

MONMOUTHSHIRE EARLYBIRD PLUS PROGRAMME

Programme Information

- A six-session programme for parents and carers of autistic children aged 5 to 10 years, or who are going through the diagnostic process.
- We also aim to invite a school staff member who works with or supports their child.
- Optional home contact during programme.
- Programme workbook to go with the programme.



Content & Aims:

- Understanding autism; communication; understanding autistic experiences; supporting daily living; health and wellbeing & connections.
- Join with other parents & professionals to share experiences.
- Build consistency and communication with all.

Where & When

Online programme or face to face programme delivery available. Face to face programme delivered in County Hall Usk in the autumn term over six weeks. Online delivery usually in summer term. Option for additional programme in spring term depending on demand.

“This course is invaluable to understanding autism. I would recommend it to anyone wanting to improve their knowledge.”

“Thank you so much. This was a very good course and run very well. There was a really good balance of giving us all space and time to talk through our own experiences, reflecting on the subjects, and moving through the course material. We’re missing being on the course!”

The Monmouthshire EarlyBird Plus Team

The programme is run by Educational Psychologists from Monmouthshire (Stephen Trow and Tanya Walters) and the Early Years Additional Learning Needs Advisory Teacher (Ruth Davies). We all have experience and understanding of autism and youngsters with autism in schools and the community. We have all been trained by the National Autistic Society EarlyBird Centre in South Yorkshire to be able to deliver the programme.

Stephen Trow – Educational Psychologist

I have been working as an Educational Psychologist in Monmouthshire since 2007 and worked in Caerphilly and Lincolnshire before this. I have worked with a variety of children with autism/social communication difficulties, their families and settings. I have been part of a team delivering the EarlyBird Plus programme in Monmouthshire since 2014. I really enjoy the interactions and confidence building that comes about from the programme for parents/carers and staff.

Ruth Davies - Early Years Additional Learning Needs Advisory Teacher

I joined Monmouthshire Local Authority working within, and then managing, the Specific Learning Difficulties Team. I also became the Early Years Special Educational Needs Liaison Officer, working with Monmouthshire non-maintained settings. From September 2021, I became one of the Early Years Additional Learning Needs Advisory Teachers, working exclusively within this area. I have a wide range of teaching experience and have worked with young people with a range of differences, including those with Autism. I trained to deliver EarlyBird Plus in 2014 and have been helping deliver the programme since then each year. It is great working with parents and other professionals to help them through EarlyBird Plus.

Tanya Walters – Educational Psychologist

I have worked with children and young people with autism and communication needs for over 25 years, both as a teacher and as an EP. I have been working with Monmouthshire EPS since January 2020 and have run several in-person and online EB+ courses. Autism is an area of particular interest for me and I thoroughly enjoy supporting families/settings with their very special and unique autistic children.

For more information

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