



July-ish 2011



Dear VAPT Playmates,

I hope you are having a great summer! VAPT held the 15th Annual **COME PLAY WITH US!!** conference in June. We had over 90 people attend over 3 days of training. A number of participants returned to fulfill continuing education hours for professional licensure or certification with APT, APT, NBCC or NASW and many fulfilled hours with the National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children (TLC). Congratulations!



Learn more about TLC at <http://www.startraining.org/tlc> or contact Caelan Kuban at ckuban@tlcinst.org for help with certificates for TLC or professional CEU's for the summer VAPT trainings in 2010 and 2011.

You can click on [VAPT 15th PLAY](#) to view photos of the conference.

If you were unable to join us for the summer training, you may want to participate in an APT approved training at other locations around the state. Go the www.a4pt.org to get all the details for all APT approved training in Virginia, DC and Maryland. Join our Virginia Association for Play Therapy Facebook fan page to see posts about training opportunities.

Please remember to recruit members! We need to increase our membership to serve children and families with well-trained and playful practitioners and to be able to continue to apply for APT Gold Branch status (We need a total of 215 VAPT members on our roster on March 31, 2011). Remember, when you recruit a member, have them name you as their sponsor and earn APT BUCKS. Keep up the great work and do remember to play!

Playfully,
Anne

1. APT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

At the national conference the APT Leadership Academy 2010-11 class graduates will include VAPT members **Christen Pendleton (Harrisonburg)** and **Kathleen Levingston (Norfolk)**.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

VAPT Leadership Academy graduates include:

2011-12	YOUR NAME HERE!
2010-11	Christen Pendleton, Kathleen Levingston
2009-10	Sheri Mitschelen, Catherine Spooner and Jessica Umhoefer
2008-09	Beth Sydnor, Renee Staton
2006-07	Danielle Budash, Megan Fiore
2005-06	Jennifer Gilbert
2004-05	Stephanie Pratola, Penny Critzer and Anne Stewart

Please consider participating in the APT Leadership Academy this year. This online community of APT emerging and existing leaders increases your knowledge of the APT governance model and promotes leadership skills at the local, state and national level. VAPT has always had members enroll and will reimburse your registration cost. You may want to talk with one of our grads to hear about their experience.

Websites to Share with Caregivers and Teachers

2. Internet Safety and Cyberbullying Resources

The latest edition of the American Counseling Association's *Counseling Today* shared the following information about websites to help children, youth, and parents learn about Internet manners and cyberbullying.

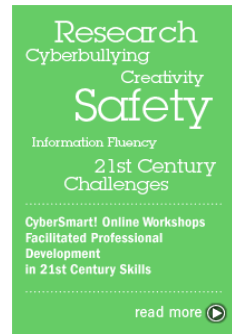
[CyberSmart](#) – Learning modules empowers students to use the Internet safely, responsibly, and effectively. The site includes information about the Cyberbullying Package for schools.

[NetSmartz](#) – A cybersafety program of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

[Webwisekids](#) – Counselor and educator resources designed to facilitate successful conversations about technology safety.

[Internet4classrooms](#) – Links to dozens of antibullying websites for children, youth and young adults.

[Commonsensemedia](#) – Lessons plans for children, youth and parents. (Registration required)



3. Websites for Tween Girls

Parenting magazine writer *Nikki Metzgar* reported this information about sites for tween girls. View the article at <http://www.parenting.com/article/4-websites-for-tween-girls-1000071995>

The site: [allykatzz.com](#) A buzzing message board, with ties to a tween-focused marketing firm.

Coolest Feature: The White House Wall Your daughter can post messages and pictures that will be sent to the First Family.

On Boys and Bodies: A lunchroom atmosphere means honest talk from girls -- for better or worse.

Parental Controls: When she registers, she'll be asked to submit your e-mail address so you can be notified.

The Site: [beaconstreetgirls.com](#) Games, a journal, and talk, based on squeaky-clean girls from the books.

Coolest Feature: Clubs There's one for everything from volunteering to cooking, plus a page for her to post fiction and poetry.

On Boys and Bodies: Stresses staying healthy, playing sports, and getting positive attention (i.e., for smarts, not short skirts).

Parental Controls: A parent's e-mail address is required for sign-up; parents can cancel at any time.

The Site: [girlambition.com](#) A colorful virtual world (complete with tree house) for tweens and moms

Coolest Feature: Videos Girls don't just watch them, they make and upload their own.

On Boys and Bodies: Strongly emphasizes self-esteem, playing it safe by mostly avoiding the topic of boys altogether.

Parental Controls: A parent must approve each friend before her daughter can chat with or receive e-mail from that person.

The Site: [girlslife.com](#) The online home of the tween magazine, a past Parents' Choice Award winner

Coolest Feature: The Pen Pal Program She'll be sent the names and e-mails (no home addresses) of five girls. But it costs \$20.

On Boys and Bodies: "Love" talk doesn't stray far from "liking" and hand-holding. A section on periods lets her ask questions.

Parental Controls: Kids under 13 need permission to join. Adult moderators have a strong presence, even offering crush advice when asked.

