

## Membership Benefits



### Play Therapy Ireland:

Play Therapy Ireland (PTIRL) offers a range of valuable benefits to its members, ensuring ongoing professional development and support:

- **Practice Support and Guidance:** PTIRL places great emphasis on supporting its members in their practice. With access to the Chief Executive Officers of PTIRL and CEO of PTUK, as well as a dedicated clinical team [clinical@ptukorg.com](mailto:clinical@ptukorg.com) members receive valuable guidance on various aspects of play therapy. Whether it's navigating complex cases or seeking advice on ethical dilemmas, this support network is an invaluable resource.
- **Professional Support for Legal, Complaints, and Concerns:** Play therapists occasionally encounter legal matters, complaints, or concerns in their practice. PTIRL understands these challenges and offers members professional support in addressing such issues. Members can consult with PTIRL's expert team, who provide guidance and advice tailored to the unique circumstances of each case. This support complements any options available through members' insurance providers, ensuring comprehensive assistance.
- **Complaint Resolution Resources:** To equip members with the tools to address complaints effectively, PTIRL has developed a robust set of resources. These resources include step-by-step procedures for handling complaints, templates for documenting incidents, and comprehensive information on the rights and responsibilities of play therapists. By providing these resources, PTIRL empowers its members to navigate complaints with confidence and professionalism.
- **Peer Support Networks:** PTIRL recognises the value of peer support networks within play therapy. Members are actively encouraged and assisted in establishing these networks or forums. These platforms serve as a vital space for members to connect with colleagues, share their experiences, insights, and strategies related to play therapy. It fosters a sense of solidarity among members.

- **Monthly Newsletter - Good to Know (GTK):** PTIRL keeps its members well-informed with the monthly GTK newsletter. This newsletter is a treasure trove of information about the latest developments in the world of play therapy and PTUK. It provides updates on upcoming courses, new venues, membership reminders, and a wealth of shared resources. Staying updated is made effortless through this valuable resource.
- **Play for Life Journal:** PTIRL enriches its members' knowledge and skills with seasonal publications of the Play for Life Journal. This journal is a valuable resource filled with engaging and inspiring therapeutic material. Members can delve into its content to deepen their understanding of play therapy, further enhancing their practice.
- **Newsletters from CEO:** Members receive newsletters directly from the CEO of PTIRL. These newsletters offer critical updates and insights into the play therapy field. They keep members abreast of important developments and initiatives within the profession.
- **Informative Website:** PTIRL maintains an informative website that serves as a comprehensive resource hub. It offers a wealth of information, resources, and updates related to play therapy. Members can rely on this online platform as a valuable reference for their practice and professional growth.
- **Fortuna Online Record Management:** As part of its commitment to member support, PTIRL provides access to Fortuna, an advanced online record management system designed for secure clinical data storage. Members can utilise this system with confidence, knowing that a dedicated team is readily available to provide support and training. This ensures that members can effectively navigate and maximise the system's capabilities [fortunaenquiries@playtherapy.org](mailto:fortunaenquiries@playtherapy.org)
- **Research and Evidence-Based Practice (EBP):** PTIRL is dedicated to advancing the play therapy profession and upholding the highest standards. The Fortuna system plays a pivotal role in achieving this by facilitating the secure collection and correlation of evidence-based practices (EBP). This process strengthens play therapy's standing as an effective child mental health support system. PTIRL actively engages in research efforts to continually expand the evidence base for play therapy, ensuring that members have access to the most effective therapeutic approaches.
- **Ongoing Practice Support:** Members benefit from continuous practice support offered by a dedicated team of experienced therapists. This support encompasses a wide range of areas, including information to promote safe practice and regular supervisor meetings. It ensures that members stay up to date with the latest requirements and best practices in the field.
- **Professional Standards Authority (PSA) Accreditation:** PTIRL under the umbrella of PTUK collaborates with the PSA to maintain accreditation, setting professional standards for play therapists, clinical supervisors, and other related roles. This commitment sets PTIRL apart within the play therapy profession and ensures that members adhere to the highest standards of practice.

