



Child and Family Specialist (Play Therapy)

Reports to:	SEND Outreach Service Manager		
Department:	Children, Young People & Community Development: Education Partnerships and Strategy	Grade:	PO2
DBS Status:	Enhanced Children and Adults	Politically restricted:	No

Job Purpose:

Brent is seeking a Child and Family Specialist to join the Intervention First Team for children, young people and their families. Our mission is to close the gap in wellbeing and mental health by advancing, translating, delivering, and sharing the best science and practice with everyone who impacts the lives of children, young people and their families. The successful candidate will work closely with CYP, families and schools in delivering effective play therapy.

Values

Collaborate proactively.
Lead inclusively.
Embrace change.
Be bold and curious.
Celebrate and share our success.

Job specific roles and responsibilities

The Child and Family Specialist will provide targeted and specialist support to children, young people, and their families through the delivery of play-based therapeutic interventions. The role aims to improve emotional wellbeing, resilience, and developmental outcomes for children experiencing social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties.

The post holder will work collaboratively with schools, multi-agency professionals, and families to assess needs, plan interventions, and deliver high-quality play therapy that is child-centred, trauma-informed, and outcome-focused.

Direct Work with Children and Young People

1. Deliver structured and non-directive play therapy sessions to children and young people in a variety of settings including schools, family homes, and community venues.
2. Working as part of a cluster-based MDT, integrating with professionals from e.g. health, early help and education.
3. Use play as a medium to support children in expressing emotions, processing experiences, and developing coping strategies.
4. Adapt therapeutic approaches to meet individual needs, including those with SEND, neurodiversity, or trauma backgrounds.
5. Maintain accurate, confidential, and up-to-date records of all interventions, sessions, and outcomes.

Assessment and Planning

6. Undertake holistic assessments of children's emotional, social, and developmental needs.
7. Develop tailored intervention plans with clear, measurable outcomes.
8. Regularly review and evaluate progress, adjusting interventions as required.

Family Engagement and Support

9. Work in partnership with parents and carers to build understanding of children's emotional needs and behaviour.
10. Provide guidance, strategies, and psychoeducation to support positive parenting and attachment.
11. Facilitate family-based interventions where appropriate.

Multi-Agency Working

12. Work collaboratively with schools, social workers, health professionals, educational psychologists, and other partners.
13. Attend and contribute to multi-agency meetings such as Team Around the Child (TAC), Early Help, Child in Need, and safeguarding meetings.
14. Provide professional advice and consultation to other practitioners regarding play therapy and child development.

Safeguarding and Risk Management

15. Identify and respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns in line with local authority policies.
16. Contribute to risk assessments and safety planning.
17. Maintain a strong understanding of statutory safeguarding duties and thresholds.

Professional Practice and Development

18. Work within ethical frameworks and professional standards for play therapy.
19. Engage in regular supervision and reflective practice.
20. Keep up to date with current research, legislation, and best practice in play therapy and child development.

Service Development

21. Contribute to the development and evaluation of play therapy services within the local authority.
22. Support the development of resources, training, and guidance for schools and practitioners.
23. Participate in quality assurance and service improvement activities.
24. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and all employees are required to act in such a way that at all times safeguards the health and well-being of children and vulnerable adults.
25. Undertake any other duties commensurate with the general level of responsibility of this post.

Essential Requirements (key skills & qualifications)**Knowledge and Qualifications**

1. A recognised qualification in Play Therapy, Therapeutic Play, Child Psychotherapy, or a related field.
2. Relevant professional registration/accreditation (or working towards).

3. Strong understanding of child development, attachment theory, and trauma-informed practice.
4. Knowledge of safeguarding legislation, policies, and procedures.
5. Understanding of the role of play in emotional and psychological development.

Experience

1. Experience of working directly with children and young people with emotional, behavioural, or developmental needs.
2. Experience of delivering play-based or therapeutic interventions.
3. Experience of working with families and carers.
4. Experience of multi-agency working within children's services.
5. Experience within a local authority or school setting.
6. Experience of working with children who have experienced trauma, neglect, or adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
7. Experience supporting children with SEND or neurodiverse profiles.

Skills and Abilities

1. Ability to build trusting, therapeutic relationships with children and families.
2. Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
3. Ability to assess needs and plan effective interventions.
4. Excellent observation and reflective skills.
5. Ability to work independently and manage a caseload effectively.
6. Strong written skills for report writing and record keeping.
7. Ability to deliver training or workshops to professionals or parents

Within reason these key deliverables may evolve to meet service need and it is expected that the postholder will be flexible and adaptable in their delivery to meet both service and council wide needs