

Theraplay Level One and Marschak Interaction Method (MIM)

Presented by Dr Fiona Peacock

7-8 & 21-22nd October 2026



32 CPD
hours

What is this course about and what are the benefits?

Theraplay is a short term attachment-based play therapy for children and their care providers with a proactive focus on adult-child relationships, attachment theory, intersubjectivity and brain research. Theraplay is based on the natural patterns of healthy interaction between adult and child with a focus on:

- Attachment, self esteem, and trust through fun and play
- The four essential qualities found in parent-child relationships: Structure, Nurture, Engagement and Challenge
- Creation of empathetic connection between child and carer
- Resolution of behavioural problems

The Marschak Interactional Method (MIM) is an observational based assessment method used to evaluate parent-child relationships.

On this training you will improve your comfort and skills in administration and interpretation by focusing on examples of MIM's, as well as improve the breadth of your Theraplay skill set through practicing and learning how to adapt Theraplay to work with trauma and complex families

What are the learning objectives?

- Understand the history and theory of Theraplay
- Improve knowledge of how to administer the MIM including methods of recording non-verbal behaviours, making inferences and formulating hypotheses
- Explore how a MIM report is organised and used as a guideline for planning treatment, and how a feedback session is organised
- Enhance understanding of the interactional basis of parent-child attachment and self esteem
- Develop skills in the differentiation and use of the four Theraplay dimensions

Who would benefit from this course?

Theraplay is suitable for professionals and practitioners with a background in child development, adoption and permanency or psychology. This may include: Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Teachers, Counsellors, Play Therapists, Family Therapists, Early Childhood specialists. Those considering the training are advised to read the best practice guidelines on the Theraplay UK website: <http://www.wp.theraplay.org/uk/practicum/best-practice-guidelines-and-requirements-for-the-uk/>

Why do your Theraplay training at Adoption Plus?

Undertaking a training programme is a considerable commitment of time, energy and money. We want you to get the best out of your investment.

All our Theraplay training is delivered by Dr Fiona Peacock who is a highly experienced Theraplayer and general therapist educator <https://peacockcounselling.com>.

Here at Adoption Plus we have developed a unique training model within the UK. All our training is delivered in a small group setting or no more than 8 participants. Level 1 is delivered in a format where you have the first 2 days of training, some time to go away, digest and maybe even practice some elements, before returning for days 3 and 4 ready to consider how to apply the first principles to your work.

As part of our offer Fiona offers a group online check in one month after your level one so you can explore how the learning is translating into practice.

From our experience of delivering Theraplay training over the years, we have found the small group training model enables you to experience this way of working in a highly supportive group environment. Being a small group the input can be adapted to address your specific working environment, or indeed you own learning needs. Some of our small groups have remained in touch with each other post training offering each other valuable peer encouragement.

Here is some of the feedback we have received about our small group Theraplay training.....

"The trainer was absolutely amazing. The 4 days were structured so well, everything was clear and flowed well and lead to application/practice."

"The whole course has been amazing and so insightful."

"So informative, interesting and thought provoking. Loved the interactive experience of the games and have come away with lots to think about and reflect on."



Who will be delivering the training?

Fiona Peacock is a BACP Senior Accredited Counsellor and Certified Theraplay® Therapist, Trainer and Supervisor. In the past she worked in a highly specialised CAMHS team for Looked After and Adopted children as well as working in Education settings. Now she has a private practice providing psychotherapy and Theraplay to children whose early experiences of attachments have been disrupted as well as consultation, supervision and training to other professionals in this field. She also provides generic schools counselling. She is a Teaching Associate at University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education teaching Psychotherapeutic Counselling for Children and Adolescents up to MEd level. She is a contribution author to McLaughlin & Holliday (2014) Therapy with Children and Young People and to two of the modules in the MindEd programme (<https://www.minded.org.uk>) and co-author of Fostering Good Relationships (Richardson & Peacock 2016). Currently she is also studying for an EdD at Cambridge, researching into the experience of Theraplay.

Pre-Course Reading

Recommended reading before your training:

Chapters 1 & 2 of Theraplay - The Practitioner's Guide, by Vivien Norris and Dafna Lender

What are the course details?

- Date: 7-8 & 21-22nd October 2026
- Time: 9.00 - 5.00 (GMT)
- Venue: Adoptionplus, Moulsoe Business Centre, Moulsoe, Nr Milton Keynes, MK16 0FJ
- Price: £990 - Lunch and Refreshments are included Payment plans available on request.
- Booking: To book your place click [here](#) or email us at trainingwithus@adoptionplus.co.uk

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