



PLAY IS THE FUTURE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

July 2-4 • Chiavenna, Italy
18 Hours of In-Person or Online Classes

APTI Approved Provider #15-001
APT Approved Provider #20-602



Innovating Good Practice in Psychosocial Care

Scientific Director: Claudio Mochi, MA, RP, RPT-STM

An event that gathers international experts, practitioners, and researchers to exchange knowledge and good practices in the fields of play and expressive therapies, psychosocial interventions and projects.

Join us online or in Chiavenna, a strategic and charming location in northern Italy. You will be one hour from St. Moritz in Switzerland and one hour from Bellagio, on Lake Como.

Partners Confirmed:



PARTICIPANTS

Students, professionals, and researchers in mental health, education, rehabilitation, healthcare, and social work, working with individuals of all ages.

All modules are in English. Italian translation available on request once the minimum number of participants is reached.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

June 25, 2026.

EARLY BIRD
For enrollment by
January 31, 2026!
(see page 5)



Program

July 01 | Check-in from 4pm (dinner recommendations provided)

July 02 | **8am** • Breakfast

July 02 | **9:15am-9:30am** • Welcome

July 02 | **9:30am-12:45pm** • Sessions (including a 15-minute break)

July 02 | **12:45pm-1:45pm** • Lunch

July 02 | **1:45pm-5pm** • Sessions (including a 15-minute break)

July 02 | **7:30pm** • Dinner

July 03 | **8am** • Breakfast

July 03 | **9:30am-12:45pm** • Sessions (including a 15-minute break)

July 03 | **12:45pm-1:45pm** • Lunch

July 03 | **1:45pm-5pm** • Sessions (including a 15-minute break)

July 03 | **7:30pm** • *Pizza night with games and prizes!*

July 04 | **8am** • Breakfast

July 04 | **9:30am-12:45pm** • Sessions (including a 15-minute break)

July 04 | **12:45pm-1:45pm** • Lunch

July 04 | **1:45pm-5pm** • Sessions (including a 15-minute break)

July 04 | Check-out (Would you like to stay an extra night? Contact us!)

The titles and order of presentations will be announced at a later date. Please note that some of the presenters will join online only (see p.4).

We would be happy to help you plan activities and visits before or after the Conference, which will take place in a convenient location for exploring the beauty of Switzerland and northern Italy.



VENUE

Online or at Ostello al Deserto, Via al Deserto, 2, 23022 Chiavenna SO, Italy, [ostellochiavenna.it](https://www.ostellochiavenna.it).

The connection link to Zoom and the list of materials needed for the practical activities are sent 15 days before the classes start.

CERTIFICATE & CE HOURS

The exact number of APT & APTI Contact and Non-Contact CE Hours will be communicated in a timely manner.

80% participation, completion of the evaluation, and passing the post-test (multiple-choice questions) are required for issuing the Certificate of attendance; 100% for CE Hours.

