

Children in High Conflict Families: Play Therapy Strategies for Living in a Divided Kingdom

Trainer: Ann Beckley-Forest, LCSW-R, RPT-S

Description

This one-day workshop will apply the current best practices in prescriptive and child-responsive play therapy to helping children in families where there is a high level of disruption and conflict among the adults, including divorce and custody conflicts. We will utilize the framework for prescriptive trauma-informed play therapy to develop a comprehensive treatment approach to promoting emotional and physical safety,

Dates & Times

Friday, May 15th, 2026

9:00 am - 4:30 pm Eastern Standard Time

Regular price \$135

Add-on to Spring Series Discount: \$120

In-person OR online

6 CEs, Play therapy and Professional CEs through CE Classes



Photo by Magda Ehlers

and providing opportunities for children to use the play therapy environment to improve their ability to cope with loyalty binds and begin healing. We will practice playful interactive assessments using puppets and consider examples of creative trauma narrative work that can be combined with other trauma protocols such as EMDR. We will also examine how to mobilize and include all the child's significant caregivers in their child's healing in this context, with close attention to the legal and ethical issues for the therapist, and a chance to apply these principles to the treatment plan of a current case.

Learning Objectives

1. Apply a phase model for play therapy treatment of the trauma experienced in a high conflict family to a current child case.
2. Describe a method of using puppets and play in a dynamic family assessment and treatment approach.
3. Describe the differences between cooperative and parallel coparenting and when each is best used with families.

4. Analyze the themes of a child client's play to amplify and suggest metaphors to gradually approach traumatic material related to the parenting system.
5. Distinguish the role of the play therapist within the legal system from that of other providers and articulate at least one ethical dilemma that play therapists face in these cases.
6. Describe expressive art and play-based trauma narrative approaches with child clients in the digestion of traumatic events which have occurred in high conflict and divorcing family systems

Trainer

Ann Beckley-Forest, LCSWR, RPT-S



Ann is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice in Buffalo, New York, and has focused on interventions with children and adolescents throughout her career. She likes to say she became a registered play therapist because she never really grew up and loves

having toys in her office! She is a registered play therapy supervisor and approved provider of play therapy education, and her specialties include intervention with very young children, as well as problems of attachment and work with adolescent and adult survivors of trauma. She is certified in EMDR, an EMDR Approved Consultant and a faculty member of the Child Trauma Institute. She trains locally and internationally and writes about the integration of EMDR and play therapy, and co-edited the recently released book *EMDR with Children in the Play Therapy Room*.

Schedule - All times Eastern

Morning

9:00-10:30am: Principles in engaging high conflict families

- Attachment, mentalization and play based assessments and interventions

- Family puppet story

10:30-10:45am: Break

10:45am-12:15pm

- Child responsive play therapy themes in attachment

- Loyalty binds in play narratives

12:15-1:15pm: Lunch

Afternoon

1:15-2:45pm: Using Protective Factors to develop play therapy interventions

- Divided heart, my two world techniques

- Narratives in Play therapy- Sand tray and Bookmaking

- Case examples

2:45-3:00pm: Break

3:00-4:30pm: Legal and Ethical issues for the play therapist

- Case formulation and sand tray consultation model

Registration

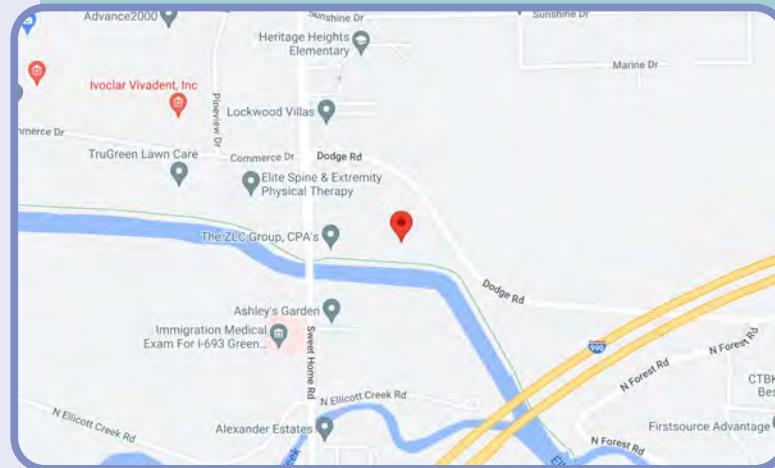
Please register for this workshop online at www.annbeckleyforest.com/current-trainings

Any questions please send an email to ann.beckleyforest@gmail.com with the subject line: "Play Therapy Trainings"

Course will begin promptly at 9:00am. Please arrive 10-15 minutes early to allow ample time for registration.

