



Neurodiversity Practitioner Flexible up to 15 hours per week Freelance.

If you're interested or would like to find out more, please contact us:

Questions to: lauragomersall@autismearlysupport.org.uk

Interested: mandysimons@autismearlysupport.org.uk



Autism Early Support®

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Welcome from our CEO

Thank you for considering a role with Autism Early Support. I'm delighted you're exploring the possibility of joining our team.

You will be joining us as we grow. In 2023, we launched our digital platform, The Parent's Portal, to support more families more often. Today, we're supporting more families than ever before and our aim is to continue to expand to fill some of the gaps in the SEND system and ensure no child is left behind.

This recruitment pack gives you an overview of the role, our ethos, and the support that will be available to you here. I hope it helps you see how your skills and passion could contribute to our mission and that you're excited by this opportunity.

At AES, we're passionate about providing early, individualised help to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and families we're here to support.

Whether through our direct contact with children or indirectly through our Parent's Portal our child-led approach underpins our practice. Should you become one of our valued practitioners, you will be encouraged to work creatively and responsively, tailoring environments and strategies to meet children's individual needs.

Working here is rewarding. You will manage your own caseload and you will be part of a small team, so you will quickly see and feel the direct impact you are able to make both to families and to wider team development. You'll become part of a forward-thinking multi-disciplinary team that values curiosity and compassion.

We believe in investing in our staff. We do this through well-being initiatives, continuous professional development, training and supervision. We encourage everyone to work together with mutual respect to create a happy culture with an appetite for quality, learning and growth at its heart. You can watch a video of our work in action [here](#).

I hope I have given you a flavour of what you can expect from us, and if you share our values and drive, we'd love to welcome you to an interview.

Very best wishes

Sarah Sweet-Rowley



About Us

Who we are

Autism Early Support Trust Ltd. ("AES") offers early support and specialist education to autistic children, children with sensory, communication and interaction differences and their families. We believe every child should have the chance to find their place in the world, be able to communicate their needs and learn alongside their peers with acceptance and support.

We aim to work alongside parents and practitioners to give every child the foundations they need for the next stage of their education. If we can enable a child to feel safe and understood, they become happier and they can flourish.

AES was established in 2001 and was formerly known as 'The Puzzle Centre'.

What we do

Our early support and specialist education encompasses specific, structured and targeted neurodiversity affirming approaches founded on established research, evidence-based practice and our extensive experience.

Through our services, we aim to equip all children with the tools and confidence they need to communicate, explore, play and enjoy the world around them. In response to the child's needs, wants and preferences, we make environmental adaptations and create the support a child needs to feel ready to learn.

Help is accessed through the **Circle Centre**, our specialist nursery near Buckingham and our **Outreach Service**, which supports families in the community and online through projects including **The Parent's Portal** and **Assessments and Support Packages**.

Our Approach

Through our services, we encourage autistic children and children with sensory, communication and interactions differences to be their authentic selves without needing to mask or change themselves to feel accepted in a non-autistic majority society.

Our specialist multi-disciplinary team of teachers, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, nursery co-ordinators and learning assistants identify and put the supports in place to make a child feel safe and regulated so they can enjoy learning.

Alongside this, we work with parents and carers to help them feel confident in supporting their child and in advocating for their individual needs.



Our supports are always:

Child-led: We look at everything through the child's lens first, their well-being and happiness is always our priority. We focus on understanding and appreciating the child's perspective, we do not work towards trying to change them. We accommodate each child's needs to maximise function and use their skills and strengths to enable the child to thrive, learn and develop.

Needs-led: Regardless of diagnosis, we listen to the parent, we observe the child and we work with them to support the areas of need.

Focussed on a child's strengths: We design our support around the child's strength, interests and preferences to optimise engagement and enable the child to thrive.

Neurodiversity affirming: We listen to and believe there is always more to learn from the neurodivergent population. We strive to adapt and tailor our support to reflect these perspectives.