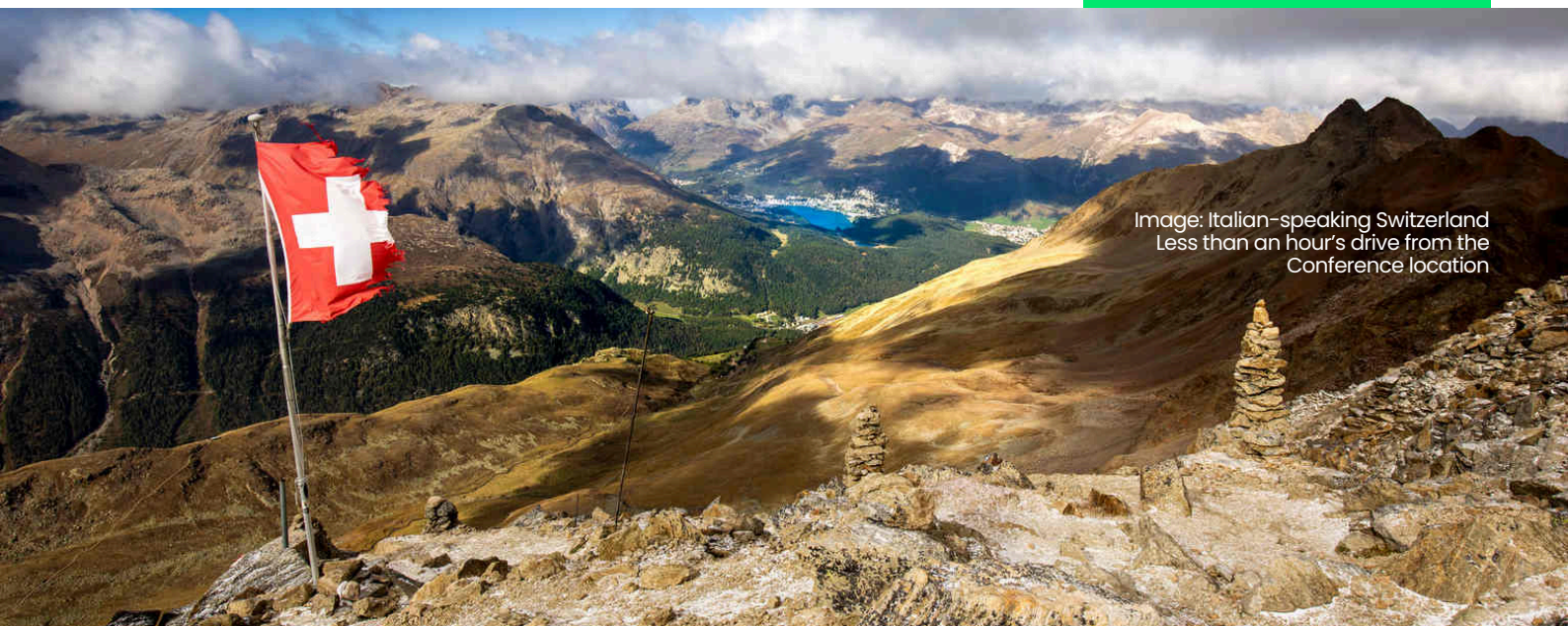


Image: Italian-speaking Switzerland
Less than an hour's drive from the
Conference location

The Academy



The International Academy for Play Therapy (INA) is an international reference for training professionals in the most effective Play Therapy methodologies, with a focus on trauma and work in crisis and high-vulnerability contexts. With a dynamic and cutting-edge structure, the Academy integrates Play Therapy training with expressive arts, neuroscience, and clinical application within sustainable and culturally sensitive psychosocial projects.

Its activities have been carried out across six continents and dozens of countries, in collaboration with leading clinicians, professors, and researchers in the field of child psychotherapy. INA is an approved provider of continuing education in Play Therapy by the Association for Play Therapy (APT) in the United States (#20-602) and by the Associazione Play Therapy Italia (APTI) (#15-001).

Founded in 2015 in Lugano, Switzerland, by Isabella Cassina and Claudio Mochi, INA is a nonprofit association recognized as being of public utility by the Republic and Canton of Ticino (N. DDC 71055). It operates for purposes of social solidarity at both national and international levels, serving individuals, families, and communities, with particular attention to the needs and well-being of children.

*We look forward to welcoming you
to “Play is the Future” to innovate
good practice in psychosocial care
and to create meaningful
connections together!*



TEACHING METHOD

The Conference features theoretical materials, images, and videos, along with individual and group practical activities—all presented in a playful, positive atmosphere of learning and sharing.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We are committed to making the training accessible to all. Please let us know if you have any special needs.

Speakers

(alphabetical order)

Ferdoos Abed Rabo Al-Issa, PhD • Head of the MSW Program at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. She served as chairperson of the Social Science Department at Bethlehem University. She has presented at numerous international and local conferences on mental health, psychology, and social work. She serves on the editorial board of the Bethlehem University Journal and on the Class and Status Journal of Critical Approaches to Social Divisions.

Isabella Cassina, MA, TPS, CAGS, PhD Cand. • Director of project management at the INA, University lecturer. APTI board member, founding member of IC-PTA. Editor-in-chief of the Italian Play Therapy magazine. Social worker specialized in Therapeutic Play and expressive arts with 15 years of international experience in humanitarian interventions and psychosocial projects for children and families in crisis contexts.

David Crenshaw, PhD, ABPP, RPT-S™ [ONLINE] • Clinical Director of the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, University professor. Psychologist and Registered Play Therapist Supervisor™ (APT US). Honorary member of the APA, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychology, Past-president of the New York APT. Excellence in Psychology Award in 2009, APT Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021.

Mimma della Cagnoletta, Psychologist, psychoanalyst, art therapist • Co-founder of Art Therapy Italiana, trainer and supervisor, director of the advanced training program in art therapy. Founding member of the EFAT, member of the Editorial Board of Creative Arts in Education and Therapy, honorary member of the Professional Association of Italian Art Therapists.

Lisa Dion, LPC, RPT-S™ • Creator of Synergetic Play Therapy, founder of the Synergetic Play Therapy Institute, and co-founder of the Synergetic Education Institute. She teaches internationally, hosts the Lessons from the Playroom podcast, authored Aggression in Play Therapy, and received the 2015 APT Professional Education and Training Award of Excellence.

Sylvia Ketelhohn, MA, CAGS, PhD Cand. • Founder of the Asociación Artística ASART in Costa Rica with over 20 years of experience in human and social development through artistic and cultural programs. She has collaborated with numerous international organizations contributing to projects across countries in Central and South America.

