

Sarah Barratt, Occupational Therapist

Sarah Barratt qualified as an Occupational Therapist from the University of Derby in 1995. Her first post was a Mixed Rotation at Barnet Health Care Trust. This comprised Community Mental Health, Orthopaedics, Brain Injury and Wheelchairs and Seating. These posts allowed her to gain experience working with clients as inpatients and the Community to address their occupational needs in self care, productivity and leisure.

In 1998, Sarah moved on to work at Treloars' Trust in Hampshire where she was responsible for the functional and occupational welfare of sixty children with multiple disabilities of primary school age. Interventions she offered encompassed mobility, assistive technology, self care, positioning and equipment provision. She also contributed to the Conductive Education and Community Skills Programme. Many of the children's needs were very complex which resulted in the need to work collaboratively with Speech and Language Therapists, Rehabilitation Engineers, Specialist Seating Teams and Medical Staff to provide holistic rehabilitation and care plans for the children and their families.

From 2001 to 2006, Sarah worked as a Locum for Countrywide Medical Selection. She took on a variety of roles within the field of Physical Medicine across the South East in hospital, social services and community rehabilitation. During this time Sarah wrote applications for Disabled Facilities Grants, Care Needs Reports for Discharge Planning, and implemented short term community rehabilitation programmes and carried out seating and mobility assessments.

Sarah has also worked abroad on a voluntary and employed basis. Her voluntary work included postings to India, Romania and more recently Bulgaria. These projects have enabled her to help children with multiple disabilities to learn and to reach their functional and occupational potential. These projects involved working alongside teaching and care professionals from a variety of different cultural backgrounds. In 2003, Sarah worked in New Zealand where she was Head of Department at Thames Hospital for a year. Her role encompassed management of a departmental team and budget, recruitment and staff training. This was combined with addressing the occupational needs of an inpatient and community case load.

Sarah also took on a fixed term community post in Wellington where she provided minor modifications for older people with both orthopaedic and neurological conditions.

Sarah was a lecturer in Occupational Therapy at Canterbury Christchurch University in Kent from 2006 to 2009. She developed and delivered the Child and Adolescent Module and she contributed to other modules on the interprofessional learning programme. In 2008, Sarah completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning. She also published her first book "A Special Educator's Tool Kit" (Sage) and she is completing a Masters Degree in Advanced Occupational Therapy Practice.

Sarah has returned to clinical practice and now works at a Special School for children with multiple disabilities. She also works as a Locum on a part time basis in a Child Development Centre in Greater London.

Sarah can provide a unique perspective in assessing and representing the needs of clients. This is because she was born with a mild form of cerebral palsy. Her personal and professional experiences of disability means she can provide an empathetic, objective and holistic appraisal of how cerebral palsy may impact upon the daily life of an individual and their family.