

Why you should all become Educational Psychologists.

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&

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“EPs have important roles in improving the opportunities of all children and young people, both in terms of local authority statutory responsibilities and more universal early intervention and preventative support offered by the public and private sectors, voluntary and community groups and social enterprises.”

~Department of Education

“Kids can come from a negative family environment [but] they only have to bump into one person that can plant one positive seed in their head and in their heart and it can change their life. Find out what these kids are good at, or what they care about or what they like, and try and draw it out of them because it will change their lives.”

~Plan B

The advantages of Educational Psychology

- ◆ Specialist work with children 0-19
- ◆ Multi-agency and multiple clients/problem owners, but always child focussed
- ◆ Systematic work in schools and services
- ◆ High research values
- ◆ Constant professional development
- ◆ Broad range of further career opportunities
- ◆ Freedom to apply psychology as best you can!

What we do...

- ◆ Extended work with children and young people presenting with psychological and emotional distress.
- ◆ Interventions or programmes (with a teacher or group of schools)
- ◆ Direct work – assessment through consultation with professional colleagues, observation, interview or use of test materials. Statutory work in relation to SEN & Disability.

What we do....

- ◆ Group interventions for children/young people/parents
- ◆ Joint working or liaison with other agencies – health, social care and the voluntary sector .
- ◆ Strategic work in LAs – training, management, advise on policy, development of services, multi-agency working, and commissioning
- ◆ Research activities and developing provision and services with evidenced based practice.

Where we work

- ◆ Work as Local Authority, independent or private consultants/EPs
- ◆ Work across the age range in schools, colleges, nurseries, children centres and special units, primarily with teachers and parents
- ◆ Specialist roles can work in health, social care, Youth Offending Teams

Day in the life of an EP



Some longer-term projects

- ◆ Development of i-Pad apps for children with Autism and their families
- ◆ Restorative Approaches around behaviour
Investigation of the educational and emotional benefits of co-operative computer gaming (e.g. Minecraft)
- ◆ Applying MRI research in classrooms
- ◆ Developing post-traumatic growth from critical incidents
- ◆ Managing the transitions for 16-25 year olds

How to become an EP

- ◆ Undergraduate psychology degree (2:1 or above) or conversion course meeting BPS graduate recognition
- ◆ Experience of *applying psychology* with children in a range of settings
- ◆ Doctoral training (14 training providers nationally)

N.B. You don't need to be trained as a teacher

Doctoral training

- ◆ 3 years
- ◆ Including a full research thesis, and research training to PhD standard
- ◆ Mix of teaching and practical work, usually in a local authority
- ◆ Opportunity to carry out projects and develop interests

Joe's route:

- ◆ Undergraduate psychology degree
- ◆ Worked in 3 schools with different children
- ◆ Assistant psychologist work in a neurological assessment unit
- ◆ Doctoral training at UCL, included working as a trainee in Hackney and Hertfordshire

Other relevant experiences

(Not an exhaustive list!)

- ◆ Teacher
- ◆ Care worker
- ◆ Social care
- ◆ Speech and Language
- ◆ Graduate Assistant
- ◆ Research assistant
- ◆ Learning Assistant
- ◆ Early Years experience
- ◆ Youth/ family support worker
- ◆ Therapist
- ◆ HR professional
- ◆ ABA worker

Applied psychology:

- ◆ No postgraduate course provider or employer will be overly interested in your job titles, qualifications, how long you've held a job for, or where you worked.
- ◆ What they need to know is how you have applied psychology in the real world.
- ◆ This is key to our job, and any prospective EP has to be able to demonstrate how they do this.

Top tips

Make the most of any job/experience you have.

Remember your research training and try to use it if possible.

Make a record of specific examples of how you use psychology, even if it's only implicit or after the fact.

Keep trying if you don't get a job/place on a course straight away – most don't!

Be creative, follow your interests, and have fun!

Questions

<http://www.bps.org.uk/careers-education-training/how-become-psychologist/types-psychologists/becoming-educational-psycholo>