



PROFESSIONAL TITLE PROTECTION

BAPT is a member's led organisation. This means our members are at the heart of what we do; we listen and we act.

One of our members greatest concerns was the unprotected nature of the title 'Play Therapist'. Although it is a very special and specific term to us, unfortunately it can be used by anyone, regardless of whether their training has been three days or three years. This causes confusion for the public, is damaging to our clinical profession and harmful to children and families.

As an organisation, BAPT wanted to ensure a way of legally protecting our members and the public. We wanted to ensure our professional identity is clearly defined. Unfortunately, this is no longer possible for any profession via government legislation (which is how job titles are usually protected in health and social care), so we got creative and found a different way forward.

BAPT has gone through the legal trademark process to safeguard the title of BAPT Registered Play Therapist@. Now, when you see this trademarked title, you can be assured that the practitioner has undertaken years of post graduate university clinical training, which includes hundreds of hours of clinical practice, academic learning, infant observations and in-depth assessments. You can also be assured that practitioners using the title BAPT Registered Play Therapist@ have undergone their own personal therapy as part of their training. This is so important as it ensures our members are as safe and self-aware as possible when they enter the playroom with children.

BAPT Registered Play Therapists@ are held to the highest standards of supervision and continuing professional development. They are also eligible for registration with the Professional Standards Agency, another indicator of BAPT's commitment to quality. However, our journey is not yet complete. Protecting our supervisors and trainers is also important to us and our members; more titles will be announced in the near future.