Josephine Martin, RPT-S • Founding president of APPTA, she has been very supportive of the growth of Play Therapy locally, nationally and internationally. With a background in Child Protection and experience as an Associate Lecturer in Play Therapy at Charles Darwin University, she brings extensive knowledge and passion to her work.

Clair Mellenthin, PhD, LCSW, RPT-S™ • Creator of Attachment Centered Play Therapy, University professor. Renowned clinical supervisor, international speaker, and acclaimed play therapist. Author of best-selling books like Attachment Centered Play Therapy. She is a sought-after expert in media, frequently sharing insights on children and family issues at both local and national levels.

Claudio Mochi, MA, RP, RPT-S™ • Director of the University Master's Program in Play Therapy (INA/UER), founder and president of the APTI. Expert in Emergency intervention with 25 years of international experience in trauma management. He received the 2015 Family Enhancement & Play Therapy Center, Inc. Award for "Outstanding contributions to the practice and teaching of Filial Therapy".

Brandy Schumann, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, RPT-S™ • Clinical Professor at Southern Methodist University with over two decades of experience helping children and families find healing and hope. International speaker and advisor, founder of Brandy's BOA, a therapeutic punching bag (Bobo) company designed to help children express themselves in healthy, healing ways through play. Past President of the Texas APT.

COSTS & DISCOUNTS

The Conference welcomes various types of participants (partners and speakers are invited to contact the Administrative Office for information regarding specific conditions).

The fee includes: 18 hours of Conference, post-test and CE Hours (where applicable), Certificate of attendance, 3 nights in shared accommodation, meals (3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 2 dinners).

Transportation fee is not included. Upon request, transportation to and from the airport can be arranged. We recommend flying into Milan Malpensa Airport.

Rooms are assigned in order of registration, starting with double rooms (unless otherwise specified). A double room is therefore not guaranteed for all participants. Each room has a private bathroom with double facilities. The accommodation is not equipped with air conditioning; fans will be available for guests.

If the facility's rooms are fully booked, information on alternative accommodations nearby will be provided. Please note that these are likely to cost more than the Conference venue.

PROFESSIONALS

Before January 31, 2026:

- On-site training, double room & board = €650
- On-site training, 3-4 people room & board = €600
- Online = €250

After January 31, 2026:

- On-site training, double room & board = €750
- On-site training, 3-4 people room & board = €700
- Online = €300

Enjoy the early-bird discount. Sign up by January 31, 2026!!!

STUDENTS & GROUPS

Before January 31, 2026:

- On-site training, double room & board = €600
- On-site training, 3-4 people room & board = €550
- Online = €200

After January 31, 2026:

- On-site training, double room & board = €650
- On-site training, 3-4 people room & board = €600
- Online = €250

Would you like to attend only part of the program, either in person or online? Contact us!

VOLUNTEERS

Only 3 spots! Handle breakfast and coffee break setup, as well as training room arrangement.

- On-site training, double room & board = €450
- On-site training, 3-4 people room & board = €400

The registration fee of €150 confirms registration and is non-refundable. Exceptions are when the participant proposes a suitable professional as a replacement; in that case, any amount already paid by the initial candidate are refunded in full.

In the event that the Conference is cancelled or postponed by the organizers, INA guarantees a full refund of the fee paid. Participants are responsible for any additional expenses incurred or losses of any kind.

The balance is due by July 1st, 2026 (the registration fee of €150 is included in the total cost).

The Conference will be confirmed with a minimum number of registrants and no later than February 15, 2026. We invite you not to purchase non-refundable tickets before this date!

HOW TO ENROLL IN 2 STEPS

1. Send an email to info@play-therapy.ch. Let us know whether you would like to attend in-person or online, if you have any dietary restrictions, and if you are a professional, student or group. You can also apply as a volunteer (only 3 spots available)
2. Pay the registration fee of € 150 by bank transfer or PayPal. You will receive a confirmation email from us as soon as possible (balance due by July 1st, 2026)

BANK REFERENCES & PAYPAL

International Academy for Play Therapy, Via General Guisan 2, 6962 Lugano, Switzerland.

IBAN: CH34 0900 0000 9122 4447 3 • BIC (SWIFT-Code): POFICHBEXXX.

Bank name and address: PostFinance SA, Mingerstrasse 20, 3030 Bern, Switzerland.

Subject: "Conference 2026." Any transfer fees must be borne by the payer.

For PayPal [click here](#).



CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This training and its faculty have no conflict of interest or competing interests in presenting the Conference. There is, moreover, no commercial support of any kind.

CREDENTIALS

The number of **Contact or Non-Contact CE Hours** contributes to obtaining or renewing Registered Play Therapist (RPT) credentials. APT credits are awarded to mental health professionals only. APTI credits are awarded to mental health, educational, rehabilitation, health, and social work professionals.