4. Great Websites for Boys

Parenting writer Jane Groysman reported the following article about playful and helpful websites for boys. You can visit the original article at <http://www.parenting.com/article/4-great-websites-for-boys>.

[BoysLife.org](#)

The official publication of the Boy Scouts of America, this site offers games, how-to activity guides and reviews of

cool outdoor gear.

Coolest feature: Great jokes!

Parental controls: The site reminds kids under 18 not to submit questions or photos without permission, but nothing actually prevents them from doing so.

Tikatok.com

Write, illustrate, and publish real books featuring aliens, robots, dragons, and more (\$15 and up).

Coolest feature: E-mail a digital version of his book to friends or relatives for \$2.99.

Parental controls: Kids under 13 can register only with a parent.

Miniclip.com

He can help President Obama defend the planet from an alien invasion, or play another of the 300 free, mostly inane (but fun) games.

Coolest feature: There's a Brain Training section with word and trivia games amid the Shoot 'Em Up and Motorsports categories.

Parental controls: Miniclip won't allow kids under 13 to register, limiting activity to just the free games (yay!).

GuysRead.com

A site with a worthy goal: to prove to book-averse boys that reading is not boring.

Coolest feature: Tons of book lists that include "How to build stuff" and "People transformed into animals."

Parental controls: None needed.

5. VAPT Chapters

Consider how you would like to exercise your creativity and enhance your work with more active engagement with your colleagues! We have VAPT chapters around our beautiful and, rather sprawling, state. The **chapter chairs** are area **leaders in VAPT** who have an interest in bringing together members and non-members in your locality to learn and play. VAPT can offer **CE's for these gatherings**, when there is a topical presentation or discussion. Some chapters have been meeting for a while, some are just revving up and some are re-revving! Let's get busy and grow more APT and VAPT leaders!

Our VAPT strategic plan is to support the growth of play therapy chapters around the state. **Katie Masey** just volunteered to serve as our newest Chapter Chair. Katie works in Rockbridge County. THANK YOU, KATIE! We currently have area representation in the following regions:

Winchester	Carmela Crawford	dccrawford1@verizon.net
Roanoke	Stephanie Pratola	pratola@pratola.com
Lynchburg	Norma White	norma.white@couplesandkids.com
Central Virginia	Amy Kale Fraites	play@mail.planetcomm.net
Rockbridge	Katie Masey	kmasey@racsb.org
Northern Virginia	Joyce Meagher	kdknzlr@comcast.net
	Cathi Spooner Sheri Mitschelen	cathispooner@hotmail.com shmitsch@cox.net
Tidewater	Kathrin Hartmann	HartmaK@EVMS.EDU
Richmond	Barbara J. Smith	bjsmith461@aol.com
Danville	Cindy Lovell	clovell@dpcs.org

Feel free to contact the chapter chair in your area. You can consult the VAPT site MEMBERSHIP MAP (<http://vapt.cisat.jmu.edu/members.htm>) to see the name and email address for other members in your area of the state. (I update the map, using the data submitted to APT, two or three times a year.)

Explore the APT site at www.a4pt.com to learn more about the Leadership Academy and the Register Play Therapist or Registered Play Therapist – Supervisor credential. In addition, our membership map notes what members are RPT or Leadership Academy graduates. Send them an email with your questions!

We are eager to learn how you would like to share your talents to promote the value of play and play therapy. Do not hesitate to contact me with brilliant ideas, certainly with any concerns and questions. Again, welcome to our engaging learning community. We are glad you are here!

6. News from and for members

Job opportunity – sent from Cynthia Lovell (VAPT Treasurer)

Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services has an opening for a Child & Adolescent Clinician with experience in providing play therapy. Details can be found on the agency website www.dpcs.org. The salary range is \$41,306 - \$56,327 which includes 10% increase for licensure.

**Training Opportunities – Some by VAPT members and a great Texan comes to DC...
Check out these upcoming trainings:**

Chesapeake Beach Professional Seminars (CBPS)

<http://www.cbpsseminars.com/cbpscal.html>

**CATHI SPOONER VAPT Chapter Chair
SANDTRAY PLAY THERAPY LEVEL I CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

September 23 & 24, 8:30am-4:30pm
Phoenix Family Counseling & Play Therapy
7350 Heritage Village Plaza, Suite 201
Gainesville, VA 20155

Also-be sure to note the 2-day workshop by **GARRY LANDRETH**
Healing the Hurting Child - The Necessary Dimensions of Child-Centered Play Therapy
Fri, October 28 and 29, 8:30am – 4:30pm
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20002

THE GIL CENTER FOR HEALING AND PLAY
http://www.elianagil.com/starbright_inst.php



DR. ELIANA GIL
An Integrated Model of Working with Childhood Trauma Utilizing Expressive and Cognitive-Behavioral Techniques
August 19-21, 2011
Gil Center
8626 Lee Highway, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
703-205-0491 703-205-0491

7. APT news reminders

Come to Sacramento to learn and play at the APT conference, October 12 to 17, 2011.



Send \$20 to the APT FOUNDATION to support research in play therapy and receive a DUDE. You can then send in your photo with The Dude to be posted on the APT site!

**Playfully,
Anne**