

Meet the team...

Talking Early Years Childcare

Lisa Seymour - Early Years and Childcare Quality Improvement Specialist

I have worked within the Early Years and Child Care arena for over 30 years; this has included working in Pre-Schools, Nurseries, as a Registered Childminder and within School Reception and Year 1. I have a Masters Degree in Early Years Education, QTLS, a Degree in Integrated Early Childhood Studies and hold Early Years Professional Status. Working for Telford and Wrekin for over 16 years I have held a range of roles presently managing the team of Early Years Consultants and Early Years Qualified Teachers. I oversee the training programmes for the Early Years Foundation Stage within Schools, Private, Voluntary and Independent Childcare providers. My particular areas of expertise are quality improvement and continued professional development opportunities. I am an experienced tutor, assessor and internal quality assessor (IQA) for Early Years Qualifications and have held roles of personal tutor/assessor for Early Years Initial Teacher trainees. I have been Early Years representative on the Telford and Wrekin Local Safeguarding Children's Board training sub group and have delivered child protection training for many years, an area that I take a particular interest in.



Stacy Picken - Childcare Business Funding Consultant

I have worked within Telford and Wrekin for over 15 years and my experience in administration and business management stretches over 25 years. I am qualified to level 5 in leadership and management. I have worked within and with the private, government and voluntary sectors. Supporting Schools and businesses through project management, bid writing/application and sustainability/growth. My success in projects has been recognised, published and shared nationally by C4EO and DfE Project Partners. My skills also include setting up training programmes, introducing support packages for schools, the private and independent sector (small businesses such as Nurseries, Pre-Schools and Childminders) which includes marketing to potential customers and managing the existing market. Understanding that all businesses are different is key to successful partnerships. I have achieved Award in Education and Training.



Charlotte Cartwright - Early Years and Childcare Consultant

My experience of working in childcare and education spans over 20 years where I have worked in various mainstream and special schools with children aged 3 to 11 years. Prior to working as an Early years and Childcare Consultant I worked as a Nursery Manager for a large day care setting as part of a Children's Centre with children aged 0 to 11 years providing breakfast club, funded sessions and after school and holiday club provision. Over the last five years I have developed my experience of working with child minders supporting through registration, Ofsted inspections and training. My qualifications include a BA Hons in Leadership in the Early Years, Award in Education and Training, Advanced Diploma in Childcare and Education, BTEC National Diploma in Nursery Nursing and Forest School Leader. I am very passionate about providing high quality learning experiences for children including my love of outdoor learning and Forest school experiences.



Natasha Locklin – Early Years and Childcare Consultant

I have a Masters Degree in Early Years Education, hold Early Years Professional Status and have significant experience of working within the Early Years and Childcare arena. I previously managed a pre-school playgroup and have led and managed change through setting up extended school provision which included before school, after school care and holiday care. I have worked as a Nursery Nurse within a maintained Nursery, Reception and Year One class. I have experience of supporting learning and development in a school environment this has been through child initiated, numeracy and literacy opportunities. I have also delivered Forest School activities and opportunities weekly to Reception children.

I am a qualified Forest School Leader and have delivered outdoor learning experiences for a range of Early Year's practitioners, engaging and inspiring them to utilise the outdoor learning environment. Within my role as an Early Years and Childcare Consultant I offer support, advice, guidance and challenge to providers to ensure that children are having access to high quality experiences. My specialism within the Early Years Childcare Consultant team is Learning and Development where I offer advice, support and training with observation, assessment and planning. I also have a NASENCo Award.



Sarah Worrall – Early Years and Childcare Consultant

I have over 15 years' experience of working in the early years, wraparound care and training sectors. I hold a BA Hons Degree in Early Childhood Studies and have Early Years Professional Status. Over the last 10 years I have worked as a training advisor delivering childcare apprenticeships and higher level programmes within the workplace. I have also worked on a project to develop an interactive learning platform that training providers can use to deliver the new Early Years Educator Standard qualification. During my time spent in private nurseries I have led development and training on changes to delivery of the EYFS and managed a 68 place nursery with before, after school and holiday clubs. I am very passionate about making sure that all children are given the opportunity to have the best start within their early years. I believe that this must be done by offering a breadth of experiences and working closely with the children to follow their interests. I have an individual interest in working with providers to look at ways to develop and reflect on practices to ensure they are providing experiences and resources that reflect current best practice.