## **Lobbying:**

- **Health Insurance Recognition:** PTIRL has played an active role in advocating for the recognition of play therapy within the health insurance sector. As a result of these efforts, most health insurance providers now acknowledge and cover play therapy services (subject to specific health insurance bands). This recognition not only facilitates access to play therapy for families but also underscores its importance in promoting mental health and well-being.
- **Promoting Play Therapy in Schools:** PTIRL is deeply committed to advancing the integration of play therapy in educational settings, particularly schools. Through ongoing lobbying efforts, PTIRL strives to raise awareness about the vital role of play therapy in supporting the well-being of children. This initiative seeks to make play therapy more readily available to young students, recognising its effectiveness in addressing their emotional and psychological needs. By advocating for play therapy in schools, PTIRL contributes to a holistic approach to child development and mental health support.
- **Government Commitment for Children's Well-being:** PTIRL has actively engaged in a series of constructive dialogues with various government bodies in Ireland. These discussions revolve around advocating for the well-being of young children and promoting the importance of play therapy in their lives. By fostering collaborations with government entities, PTIRL aims to contribute to policies and initiatives that enhance the support and care available to children across the country. Through these ongoing discussions, PTIRL seeks to influence decision-makers and policy frameworks to recognise the valuable role of play therapy in addressing the emotional, psychological, and developmental needs of young children. By working closely with government bodies, PTIRL endeavours to create a more nurturing and supportive environment for Ireland's children, ensuring their holistic growth and well-being are prioritised. This collaborative effort reflects PTIRL's dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of children and families in the country.
- **Garda Vetting:** PTIRL assists members with Garda vetting, a legal requirement when working with children and vulnerable adults. This process ensures compliance with legal obligations and supports members in fulfilling their roles effectively and responsibly.
- **Dedicated Membership Support:** PTIRL provides dedicated membership support to address queries and concerns related to membership. Members can reach out to our sister organisation, [contact@ptukorg.com](mailto:contact@ptukorg.com), for prompt and personalised assistance.

- **Continued Professional Development (CPD):** PTIRL offers a diverse range of CPD courses and webinars to support members in their ongoing professional development.
- **University Status:** Collaborating with a prestigious university like University College Cork (UCC) holds immense significance for APAC. For the past 13 years, APAC has forged a strong partnership with the University of Galway, and now, with University College Cork on board, our commitment to providing high-quality professional courses in Ireland is further reinforced. This collaboration elevates our courses to an unprecedented level, as we are the first and only third-level university offering such programs in the country. The crowning achievement of this partnership is the Level 9 MA university qualification that our courses confer. This distinction sets us apart from other training providers in Ireland, as we adhere to the rigorous standards set by Irish universities. For both trainee and qualified Play Therapy Ireland members, this affiliation highlights the advanced nature of the professional training they have received. It underscores the dedication of our members to upholding the highest educational and professional standards, ultimately benefiting their practice and the children and families they serve. This collaboration with UCC not only enhances the reputation of our courses but also ensures that our members are well-equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in the field of play therapy.
- **Academic Credibility:** Collaboration with University College Cork enhances the organisation's academic standing and credibility. It reflects a commitment to maintaining rigorous educational standards.
- **Quality Assurance:** University College Cork have robust quality assurance mechanisms in place. This ensures that programs meet established academic and professional standards, providing confidence to students and stakeholders.
- **Research Opportunities:** Partnerships with University College Cork has opened the opportunity to complete the final stage of the MA programme. This can lead to the development of further evidence-based practices and contribute to the advancement of the play therapy field.
- **Continual Improvement:** Collaboration with University College Cork encourages ongoing program evaluation and improvement. By conducting reviews, assessments, and external examination this maintains the quality of programmes.
- New to come members discount benefits (currently under review)

PTIRL is committed to empowering its members by offering a comprehensive range of benefits, including professional support, access to evidence-based practices, and continuous education opportunities. This commitment fosters excellence in play therapy practice, ensuring that members are well-prepared to provide effective therapeutic interventions to children and families. At the heart of PTIRL's mission is the well-being of children and families. Through lobbying efforts, research initiatives, and ongoing practice support, PTIRL aims to create an environment where play therapy can thrive, positively impacting the lives of those it serves. Ultimately, PTIRL's dedication to well-being extends to the broader community, emphasizing the importance of mental and emotional health for all.

Anyone can practise without being registered with any organisation because the play therapist title is not a registered title. However, if there were to be a complaint, for example, someone not on an approved register – they would have no back up and neither would the public have anywhere to complain to. It is encouraged with all organisations or the public using a play therapist that for safety and standards reasons they should be on a government approved register. It is also worth checking with insurers whether they would cover someone not on an approved register.

For all APAC course related enquiries please email [contact@apac.org.uk](mailto:contact@apac.org.uk)

For all Membership Enquiries please email [contact@ptukorg.com](mailto:contact@ptukorg.com)

For all Fortuna enquiries, please email [fortunaenquiries@playtherapy.org](mailto:fortunaenquiries@playtherapy.org)

PTUK/PTI Clinical Team: [clinical@ptukorg.com](mailto:clinical@ptukorg.com)