



**Telford & Wrekin**  
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest  
to create a better borough

# Talking Early Years Childcare

## Meet the team...

### **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, and Degree in Integrated Early Childhood Studies and hold Early Years Professional Status. Working for Telford & Wrekin Council for over 20 years I have held a range of roles most currently as Early Years and Childcare Team Leader I oversee the range of functions of the team. These include the Early Years funding streams, Childcare Sufficiency, Safeguarding, Quality of provision, Early Years SEND support and most recently HHAH (known nationally as HAF Programme) and Extended Wraparound provision. I co-ordinate 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 am the Early Years representative on a number of sub-groups for the Telford and Wrekin Local Safeguarding Partnership and have delivered child protection training for many years, an area that I take a particular interest in. I am an accredited trainer for a range of programmes including Early Years Talk Boost and Brook Traffic light training.

### **Stacy Picken – Childcare Business Funding Consultant**

I have worked within Telford & Wrekin Council for over 19 years and my experience in business and project management stretches over 30 years. I am qualified to level 5 (foundation degree) in leadership and management I have also gained an award in Education and Training. I have worked within 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, monitoring the market and childcare sufficiency, 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, most recently taking on the Telford & Wrekin HHAH programme (known nationally as the HAF programme) and Extended Wraparound provision. Understanding that all businesses are different is key to successful partnerships. My passion is to ensure that all childcare providers, parents/carers and service users are armed with the knowledge they need to access, deliver and receive excellent childcare advice and provision.



### **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 more than 25 years' experience of working in the early years, wraparound care and training sectors.

I hold a BA Hons Degree in Early Childhood Studies, hold Early Years Professional Status and have completed my NASENCO award.

I hold various licences from Speech and Language UK and the National Children's Bureau that allow me to deliver intervention training to support and develop communication for children 0-5 years. These include early years talk boost, tots talking, early talk and Making It REAL. I am also a trained trainer for Local Prevent training.

I have previously worked as a training advisor delivering childcare apprenticeships and higher level programmes within the workplace. I have also worked on projects to develop early year's content that is delivered for the early year's educator programmes, using interactive learning platforms.

During my time spent in private nurseries, I have led development and training on changes to delivery of the EYFS, managed small community-based settings and a large 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 is done by offering a breadth of experiences and by working closely with the children and their families 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. This involves me creating bespoke training sessions to inspire and build confidence with whole staff teams.



### **Charlotte Cartwright – Early Years and Childcare Consultant**

My experience of working in childcare and education spans over 25 years where I have worked in various mainstream and special schools with children aged 3 to 11 years and as a mentor for the Behaviour Support Advisory Team. 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 ten years I have developed my experience of working with child minders supporting through registration, Ofsted inspections and training. My qualifications include National Award in Special Educational Needs Co-ordination, 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.



### **Louise Dutton – Wraparound Childcare Programme Development Officer**

I have extensive experience in the childcare and education field in various roles. Currently I have been seconded within the Early Years Team to support the DFE Wraparound Childcare Programme within the borough. My areas of strength include supporting voluntary management committees, school leadership teams and Governors with the development of extended childcare provision including before, after school and holiday childcare. I am an experienced assessor and have worked on assessing the SENDCO level 3 qualification. I currently support School Aged Environmental Rating Scale audits (SACERS) to wraparound childcare provisions to evaluate practice.

I am a qualified Forest School leader with over 11 years' experience I lead the Forest School and Outdoor Schools continued professional development for practitioners across Telford and Wrekin. I am passionate about encouraging the development and implementation of Forest School, outdoor learning opportunities and experiences for children and young people. I enjoy inspiring and motivating practitioners in exploring the benefits of using the outdoors to support children's learning development outcomes and mental health. I am also a part of the Local Safeguarding Training pool for a number of years and support the delivery of a range of safeguarding training to practitioners building their skills and knowledge in this area to support protecting children and young people in their care. I believe it is of the utmost importance to provide children with high quality education and care to give them the best start in life. I enjoy supporting and being a part of this work with schools, early year providers, childminders and wraparound childcare providers in making this a possibility for all children.



### **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 into Medical Sales and Training. Having my own family sparked a real passion and interest in how children learn and develop, and 25 years ago 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 and Assessing 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 many 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.



### **Donna Gray – Early Years and Childcare Consultant**

I have a degree in Childhood and Youth Professional Studies, Diploma in Childhood Studies and a wealth of experience working within the Early years sector for over 25 years. From being a childminder when my own children were younger, to various roles within the private and maintained sector, including leading a large private nursery. I have significant experience of supporting children's learning and development and striving for the best start to education for all children.

My latest role was managing a busy school nursery, where I discovered my passion of supporting children and their families with SEND, helping to identify any barriers and work towards an inclusive approach. I am also an experienced tutor and assessor, supporting those wanting to pursue a career in Childcare or extend their knowledge and skills.



### **Laura Masling – Early Years and Childcare Consultant**

I hold a BA Honours degree in Childhood Studies, Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) and a Level 3 SENCo Cache Diploma.

