechanism for many distressed children. It circumvents traditional therapies emphasizing verbal communication and cognitive skills children often do not possess. Posttraumatic play is a form of gradual exposure and systematic desensitization that may promote mastery and control while creating a play-based trauma narrative. Using an integrative, systemic framework, this workshop will help play therapists distinguish between generic and posttraumatic play, emphasize unique aspects of working with traumatized children, and design play therapy responses consistent with play therapists' theoretical orientations. Characteristics of dynamic and toxic posttraumatic play will be explored. A continuum of interventions for toxic posttraumatic play will be provided. These interventions will range from less to more directive. This workshop blends trauma-informed treatment with play therapy and is intended to assist frontline practitioners working with abused and traumatized children.

**Instructor Information:** Sueann Kenney-Noziska, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S

**Sueann Kenney-Noziska, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S**, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Registered Play Therapist Supervisor specializing in clinical practice with abused, maltreated, & traumatized children, adolescents, and their families. She has over 20 years of clinical experience, owns and operates her private practice, and is part of her community's multidisciplinary team (MDT) on child abuse. Sueann serves on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Family Advocacy & Outreach Network and the Association for Play Therapy's Foundation Board of Directors. She is the former clinical director of Dona Ana County's Children's Advocacy Center (Las Cruces, NM). In addition, she has served as adjunct faculty at New Mexico State University (NMSU) and the University of California San Diego (UCSD).

Sueann is internationally recognized for her work, consistently presents at several major child abuse and maltreatment conferences throughout the United States and has presented across the globe including places such as Japan, China, Jamaica, Estonia, and England. She has developed many trauma-informed interventions for clinical work with abused and traumatized children and adolescents, is a contributing author to multiple publications, and has testified as an expert witness in child abuse and trauma at both the state and federal levels. Sueann serves on the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect's (ISPCAN) working group on child sexual victimization, exploitation, and trafficking and participates in the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children's (APSAC) children's mental health section group. Sueann received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of South Dakota and received her Master of Social Work from San Diego State University. She is independently licensed to provide clinical social work in New Mexico, California, and South Dakota.

**Audience:** RUHS-BH Clinical Therapists, Contracted Providers, and other treatment staff. LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, associate-level and support staff providing client care in the public behavioral health system.  
Level of training: Intermediate

**Seat #:** 75

**Location:** Virtual training- link will be sent to registrants

This is an ADA compliant course. If you need a reasonable accommodation/alternative format for this training event, please contact the Rustin Conference Center at (951) 955-9175 at least fourteen days (14) prior to the course date.

**Educational Goals:**

1. This workshop will assist therapists who are providing clinical/therapeutic services to young children who have experienced abuse and trauma. Clinicians will leave with an increased clinical knowledge of the rationale and application of posttraumatic play to facilitate post traumatic healing, growth, and recovery.
2. This workshop will enhance the clinical skills of therapists working with children who have experienced abuse and trauma in early childhood.
3. This workshop will facilitate professional growth and proficiency for therapist working with children who have experience early childhood abuse and trauma.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Following the workshop, participants will be able to define posttraumatic play
2. Following the workshop, participants will be able to describe at least three findings from the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study
3. Following the workshop, participants will be able to describe two ways that child-centered play therapy provides children an invitation to engage in posttraumatic play
4. Following the workshop, participants will be able to identify two primary clinical benefits for posttraumatic play
5. Following the workshop, participants will be able to define the difference between dynamic and toxic posttraumatic play
6. Following the workshop, participants will be able to identify three strategies to therapeutically respond to children’s posttraumatic play themes in a manner that

**AGENDA:**

<b>March 25, 2025</b>	
10:00AM – 10:30AM	Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) definition and impact during early childhood
10:30AM – 11:00AM	History, definition, and clinical purpose of posttraumatic play for early childhood abuse and trauma
11:00AM - 12:00PM	Clinical case example of posttraumatic play for early childhood abuse and trauma
<b>April 22, 2025</b>	
10:00AM – 11:00AM	Defining dynamic and toxic posttraumatic play
11:00AM – 12:00 PM	Clinically responding to posttraumatic play

<b>May 27, 2025</b>	
10:00AM – 11:30 AM	Clinical case example of posttraumatic play for early childhood abuse and trauma
11:30AM – 11:45PM	Cultural considerations when using posttraumatic play
11:45AM – 12:00 PM	Questions and answers

This course meets the qualifications for 6 continuing education units/credits/**hours. Please see the brochure for additional information.**

**Continuing Education:** Course meets the qualifications for **6** hours of continuing education credit for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs, and/or LEPs as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health is approved by the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists to sponsor continuing education for LMFTs, LCSWs, LPCCs and/or LEPs. Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health maintains responsibility for this program/course and its content.

CAMFT approved continuing education provider number: 1000060

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider # CEP17400 for **6** Contact Hours.

Provider approved by CCAPP-EI, Provider Number 3-22-341-0526 for **6** CEH'S.

Mailing address: Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH), Workforce Education and Training (WET), 2085 Rustin Ave., Riverside, CA 92507.

**Requesting Continuing Education:** Participants interested in receiving continuing education credit or a certificate of participation should contact Germeen Armanious via email at [g.armanious@ruhealth.org](mailto:g.armanious@ruhealth.org). Please include the following information in your email request: full name, title of training, and certification or license number. For in-person courses, certificates will be issued immediately after the completion of the course. For distance learning courses, certificates will be issued via email or by mail within five (5) business days after the completion of the course and receipt of required documentation.

**Attendance Policy:** Participants who arrive to the course after the scheduled start time may not be admitted. To receive continuing education credit for a course, participants must attend the entire scheduled time. Participants who arrive late, leave early or return late from lunch/breaks will not receive continuing education credit. To receive credit, participants cannot miss more than 15 minutes total of instruction. **There is no partial credit issued.**

**Enrollment/Registration Policy:** Please register for this course via MS Forms Link <https://forms.office.com/g/sfbAudAmRH>

**Cancellation and Refund Policy:** Registration must be cancelled on or before three (3) calendar days prior to the course start date (excludes holidays and weekends). Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health does not currently charge fees for continuing education courses or activities sponsored by our agency. Therefore, no refund policy or procedure is currently in affect.

**Grievances:** Please contact training coordinator Diana DaSilva at [DCDasilva@ruhealth.org](mailto:DCDasilva@ruhealth.org) or 951-955-7155 for questions or concerns about this activity or facilities, or to request a copy of our grievance policy and procedures. Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health follows all applicable local, state, and federal standards, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2008).