Our Strategy & Purpose

To fulfil the purpose and aims of our organisation, we follow a strategic plan as a framework for our roadmap. Our current strategy focuses on three key objectives:



- Deliver exemplary children's services
- Develop and grow our outreach services
- Build a sustainable income and resource base.

And within our objectives we have five aims:

- Children's services are an exemplar of best practice
- Maintain 'Outstanding' (Ofsted) in our flagship nursery
- Support more families and practitioners through outreach
- Develop and empower an active parent support network
- Cultivate, retain and develop our key stakeholders
- Drive growth through voluntary and trading income.

Our longer-term plans include our drive to:

- Improve outcomes for more autistic children and their families
- Become recognised as UK leaders in autism education
- Achieve financial stability & independence
- Develop strategic partnerships to raise our profile and influence change

Our Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

Every autistic child and child with sensory or communication differences receives timely, appropriate and high quality education, therapy and support.

Our Mission

Using specialist education and therapies we support autistic children to find their ways to communicate and interact with others and we empower parents to understand and advocate for their children's needs.

Our Values

- **Integrity.** We're being trusted to impact the course of a child's future.
- **Compassion.** We proactively support and empower parents to help to improve whole family well-being.
- **Empathy.** Understanding and listening is at the heart of our service. We never judge, because 'we get it'.
- **Expertise.** Our beneficiaries need specialist knowledge, support and guidance.
- **Excellence.** The children & families we support deserve the highest quality education, therapy and support.

What people say about our work

"We have learnt so much more about how we can work with our son to make everyday activities easier for us all. We have all learnt about his coping strategies and this has been a game changer. We have a much better understanding of what is going to work best for him once he starts school."

"Good advice from friendly people — lots of empathy and understanding."

"The support I have received has had a positive impact on my wellbeing. "

"You just get it."



The Role (Freelance)

What you can expect from us

- Remote working
- Opportunities to enhance your skills
- Comprehensive induction programme including face-to-face training, online modules, shadowing, and a well-planned induction period.
- Learning and development opportunities, including involvement in 3 organisation-wide inset training days,

At AES, we pride ourselves on our commitment to Team Wellbeing. Our Wellbeing charter is available to read [here](#)

The Team

This role is part of our small Outreach Team, consisting of 8 employees. We wish to grow this team with the addition of freelance support.

The charity employs 30 staff, based across our 2 sites. We also have the support of several volunteers, a Board of Trustees and our Charity Ambassadors.

Role Description

You will play a key role in our outreach team, primarily working on our digital platform The Parent's Portal and our online programmes for parents.

We are looking for an experienced professional who is passionate about enhancing their neurodiversity-affirming practice. Are you able to join our team of online presenters to help with the creation and development of resources and content?

You will be helping to fulfil one of charity's key purposes - to educate and empower families and professionals to support children aged 2-17 who have sensory, communication and interaction differences. Our service is needs-led, so the range of children we support may be autistic, ADHD, autistic and ADHD co-occurring and/or their families maybe at the early stages of exploring their child's differences.

We are looking for candidates who are natural neurodivergent advocates and/or have worked in any of these professional backgrounds:

- Specialist education (e.g. specialist teachers, SENDCos)
- Educational Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Allied Health (e.g. Occupational Therapy or Speech and Language Therapy)
- Specialist nursing (learning disabilities, neurodiversity, mental health)
- Neurodiversity coaching
- Portage
- Social work

Experienced in:

- Producing and delivering engaging interactive learning resources for parents and professionals.
- Supporting neurodivergent children with communication, interaction, and sensory differences.
- Working in advisory or counselling role, supporting families and parents.
- Liaising with and providing direct support to parents, teachers and practitioners.
- Working collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team (e.g. education, psychology, allied health).

Essential skills:

- Strong research and content curation skills aligned with neurodiversity-affirming practice.
- The ability to present and explain complex topics clearly and confidently across different media.
- Skilled in distilling information into practical strategies for families and professionals.
- Competent in ICT and online platforms for resource delivery and engagement.
- Knowledge of safeguarding, confidentiality, and SEN code of practice.
- (Preferred) Professional registration (e.g. HCPC or equivalent for teachers).