I have 15 years' experience working in various roles within Early Years settings including managing a PVI setting and most recently working as a SENCo/EYT in a NHS nursery.

I have experience in supporting practitioners to develop their practice, developing and embedding a curriculum and delivering a range of training to support practitioners learning and development.

I have worked closely with children with SEND and their families, supporting them by removing barriers, making adaptations and putting interventions in place to ensure opportunities to create a strong foundation within their Early Years are provided.

I am a big advocate that children should be at the centre of their own learning and have the opportunity to access a wealth of experiences within their Early Years, delivered in a way that best suits their interests and learning style. I am passionate about supporting children's well-being, helping them to develop self-regulation skills and build resilience.



### **Katie Spicer – Early Years and Childcare Consultant**

I am a qualified teacher (B.A Hons RS QTS) specialising in the 3-8 age range and I also hold Early Years Professional Status (EYPS). I have been working in education and the early years for 20 years and have a wealth of experience of teaching in maintained schools from Nursery to Year 3. I have experience of leading a team of staff in nursery settings in several different local authorities. I was fortunate to secure the role of a children's centre teacher and was directly involved in working in partnership with parents, family support workers and health professionals to improve outcomes for children from birth to 5. I gained further experience during this time by supporting several PVI day care settings within the children centre's locality. I am passionate about sharing good practice with my fellow early years colleagues and developing professional working relationships.

I registered with Ofsted as a childminder in 2014 and thoroughly enjoyed working closely with families and being a part of their child's learning and development journey. Whilst childminding I was delighted to receive an 'outstanding' Ofsted grading on my first inspection and have supported other childminders in my local area with their practice and provision. During my time as a childminder, I supported several apprentices to successfully achieve their level 3 qualifications in early years childcare. Alongside my childminding business I have set up and currently manage a private out of school club that cares for children ages 6-12 both before and after school. Throughout my career I have always maintained an inclusive ethos by actively removing barriers to learning and having high expectations of children for them to achieve the best possible outcomes.





### **Lorraine Nutt – Early Years Qualified Teacher**

My Early Years' experience started 27 years ago as a childminder in Shropshire. This included running local toddler groups, Chair of the Telford and Wrekin Childminding Association and being part of the Shropshire Childminding Network. 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. In my present role as an Early Years Advisory Teacher/SENCo. 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 Council 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 Education 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).



### **Amelia McCabe – Early Years and Childcare Funding and Programme Support Co-ordinator**

Since completing my L3 Business & Admin, I have worked in a variety of teams within local authorities over the past 10 years, including Children's Services, Customer Services, and Education. I have been in my current role with the Early Years & Childcare team for over 4 years, which includes working with families and childcare providers to apply for and receive childcare funding, training colleagues to use the Provider Portal, and compiling the termly Early Years & Childcare Childcare Sufficiency.



**Hollie Edmonds – Early Years and Childcare Funding and Programme Support Co-ordinator**

I joined Telford & Wrekin Council in 2017 as an apprentice. After gaining my Level 3 Business Administration NVQ I was successful in securing an administration role in the Education & Skills team which I held for six years.

Last year, I joined the Early Years team as an Early Years & Childcare Funding and Programme Support Co-ordinator, supporting with funding queries, events and other administration tasks. I also have experience as a support worker for children and young adults with SEN.



**Kelly Thomas – Early Years and Childcare Funding and Programme Support Co-ordinator**

I have worked within Early Years for seven years and in that time, I started as a level 2 and worked my way through education to a level 5 in Early Years Services. My previous experience within Early Years was working in a preschool setting as a key worker and then moving on to becoming the deputy manager alongside having a key group.

My passion has always been to work within Early Years, and I have many fond memories. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children individually, working with them on a daily basis and then getting to know their families by relaying their accomplishments and achievements.

I have currently worked my first year in the Early Years Funding and Programme team and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all the different school, PVI's and childminders. I look forward to working and getting to know the different settings even more and broadening my knowledge of working in the funding team.



**Mykala Hopkins – HHAH Delivery Officer**

I joined Telford & Wrekin Council in June 2022 as the Delivery Officer for Telford and Wrekin's HAF programme known as Happy Healthy Active Holiday's. Since joining the programme we have successfully grown both provision coverage within the borough and attendance up-take. My background is in Harm Assessment for West Mercia Police which has helped me to drive the programme forward and engage vulnerable families within the borough.

I am passionate about supporting children and families in need and keen to reduce the risk of child exploitation through HAF in Telford.



**Summer Marlow – HHAH Project Support and Admin**

Hi, I'm Summer and have been working for the council since 2020. Previously in business roles supporting marketing admin and adult social care I now support the HAF scheme as part of the EYCC team supporting children and vulnerable families across Telford during the school holidays for the last 2 years.

We are passionate about helping as many people as we can and consistent progress reaching higher numbers continues to keep my role in the council rewarding.



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.

**Contact us:**

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