Training Location

55 Dodge Road
Getzville, NY 14068



Contact Information

Phone: (716) 831-2700

Email: HUTrainingSupport@horizon-health.org

Parking

Participants are asked to park in the lot in front of the building across from Dodge Road and enter/exit through the main entrance doorway. A staff member will be available to direct participants to the training room.

Refreshments/Lunch

Light refreshments will be offered. Lunch is not provided. Training facility has refrigerators available for participants interested in bringing their lunch. Training facility will additionally provide a list of nearby restaurant options.

Continuing Education

- CE-Classes.com is the provider of (CEs)
- The American Psychological Association (APA) CE-Classes.com is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. CE-Classes.com maintains responsibility for this program and its content.
- The California Board of Behavioral Sciences. The California Board of Behavioral Sciences, BBS, recognizes relevant course work/training that has been approved by nationally recognized certifying bodies, such as APA, to satisfy renewal requirements.
- California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP) Provider Number OS-12-174-0225 Expires 02-2025
- The California Board of Registered Nursing. CEP 15647 Expires 11/30/2026.
- The Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling Provider #852 BAP-Expires 3/31/2027.
- The Florida Board of Nursing (CE Provider #: 50-4896) Expires 10/31/2026 Do not send certificates to the Florida Board of Nursing. You must keep this certificate for 4 years.
- Florida Certification Board
- Illinois - CE-Classes.com is a registered social work CE sponsor by the State of Illinois. License 159.001607 Expires 11/30/2025
- Massachusetts Authorization Number: (TBD)
- New York Mental Health Practitioners Board CE-Classes.com, Inc. is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. #MHC-0260.
- New York Psychology Board CE-Classes.com, Inc. is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Psychology as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed psychologists #PSY-0211
- New York Social Work Board – CE-Classes.com is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0120.
- Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board - Approval from a state licensing board for counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists is accepted by the OH CSWMFTB.
- Oklahoma Board of Behavioral Health Licensure (LPCs, LMFTs and LBCs)
- South Carolina - CE-Classes.com is approved by the S.C. Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage & Family Therapist, Addiction Counselors, and Psycho-Educational Specialists (#4696).
- The Texas Board of Social Work Examiners – CE-Classes.com meets the requirements for acceptable continuing education. Effective 1/1/24, at least half of the 30 hours must be obtained from a provider listed in 801.261(f). This course meets that requirement.
- The Texas Board of Professional Counselors – CE-Classes.com meets the requirements for acceptable continuing education. Effective 1/1/24, at least half of the 30 hours must be obtained from a provider listed in 801.261(f). This course meets that requirement.
- The Texas Board of Marriage & Family Therapists – CE-Classes.com meets the requirements for acceptable continuing education. Effective 1/1/24, at least half of the 30 hours must be obtained from a provider listed in 801.261(f). This course meets that requirement.
- This course is NOT available for NBCC credit
- This training does not offer ASWB ACE credit to social workers.

Contact

Questions about these workshops, ADA accommodations or issues? Email ann.beckleyforest@gmail.com

Grievances should be made within 5 days and addressed to ann.beckleyforest@gmail.com

ADA Accomodations

If you require any support for your ADA needs, please contact Ann Beckley-Forest at least 3 weeks prior to the event at annbeckleyforest@gmail.com or 716-553-2256

Customer Service

We are happy to respond to any concerns or questions you may have. Please contact Ann Beckley-Forest at annbeckleyforest@gmail.com or 716-553-2256

Refund Policy

Registration is fully refundable (minus 5% transaction fee) 10 or more days prior to the workshop. Less than 10 days prior, eligible for 50% refund. Same day cancellations or no shows are never eligible for a refund. The presenter is not responsible for participant connectivity issues.



Association for Play Therapy CEs

Ann Beckley-Forest is APT Approved Provider 15-406. 6 CEs for play therapists for each workshop are available. For a suggested breakdown for the RPT requirements please see the website. Contact CEs for in person participants only. The virtual option meets the APT requirements for live webinars. Play therapy credit will not be granted to non-mental health professionals.

Certificates are awarded online after completion of the workshop. Participants print their own certificate after registering at CE-Classes.com, entering a keycode, and completing a post-test and evaluation form. Licensed Professionals should contact their regulatory board to determine course approval

There are no known conflicts of interest for this workshop.