



Joanna Beale
Specialist Occupational Therapist
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Professional Qualifications

BSc Occupational Therapy

Memberships

British Association of Occupational Therapists BT 0213331

Health Professional Council- Registration number OT 10747

College of Occupational Therapy Specialist Section Children, Young People and Families OT5822

Summary

I provide goal orientated occupational therapy rehabilitation and programmes for both children and adults with neurological impairment following brain injury. This therapy aims to optimise recovery, and to develop skills leading towards greater independence at home, in the community and in educational and work settings. I am usually instructed by a case manager and work well in a multi-disciplinary team.

Since joining the company I have gained experience of developing independent living trials, longer term community-based rehabilitation, school and college-based therapy for children. I have sourced specialist equipment including wheelchairs and worked with architects to advise on home adaptation.

Current position

I joined A Chance for Life in 2012 where I work as an Occupational Therapist. I have specialist paediatric skills and experience with:

- Cognitively and physically impaired clients including children with cerebral palsy
- Assessment, preparation of reports and implementation of rehabilitation programmes
- Developmental coordination disorder.
- Specialist lycra garment splinting for children and adults.
- Working with support teams to implement a client centred approach to rehabilitation.
- Choosing the most appropriate specialist equipment, including seating, wheelchairs and adapted vehicles.
- Ensuring that all equipment is serviced and updated regularly and that support teams are trained in their use.
- Identifying current and future housing needs with the client and providing advice to architect.
- Vocational rehabilitation and return to work or study programmes.

Key achievements

- I have worked with children with cerebral palsy and complex needs and provided ongoing therapy input to maximise their potential. I assessed for and provided specialist equipment including seating and wheelchairs. I have provided training to the support team on how to implement therapy and safe use of the equipment.
- I ensure that my clients, their families and support teams have appropriate equipment and training for moving and handling issues in the home.
- I have successfully worked with a child with a complex a mix of cognitive difficulties and provided practical advice and strategies to family and school.
- I have provided advice for Educational, Health Care Plans for children with complex needs.
- I have worked with architects and families to design and implement housing adaptations.
- I have helped a client with complex needs to return to college, and begin voluntary work with the appropriate level of support.
- I have worked closely with the case manager to successfully maintain relationships with challenging families and to ensure that the client's needs are foremost and their best interest maintained.

Professional pathway

I qualified as an Occupational Therapist in South Africa and have gained paediatric experience working at a school in Johannesburg for children with physical and learning difficulties. After moving to the UK, I worked at the Newcomen Child Development Centre attached to Guys Hospital in London where my work focused on children with complex needs. I broadened my experience by taking a play therapy training post in a Child Psychiatric Unit.

I have also worked in a community social services post where I assessed for and then arranged provision of aids, equipment, and training, making recommendations to housing officers and architects to specify needs for structural adaptations. I worked for 10 years in the child development centre in Lancaster, working with children who had developmental delay, brain injury and cerebral palsy and also dyspraxia. It was whilst working here that I completed a two-month Bobath course and this very much influences my treatment approach.

Summary of Continued Professional Development attended in past three years

2019	GDPR Essentials
2018	Irwin Mitchell/More Rehab Back To The Future: Advancements in treatment & technology for the spinal cord injured COTSS-NP Identification and management of post stroke visual impairment
2017	COTSS-NP Jobskin dynamic Orthoses HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)
2016	The Cerebral Visual Impairment Society UK, Annual Convention COTSS-CYPF North West Study Day Developmental Coordination Disorder COTSS-CYPF Evidence Informed Practice – A Space to Think COTSS-CYPF Measuring Outcomes in Children's Occupational Therapy Moving and Handling Training - Sue Urquhart