Louise Dutton - Early Years and Childcare Consultant

I have 20 years' experience in the childcare field in various roles. I am an experienced manager as I have co-owned a full day care nursery and established setting up and running the nursery in the private sector for 5 years. Within my present role I have provided support, advice and challenge to various schools and childcare providers. My areas of strength include supporting voluntary management committees, school leadership teams and Governors around governance of Early Years and extended childcare provision including before school, after school care and holiday care. I have a good knowledge, understanding and practical skills of early years learning, development and education. I am a qualified Forest School Leader with over 6 years' experience. I have led the Forest School and outdoor learning environment training for Early Years and school practitioners across Telford and Wrekin and enjoy inspiring and motivating practitioners in exploring the benefits of using the outdoors to support children's learning, development and outcomes. I believe that it is of upmost importance to provide children with excellent high quality childcare and education to give them the best start in life and I enjoy supporting and being a part of making this a possibility.



Jayne-Davies – Early Years and Childcare Consultant

I started my career working within the health care sector having completed my training at the Royal London Hospital. I spent a number of years working at Guys Hospital and then moved in to Medical Sales and Training. Having my own family sparked a real passion and interest in how children learn and develop and I started on my Early Years journey, retraining as an Early Years Practitioner. I have worked in School as a Teaching Assistant and in Early Years Settings and have gone on to complete my Adult Teaching qualifications. I have a particular interest in working with providers to look at ways of supporting children and their families to make healthy lifestyle choices. I have been part of the Local Safeguarding Training Pool for a number of years and believe passionately in working with schools and childcare providers to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to recognise and protect children and young people from harm.



Lorraine Nutt – Early Years Qualified Teacher

My Early Years' experience started 19 years ago as a childminder in Shropshire. This included running local toddler groups and being Chair of the Telford and Wrekin Childminding Association. I became a Manager of a Pre-School setting providing leadership in developing child initiated play, positive transition for children starting school and a successful Forest School. Whilst at Pre-School Ofsted graded it as an 'Outstanding' setting. It was at this time I made the decision to gain a teaching qualification in Early Years. I joined a Telford & Wrekin School as a reception class teacher before joining the Local Authority as part of the Early Years Team in my present role as an Early Years Advisory Teacher/SENDCo. My role is to support PVI and Maintained Early Years settings, their families and children who have Special Educational Needs. Throughout my career I have gained experience with working with families to support their children as part of a multi-agency approach. I am passionate about supporting settings to ensure an inclusive approach is adopted ensuring all children experience a quality learning setting with their individual needs understood and planned for.



Qualifications - Professional Graduate Certificate in Education Early Years, ELKLAN Level 3 Award 3-5years old, National Award for SEN Coordination, Postgraduate Certificate – Vulnerable Learners and Inclusion.

Samantha Evans – Early Years Qualified Teacher

I have worked for Telford & Wrekin since 2012 within the Education sector within many different Advisory Teams. My current role within the Early Years & Childcare Team focuses on supporting and advising mainstream nurseries and schools, childminders, Private, Voluntary & Independent nurseries with regard to Early Years children who have or may have a Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND). I view my role as helping to identify and remove barriers to learning and development. I have knowledge of and interest in a wide range of Special Educational Needs including SPLD; Autistic Spectrum Conditions, Social Emotional and Mental Health and Speech, Language & Communication Needs (SLCN). I previously taught in Infant and Primary schools within Shropshire and have significant experience of teaching within Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2 whilst undertaking the role of SENCo for many years.



Qualifications: M. Ed (SEN); Postgraduate Certificate (Autism); Approved Teacher Status (ATS) – British Dyslexia Association; National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCo); Qualified Teacher Status- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (ages 3-8) specialism in Early Years; BA (Hons).

Jane Robinson – Early Years Qualified Teacher

I qualified as a teacher (B.Ed Hons) in 1987. I have a wealth of experience of teaching children in Early Years Foundation Stage, and working as Foundation Stage Lead, for a number of local authorities across the Midlands. I have also taught children in Key Stages 1 and 2, and co-ordinated a parent and toddler group, deepening my knowledge and experience of child development. I gained further experience of working in early years settings, being actively involved as a post holder of a pre-school management committee, and being employed in a leadership role at a voluntary pre-school.

Throughout my career, I have been committed to inclusive principles, supporting children with a range of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), both in mainstream and in specialist settings. I have worked in an advisory role at Telford & Wrekin Council since 2010, where I have pursued my specialism in supporting children with SEND, including speech, language & communication needs, social & emotional and mental health and profound & multiple learning difficulties. I am skilled in using alternative communication systems, and have led training through Every Child a Talker and the Early Language Development Programme. I have been trained in the TEACCH approach to learning for pupils with autistic spectrum condition, and deliver training programmes from Autism Education Trust.

Further qualifications I have achieved include Early Years Professional Status (EYPS); Forest School Leader; Cert. Ed. Education of the Bi-lingual Child in the Primary School; PG Cert Ed. NASENCo Award.



All of the team hold adult teaching qualifications and assessor awards and are skilled at developing individual support to enhance the quality of provision for children and their families within early year's environments.



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