



# January Enote 2014



Dear VAPT members,  
**Happy New Year!**

## **National Play Therapy Awareness Week February 2 - 8**

National Play Therapy Awareness Week begins February 2!

We need you to increase the public's awareness of play therapy and registered play therapist. Anne Stewart is the national chair for the Foundation for Play Therapy and our VAPT president. The Foundation requests funds to support research in play therapy and increase and measure the public's awareness of play therapy.

Increased public awareness of the terms "play therapy" and "registered play therapist" will directly benefit your practice, agency, and institution.

The more public exposure, the better. The Foundation has arranged to poll national public awareness of those terms on Mar. 20-22!

Your help is crucial and appreciated.



Thank you.  
Playfully,  
Anne

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Here are materials to help you promote the power of play therapy!

Use social media to spread the word!

### **JOIN VAPT FB**

Make sure you are a VAPT Fan by liking our VAPT page (you do not have to be a member--have your family like us!). Then visit us often, post, and share what we share!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-Association-for-Play-Therapy/234395618441#!/pages/Virginia-Association-for-Play-Therapy/234395618441>

### **MEET ANDREW**

Post a great video about how play therapy matches the way children communicate their emotional world.

View and post MEET ANDREW

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhFhfamS\\_ul&feature=share&list=UU0DXBcxC-d63IZDtMzzFotA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhFhfamS_ul&feature=share&list=UU0DXBcxC-d63IZDtMzzFotA)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

You are welcome to craft your own communication by using information, branch logo, and photos from the APT national site.

The site provides guidance about the use of the material-please read it carefully and spread the word! We have a lot to celebrate!

Photos and logo <http://www.a4pt.org/ps.index.cfm?ID=2293>

Press release <http://www.a4pt.org/ps.pressroom.cfm>



## **National Play Therapy Week, Feb. 2-8**

(Clovis, CA) Licensed mental health professionals throughout the United States are reminding the public of the value of play, Play Therapy, and Registered Play Therapists during National Play Therapy Week, Feb. 2-8.

Play is our first language, according to the Association for Play Therapy (APT), the national professional society that advances Play Therapy. APT says that, just as adults use words to communicate, children use play to express thoughts and feelings that might otherwise remain hidden.

APT adds that thousands of licensed mental health professionals within and outside of the United States use play therapeutically to help their clients, especially children, to describe and manage their behaviors and mental health problems.

Licensed professionals include counselors, marriage and family therapists, psychiatric nurses, psychologists, clinical social workers, and many school counselors and psychologists.

Many professionals using Play Therapy are identified by their Registered Play Therapist™ (RPT) and Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor™ (RPT-S) credentials. These credentials require that they obtain specific Play Therapy training and supervised experience beyond their general licensure requirements and enable them to publicly advertise their Play Therapy expertise.

Noting that today graduate Play Therapy courses are offered at 172 accredited universities, a growth of 11% since just 2008, APT adds that the number of approved training providers and registered play therapists have also grown by 161% and 237% respectively over the past decade.

For more information, contact a local play therapist or APT ([a4pt.org](http://a4pt.org)).

For local interview: [Insert your name, credentials, phone number, and email here]

For national interview or information: Stephanie Carter, (559) 294-2128, x3, [scarter@a4pt.org](mailto:scarter@a4pt.org), or [www.a4pt.org](http://www.a4pt.org).

For *Why Play Therapy* video: <http://www.youtube.com/Assn4PlayTherapy>.

## IT's a NATURAL

### Join the Natural Resources listserve

Natural resources is a terrific weekly Listserve-no charge.

It is created and distributed by Camille Catlett. Camille my friend and is great friend to children and families and trainers in education and mental health. She promotes healthy development and inclusive communities in Virginia and around the world. She has agreed to share the announcement about the National Play Therapy Week on her Listserve-noted below. This reaches over 7000 potential advocates for play therapy--our new best friends!

You will receive great information from this talented scientist- consider subscribing. A sample *natural resources* and how to subscribe are shown below.



### Same, Different, and Diverse: Understanding Children Who Are Dual Language Learners

The Office of Head Start, National Center on Cultural and Linguistic Responsiveness, recently published a synthesis brief entitled [Same, Different, and Diverse: Understanding Children Who Are Dual Language Learners](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/docs/same-different-diverse.pdf). This brief highlights the similarities among ALL young children (those who are learning one or several languages), differences between children growing up with one language and children who are dual language learners (DLLs), and diversity among children who are DLLs (e.g., individual differences of temperament, interests, etc.).

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/docs/same-different-diverse.pdf>

To subscribe to the Natural Resources listserv, send an email with no message to

[subscribe-natural\\_resources2@listserv.unc.edu](mailto:subscribe-natural_resources2@listserv.unc.edu)

Note the hyphen and underscore characters.

For questions or comments about Natural Resources (or to suggest resources to share), please contact Camille Catlett ([camille.catlett@unc.edu](mailto:camille.catlett@unc.edu)).

## **GET BUSY!**

**Are you active in your area VAPT Chapter?** Are you looking for ways to find out more about play therapy and connect with play therapists in your area? Well, VAPT has regional chapters around Virginia to bring play therapy resources and networking opportunities to your area. All our VAPT sponsored trainings that award CE's are posted on the national APT site--look under the directory for finding play therapy training and select Virginia! You may also contact your local Chapter Chair to find out more about what's happening in your area and around the state. If there is not a chapter listed that is close to you, please consider volunteering to serve in your area. Contact a chair close to you and offer mutual support to a playmate!

### **Chapters and Chapter Chairs**

**Central Virginia VAPT** Chairperson George Enfield ghenfield@gmail.com

**Harrisonburg VAPT** - Chairpersons Anne Stewart and Debbie Sturm  
sturmdc@jmu.edu

**Forest VAPT** Chairperson Norma White norma.white@couplesandkids.com

**Fairfax VAPT** Chairperson Sheri Mitschelen shmitsch@verizon.net

**Gainesville VAPT** Chairperson Cathi Spooner cspooner@phoenixfamilycounseling.com

**Richmond VAPT** Chairperson Jan Williamson jlwilliamson@mindspring.com

**Roanoke VAPT** Chairperson Roanoke VAPT Chairperson Jennifer Thomas and Kim Botetourt playtherapy@verizon.net and kim@botetourt counseling.com

**Rockbridge Area VAPT** Chairperson Katie Masey kmasey@racs.org

**Staunton** Chairperson Lisa Rochford lisa@connectedchild.info

**Southwest VAPT** Chairpersons Donna Callis and Teresa Viers  
dcallis@CACBWCV.ORG and tviers@highlandscsb.org

Chairperson Sydney Peltier speltier@highlandscsb.org

**Tidewater VAPT** Chairpersons Debbie Balak and Holly Tracy  
dbalak@cox.net and peacebypiece@cox.net

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**SAVE the DATE**  
**June 13 and 14, 2014**

Our summer **COME PLAY WITH US!!** Conference will focus on the use of **sandtray**. Save the date for **JUNE 13 and 14** in **HARRISONBURG, VA** with presenter **Dr. Eric Green!**