

## Hazel Tuckfield, Occupational Therapist

Hazel Tuckfield, MSc OT, Dip COT, SROT, is a State Registered Occupational Therapist gaining a Diploma in Occupational Therapy in 1979 and a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy in 1997. She is a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists, a member of the National Association of Paediatric Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapists in Private Practice.

On qualifying in 1979, Hazel Tuckfield set up an occupational therapy service within a special school run by the Devon & Exeter Spastic Society before moving on in 1985 to gain experience within Social Services.

Her case work as a Social Services occupational therapist involved the assessment of adults and children with a variety of disabilities within their home environment; this included the recommendation for specialised equipment and adaptation to property.

In 1988 she moved to a Child Development Centre to work with pre-school children and their families being responsible for the coordination of services for an early intervention programme set up between hospital and community for children with

Downs syndrome. Between 1992 and 1998, Hazel Tuckfield managed the Paediatric Occupational Therapy Service for a large Healthcare Trust and was a Manual Handling Link Trainer.

Her special interests have focused on children with complex needs as a result of neurological disorders and other childhood disabilities. The work being focused in the home, in schools for children with special needs and mainstream schools. This work has included the assessment and recommendation of specialised equipment, wheelchairs, their provision and use, self-help skill/daily management, and the adaptation of houses and schools. She has accompanied special needs children on activity holidays, taught and lectured in swimming, using the Halliwick Method, to disabled people. She has been involved in School for Parents, which is based on Conductive Education.

In addition to her clinical and managerial work, she has experience in lecturing and teaching Occupational Therapy students at undergraduate and postgraduate level and lecturing to other professional bodies.

Since 1998, Hazel Tuckfield has worked as a Rehabilitation Cost Consultant for Bush &



Company Rehabilitation Ltd and has gained extensive experience in preparing reports on the needs of children and adults with a wide variety of disabilities, e.g., visual impairment, cerebral palsy, amputees, back and knee injuries, Freidreich's Ataxia, central cord syndrome and cognitive difficulties. She also works as an independent occupational therapist running a private practice assessing and treating children and young adults with a variety of disabilities.



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**Registered Office**

March House, Long March, Daventry, Northants NN11 4NR  
Tel 01327 876210 | Fax 01327 872559 | DX 155100 DAVENTRY 4

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