

PAEDIATRIC OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

JOB DESCRIPTION & SPECIFICATION

Autism Early Support Trust is recruiting a Paediatric Occupational Therapist to work as an active member of our team, providing support to children and their families, as well as professionals.

Who We Are

- **Autism Early Support Trust Ltd. (AES)**, established in 2001 as Puzzle Centre, is a UK charity based near Winslow and Buckingham, Buckinghamshire.
- We have a growing national reputation as a leader in the development of 'best practice' in early years education and intervention for young children with autism and other communication difficulties.
- AES operates a specialist nursery, **Circle Centre**, which has repeatedly been rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.
- Our **Outreach** services provide the same expertise as our established Circle Centre nursery. We support children aged 2 – 12 years, offering personalised support, consultancy and training for families, teachers and other practitioners in education and health.
- Full details of the work of the AES can be found at: www.autismearlysupport.org.uk

The Role

We wish to appoint a skilled practitioner who has a good understanding of the vital part that specialised early intervention plays in increasing positive outcomes and life chances for this vulnerable group of children and their families. It would be an advantage to have experience of delivering training courses to practitioners on sensory processing, emotional regulation, mealtimes, toileting and play. or if not, to be interested in gaining such experience.

You will have the opportunity to develop both your expertise in the education of young children with social communication and autism at this crucial time of their lives, as well as your skills in training adults (parents and practitioners). We wish to appoint an Occupational Therapist with the vision to play an important part in taking AES forward in its development as an organisation.

Working as a key part of a multi-disciplinary team, the Paediatric Occupational Therapist must ensure that the following long term outcomes for our children and families are achieved:

- ✓ Children receiving our service will be able to manage their emotions with / without the support of adults.
- ✓ Children receiving our service will be able to actively participate in self care activities
- ✓ Children receiving our service will be able to engage in play and learning activities.

- ✓ Parents will have a much clearer picture of their own child's particular differences or learning difficulty and have a good understanding of how they can support their child with social

communication, emotional regulation and personal care. They will be better able to meet the needs of their child and will be clearer about their own child's educational needs.

- ✓ Practitioners will understand how to meet the needs of young children with autism and communication difficulties.

This post will report to : **Head of Children's Services (HOCS)**

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Direct Assessment and Support

- To assess the sensory, fine motor and self-help skills of children, including providing specific occupational therapy assessments and SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, Transactional Supports) assessments, and to write assessment reports and therapy/educational plans.
- To devise, together with other members of the team when needed, educational planning grids for children to set out targets
- To plan individual (one-to-one) activities for home or settings as needed.
- To carry out consultations and home visits with parents and to give advice and guidance to parents on how to facilitate meeting their child's sensory and motor needs.
- To plan and oversee home or setting support packages delivered by Learning Assistants.
- To meet regularly and work closely with the multidisciplinary team.
- To liaise with other professionals involved with the child, as appropriate.
- To ensure that the environment and approaches used at home or the child's setting are adapted to take account of children's sensory and motor needs.
- To ensure that the service maintains high standards of delivery
- To undertake training in the use of the SCERTS model and to deliver this intervention to families.

Training

- To be confident in using and delivering training on the methods and strategies applied in Circle Centre (AES) specialist nursery, including the use of the SCERTS educational model.
- To deliver 'How AES Implements SCERTS' courses.
- To deliver training for parents and practitioners on a range of topics.
- To liaise with the HOCS to organise and occasionally to lead regular Open Mornings at the Circle Centre nursery.
- To deliver bespoke consultancy and advice for a range of primary schools and nurseries.
- To assist with the design and delivery of occasional national conferences or seminars.

Personal and Service Development

- To help to maintain and develop record keeping and data base(s) detailing the impact of AES services.
- To develop expertise in implementing the SCERTS model (www.scerts.com) alongside other members of the AES team.
- To attend relevant courses and conferences and keep abreast of research and developments the field of early intervention for children with autism and other communication difficulties.
- To participate in clinical supervision sessions in order to develop and enhance your own practice.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

Skills and abilities

Essential:

- Diploma of College of Occupational Therapists (Dip. COT) or degree in Occupational Therapy
- Registered with Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
- Substantial experience working with young children who have complex communication difficulties.
- Experience carrying out a range of standardised and non-standardised assessments.
- Experience of writing contributions for Education, Health and Care Plans
- Experience of delivering small group and individual sessions
- Competent using ICT

Desirable:

- Registration with RCOT.
- Specialist qualification in sensory integration.

Experience

Essential:

- Working with children on the autism spectrum.
- Working closely with parents.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively and constructively as part of a team.

Desirable:

- Experience of or interest in offering a holistic approach to meeting children's special needs and specifically understanding a range of approaches to teaching children on the autistic spectrum.
- Structured teaching approaches.
- Working in a multi-disciplinary team.

Knowledge

Essential:

- In-depth knowledge of early child development.
- SEND Code of Practice, including the Annual Review process.

Desirable:

- In-depth knowledge of autism and the range of educational interventions used to teach children with autism.
- Understanding of the use of a visually structured environment to facilitate learning in children with complex communication difficulties.

Overall, this person must want to be part of a team whose members work closely together, and really want to achieve the charity's mission. The ideal candidate must show a drive and determination to succeed. We welcome applications from anyone wanting to join and to contribute their expertise to a strong and friendly team.

Salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience and in line with NHS compensation bands.



The position is part-time (exact hours to be agreed).
Clean driving licence and use of own car for work essential.

Autism Early Support Trust Limited is committed both to equality of opportunity and to ensuring the safeguarding of our children and employees. These values are paramount to our ethos of working and are reflected in the policies of our charity.