Key Competencies

- Empathetic and committed to supporting neurodivergent individuals and their families.
- Innovative and proactive in identifying areas for resource development and improvement.
- Collaborative and team-oriented, contributing to shared projects and goals.
- Adaptable in communication and delivery methods to meet diverse needs.
- Curious and committed to continuous learning and applying neurodivergent-informed research.
- Creative in designing accessible, engaging materials tailored to varied learning styles.
- Demonstrates an interest in and understanding of, the neurodiversity paradigm, neurodivergent informed research and practice. You will show a natural interest in this practice and in sharing your findings with peers.
- Competent ICT user.

Key Responsibilities

- **Content Development:** Research, curate, and create high-quality resources for families and professionals in multiple formats (written guides, videos, interactive tools).
- **Content Delivery:** Deliver information online that is accessible, relevant and meaningful.
- **Quality Assurance:** Review and update existing content to ensure alignment with current neurodivergent-informed research and best practice.
- **Collaboration:** Incorporate feedback from families, neurodivergent advocates, and professionals into resource development.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Identify development opportunities within the service and contribute to team projects.
- **Compliance:** Ensure all content adheres to safeguarding, confidentiality, and accessibility standards.

Your Application

How to apply

We welcome informal conversations with prospective candidates about the role and the charity. We pride ourselves on being open and transparent.

Please contact Laura Gomersall, Head of Children's Services LauraGomersall@AutismEarlySupport.org.uk
0300 102 4462



1. Email your completed AES application form (you can download the form [here](#)) to MandySimons@AutismEarlySupport.org.uk attaching your CV if you wish.
2. Provide a letter of application, clearly stating how you would meet the key requirements of the role to which you are applying, and why this role is attractive to you
3. Provide the name, address and telephone numbers of two referees on the application form. Neither of these referees should be a relative and one should be your current or your last employer. References will only be taken up after interview but before offer of employment is sent. All offers of employment are conditional upon suitable references being obtained.

In line with our safer recruitment procedures and the statutory guidance outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), we are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all individuals. As part of this commitment, we request references that adhere to these procedures to help us make informed and responsible recruitment decisions.

We aim to create a supportive and inclusive interview experience. If there is anything we should do to help you feel comfortable or accommodate your communication preferences, please let us know on application.

If we invite you to interview with us, we'll share our interview themes in advance to help you prepare.

Successful candidates at first interview will be asked to return for a second stage interview. This will involve a practical task.

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and protecting the vulnerable adults, children and young people that we work with. As such, all posts are subject to a safer recruitment process including the disclosure of criminal records and vetting checks. We ensure that we have a range of policies and procedures in place which promote safeguarding and safer working practices across our services.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to fostering a workplace where everyone feels respected, valued, and empowered to thrive. We believe that diversity of thought, background, and experience makes us stronger, and we actively work to create an environment where all individuals can contribute meaningfully and be their authentic selves.

As an inclusive employer, we welcome applications from all qualified candidates—regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or belief, age, socioeconomic background, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, caring responsibilities, marital or civil partnership status, nationality, disability (including invisible disabilities), or neurodivergence.



If you are interested in the role, but you don't meet 100% of our criteria, don't rule out applying. Please contact us to discuss first or submit your application demonstrating why you would like this role. All applications will be read and considered.

Summary of terms and conditions

Role Title	Neuro-affirming Practitioner		
Freelance Rate	Dependent on experience. We're recruiting at multiple skill levels, and the final rate will reflect the experience you bring. If you have the core capabilities, we encourage you to apply.		
Location	Hybrid – this is a mix of home and occasional visits to our Buckingham-based office (Buckingham Industrial Estate MK18 1TF)		
Hours of work	Flexible depending on availability		
Disability	We are committed to making every reasonable adjustment to the workplace or working arrangements so as to accommodate people with disabilities		
Closing Date	None		



Autism Early Support®

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