



26th Annual Hawaii Association for Play Therapy Conference

Thursday February 20, 2025 &
Friday, February 21, 2025

The Way of Play: The Dynamic Power of Neuro-based Play Therapy



About Georgie Wisen-Vincent

Georgie Wisen-Vincent, LMFT, RPT-S, ECMHS is a nationally recognized play therapy expert and co-author (with Dr. Tina Payne Bryson) of the new book -- THE WAY OF PLAY (Penguin Random House, January 2025). Georgie is the Founder/Director of The Play Strong Institute, a center devoted to the study, research, and practice of play therapy through a neurodevelopment lens, along with Dr. Bryson, the Founder/Executive Director of The Center for Connection, multidisciplinary clinical practice in Southern California. Georgie is also a child, adolescent, and family psychotherapist and maintains a private practice at The Center for Connection. Through the Institute, the Play Strong approach was developed using child-led, adult scaffolded connection and play to help parents, therapists, educators, and care providers augment intervention aimed at the social, emotional, developmental, and learning needs of children from infancy to early adolescence. Play Strong Parenting (a component of Neurofilial Therapy) has been validated by empirical research and is currently being studied with non-parental caregivers and early childhood educators, among other research investigations currently underway. Neurofilial Therapy (NFT) is a more recent expansion on the well-established research behind Filial Therapy, a model that nurtures the parent-child relationship and places parents and caregivers in the role of therapeutic changemaker for their children. Georgie has gathered an advisory group of clinicians, knowledgeable in dyadic practice, to further develop the model and advance training in family therapy informed by Interpersonal Neurobiology (IPNB).

A graduate professor at Santa Clara University and active researcher in childhood play, attachment science, and mental health, Georgie has been commissioned as a consultant, program designer, and lead trainer for several major organizations and frequently presents to educators, parents, and clinical professionals on play therapy, trauma resilience, and the power of play-driven learning. She completed advanced study in play therapy at the University of Roehampton, London. Georgie gained specialist endorsement in early childhood mental health after completing the UC Davis Napa Infant Mental Health Fellowship. She is currently in the final phase of her doctoral program, a PhD in Infant and Early Child Development, focused on neurodiversity and parent-child attachment relationships.

Day 1:

Trauma Resilient Play: Strengthening the Role of Play Therapy in Child/Family Trauma Recovery

In the upcoming book, *The Way of Play* (co-written with Dr. Tina Payne Bryson, NY Times best selling author of *The Whole Brain Child*), renowned play therapist Georgie Wisen-Vincent, LMFT, RPT-S, presents the latest scientific research with special emphasis on the developing brain and the power of play. Dive deep into specific interventions for building brain development and stress resilience in children and families to strengthen trauma recovery. In a way that's clear, interesting and practical for therapists and multidisciplinary practitioners, Georgie will present a set of neuro-based play therapy strategies to better address stress-related symptoms, including challenging behaviors, emotional dysregulation, and difficulty with relationships. Through heartwarming stories, video clips, and engaging demonstrations, Georgie will show you how the PlayStrong approach invites children alongside their parents and teachers, to improve behavior in the classroom and at home, create secure bonds, and boost stress recovery and resilience.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify symptoms of stress/trauma responses in play therapy.
2. Describe 3 changes in child functioning that occur due to stress/trauma within a play therapy conceptualization.
3. Recognize three play therapy strategies to engage children around trauma-related themes.
4. Integrate play therapy activities to develop child emotional regulation.
5. Describe play therapy activities that enhance responsiveness to children's trauma-related behaviors.
6. Formulate 3 goals to advance child emotional resilience and post-traumatic growth using play therapy techniques.

Day 2: The Way of Play: A Neuro-Filial Approach to Build Secure Attachment and Repair in Parent-Child Bonds in Play Therapy

Overview: In this groundbreaking session Georgie equips you with play therapy strategies to support young clients and families facing stress, dysregulation, chaos, and conflict. You will learn to:

- Engage and retain caregivers in play therapy, even those initially resistant;
- Use creative filial play therapy techniques to foster neuroplasticity and inspire hope after trauma;
- Apply play therapy strategies to help children move from reactivity to resilience.

Georgie's approach combines talk-based parenting support with play therapy, offering tools that build emotional skills, self-awareness, empathy, and more. Through case studies, videos, and lively demonstrations, she will show you how to help parents reframe challenging and dysregulating behaviors, promote relational growth, and transform everyday moments into powerful opportunities for attachment and healing.

Learning Objectives:

After the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Describe 2 elements of the theoretical basis for filial play therapy.
2. Identify 3 predictors of healthy child development from the filial play therapy perspective.
3. Choose 3 filial play therapy strategies to engage parents and caregivers to increase positive interactions with their children
4. Integrate 2 filial play therapy activities to reduce family reactivity.
5. Utilize 2 filial play therapy activities that enhance parents' and caregivers' responsiveness to their children's stress-related behaviors.
6. Formulate 3 goals to advance parent and child emotional skills using filial play therapy techniques.

Location Information:

This in-person training will not be recorded and is scheduled to take place at the:

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Ballroom

2454 South Beretania St., Honolulu, HI.

Parking available on-site.

For further information, please email:

info@hawaiiplaytherapy.net

REGISTRATION

HAPT and HCA Members rate* \$275 (2 day) \$150 (1 day)

Non-member rates \$365 (2 day) and \$195 (1 day)

Student rate \$200 (2 day) and \$100 (1 day)

**Register online at HAPT website: www.hawaiiplaytherapy.net
Register by January 21 to have your name entered into special drawing.**

***Join APT & HAPT:** Joining HAPT now gets you a discount on the conference and other trainings and opportunities. It also enables you to grow professionally through association newsletters, journals, networking and peer consultation. Go to www.hawaiiplaytherapy.net to download the membership application, or join online at the Association for Play Therapy (APT) website at www.a4pt.org.

Play Therapy CEU's will be provided without charge sponsored by HAPT (APT Approved Provider 99-053).

CE Credits through NASW will also be available for purchase for \$25
12 hours of CE credits for both days or 6 hours for one day

**Purchase orders can be mailed to:
Hawaii Assc. for Play Therapy
PO Box 22966
Honolulu, HI 96823**

Conference Schedule

8:30-8:45 Check-In & Talk Story

8:45-9 Welcome & Information

9:00 Presentation

10:30 Morning Break

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Presentation Continues

2:30 Afternoon Break

2:45 Presentation Continues

4:30 Presentation Ends

You will not want to miss this fabulous opportunity in February with renowned author, presenter, and play therapist Georgie Wisen-Vincent, LMFT, RPT-S, ECMHS!