

Paediatric OT Band 5 Programme

Continuously growing and supporting your potential!

What is the Programme?

A specialist, interactive paediatric programme consisting of a variety of learning activities including:

- Assisting with or leading on play-based therapy interventions.
- Assisting with standardised assessments.
- Building knowledge of developmental disabilities and sensory processing difficulties.

HELLO

We are a dynamic and innovative team of Occupational Therapists working in Specialist Children's and Young People's Services (SCYPS) as part of East London Foundation Trust (ELFT). We are passionate about providing therapy in the community in the London Borough of Newham.



CONTACT SCYPS:

Beth Hipwell
Melissa Homer
Nikita Bassi
Tel: 0208 586 6480
childrenot@nhs.net

Project Background

The Newham Children's OT Team has historically focused on recruiting skilled staff at a Band 6 and 7 level with previous paediatric experience, however in recent years finding suitable therapists has proven challenging. Occupational Therapy has now been recognised as a profession which is understaffed and has consequently been placed on the Shortage Occupation List (Royal College of Occupational Therapy, 2019). In light of these difficulties, our team created Band 5 posts for newly qualified therapists to undertake a supportive programme, aiming to bridge the gap from student to practitioner.

"As a newly qualified therapist, this programme has really supported me to develop my paediatric OT skills and knowledge base. Support from senior OTs created unity and pride in the team I have joined"
(Band 5 Children's OT – ELFT)

RESEARCH

Research on the perspectives of new Occupational Therapy graduates has revealed that new practitioners commonly feel unsupported in their job roles and experience a 'reality shock' upon securing their first post (Morley, 2009). Research has highlighted the need to bridge the gap from student to practitioner (Sutton and Griffin, 2000). Leigh et al (2005) found that supportive programmes can increase levels of performance and self confidence and promote staff recruitment and retention.

"The Band 5 programme was really well graded so I felt supported throughout, but was able to challenge myself when I was ready to. It has been a really collaborative process."
(Band 5 Children's OT - ELFT)

Looking Ahead

Our team is excited to link up with other services and share our success story to enable change in the field of Paediatrics. Our mission is to help Band 5s to become passionate, specialist paediatric practitioners who have a positive entry into the profession.

We respect

We care

We are inclusive

NHS

East London
NHS Foundation Trust