

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPIST – OUTREACH SERVICES

JOB DESCRIPTION & SPECIFICATION

Autism Early Support Trust is recruiting a Speech & Language Therapist to work as an active member of our Outreach 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, 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 (that involves supporting children and their families in a specialist early years setting). 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 early years and autism good practice, or if not, to be interested in gaining such experience.

You will have the opportunity to develop both your expertise in the assessment and support of young children with communication and autism spectrum disorders at this crucial time of their lives, as well as your skills in training adults (parents and practitioners). We wish to appoint a Speech and Language 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 Speech Therapist in Outreach must ensure that the long term outcomes for our children and families are achieved:

- ✓ Children receiving our services will be able to communicate their needs/express themselves. This could be through speech, sign language or symbol use. These communication systems will be developed interventions at home or education setting. The child, parent/carers and other practitioners will develop their confidence in using communication strategies following your support and guidance.

- ✓ Parents will have a much clearer picture of their own child's particular communication strengths and differences have a good understanding of how they can communicate with their child. They will be better able to meet the needs of their child and the impact it has on their interaction and learning
- ✓ Practitioners will understand how to meet the needs of young children with autism spectrum disorders and communication difficulties.

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

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Direct Assessment and Support

- To assess the language, communication and developmental skills of children, and to write reports and educational plans.
- Assessment will include formal and informal assessment that is influenced by the SCERTS framework and its assessment process
- To devise, in collaboration with other members of the Outreach team when needed, the child's educational planning grid 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.
- To plan and oversee home or setting support packages delivered by Learning Assistants.
- To meet regularly with the Outreach team.
- To work closely with members of the multidisciplinary Outreach team.
- To liaise with other professionals involved with the child as appropriate.
- To ensure that the Outreach service maintains high standards of delivery and to discuss how to incorporate client feedback to refine and improve the service.
- To undertake training in use of SCERTS, if not already experienced, and to deliver this intervention to families as influenced by the SCERTS framework.

Training

- To be confident in using and delivering training on the methods and strategies used in the 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 in 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.
- To provide supervision and support to Speech and Language Therapy students from time to time.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

Skills and abilities

Essential:

- National certificate to practice awarded by RCSLT.
- Registration with the Health Professional Council.
- Specific experience or qualifications in the education of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Ability to work with young children who have complex communication difficulties.
- Ability to work closely with parents.
- Willingness to develop skills to use video feedback as a tool to support parent / carer coaching.

Desirable:

- Qualification in approaches that are beneficial to supporting communication and parent coaching (e.g. PACT, HANEN, Makaton, AAC).
- Training in the use of the SCERTS educational model, or if not trained, willingness to undertake training.
- Clean Driving License and access to a car

Experience

Essential:

- Working closely with children and parents.
- Working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and social communication difficulties.
- Proven ability to work collaboratively and constructively as part of a team.
- Experience of, or interest in offering a holistic approach to meeting children's special needs and specifically understanding of a range of approaches to supporting children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to engage and participate in their communication and education settings.
- Experience of, or interest in interactive methods of facilitating language and communication development.
- Structured therapy approaches.
- Working in a multidisciplinary team.

Desirable:

- Managing challenging behaviours.
- Using the SCERTS educational model.
- Delivering training courses and workshops to parents and practitioners

Knowledge

Essential:

- In depth knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorders and the range of therapeutic interventions used to support children with autism

- In depth knowledge of early child development.
- Understanding of the use of a visually structured environment to facilitate learning in children with complex communication difficulties

Desirable:

- SEND Code of Practice, including statutory assessment and the Annual Review process
- Knowledge and understanding of the SCERTS educational model.
- PACT intervention model.
- Training techniques for adults.

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(s) is available both as full or 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.