

Spotlight on Staff – Mandy Simons



Mandy Simons is Autism Early Support’s Chief Operating Officer who joined 15 years ago when she needed a part- time job to fit alongside the demands of having young children.

As she exclaims ‘Little did I know that I would be here 15 years later!’

Mandy shares with us how her job here has grown and changed.

‘Working at AES gets into your bloodstream. It is a place where special things happen.

Having worked closely with an immensely talented and wonderful bunch of practitioners, I witness every day the impact that they have on the lives of our little people in our nursery, their families and with our outreach families too. I see first-hand the support given to the parents and carers who join us when they themselves are not sure how to support their children, and are struggling. Some are only just coming to terms with the new life experiences of having a child with special educational needs to whom they do not know how best to support, others are weary of the constant battles they endure to get what they feel is needed to help them and their child(ren).’

Mandy first started with 10 hours a week administration back in 2008 which evolved to become full time Chief Operating Officer in 2019. With Sarah, our new CEO on-board,

Mandy now works a 3-day week providing all the support she can to the frontline services we offer.

Mandy says;

‘Being responsible for the majority of the support functions in a charity can at times feel a little overwhelming. The positive culture here at AES, and the ‘we can do it’ team ethos, means that when I find that a colleague needs something, and I may not immediately have the answer, we always find solutions together’

‘I adore the fact that I get to be involved in everything, and I do mean everything! There are times when I get to be with the team on the nursery floor, other times I will be dealing with marketing or HR. I can be involved in fundraising, or facilitating a workshop with our outreach team. I liaise with our Board of Trustees, our beneficiaries, and supporters. Where else can you honestly say that you are able to have the diversity this role gives!’

My top 3 reasoning I love AES:

1. The people I work with
2. The impact and difference we make
3. The variety of my role- never a dull day!

‘I believe I am very lucky to have found this role when I did. It shaped who I am today, and I feel very blessed to be able to be part of the magic that is AES!’