

Meet the Diverse Pathways Collective



- **The Early Childhood Neurodiversity Affirming Collective**
- **Website:** www.diversepathways.org
- **Email:** queries@diversepathways.org
- **Instagram:** [diversepathways_earlyyears](https://www.instagram.com/diversepathways_earlyyears)

One-Page Profile

COLLECTIVE MEMBERS



Trisha Thompson



A little bit about me...

Multiply disabled (neurodivergent and chronically ill), Filipina and white, boba enthusiast, dog lover, easy crier, jewelry layerer, makeup and nail polish collector, co-regulation giver and receiver, half-a-sentence-at-a-time texter, outfit planner, procrastinator, needer of more sleep, repeater of one song for days, lover of oversized glasses and sweaters...



What keeps me grounded...

Taking time to observe clouds or the moon and stars, sniff kissing my child, and Kapwa Tarot.

My role...

Mom, Partner, Friend, Daughter, 2nd Oldest Sister, Early Childhood Education Consultant, Student (2nd master's degree 🤪 and also just lifelong learner of things that interest me in my free time just for funsies)

What I offer

What great timing for this question given the answer I gave above [screams internally]. As an ECE consultant I provide in-person and online professional development. As a PD Specialist I conduct verification visits for CDA candidates. I volunteer with different organizations online and locally. I've been a guest speaker for various college courses. I've presented at virtual and in-person conferences. I post intermittently on social media. My friends often come to me for resources because nine times out of ten I already have a folder dedicated to whatever topic they need, ready to share. And for the rare occasion that I don't already have a folder, I'll happily hyperfocus and research the topic the next time I'm procrastinating on something else that I'm meant to be doing.

My learning

The colonial mentality that shows up within me when I sort of forget who I am... like what would typically be labeled as "imposter syndrome." I choose not to use this label because syndrome feels really pathology paradigm-y and because it doesn't name the role that colonialism plays in creating the conditions in which a multiply disabled Filipina woman would lose sight of their value and everything they have to offer. Anyways, reminding myself not to do the colonizer's job for them in this specific way is something I've had to be really intentional about unpacking recently. It's one of my current challenges.

A quote or wisdom I live by...

No History, No Self. Know History, Know Self.

Favourite Song

Current favorite song...it's a tie between Us by Ruby Ibarra featuring Rocky Rivera, Klassy, & Faith Santilla and Bakunawa by Ruby Ibarra featuring Ouida, Han Han, & June Millington

Follow my work...

- <https://www.instagram.com/intentionalteachingsolutions>
- <https://www.facebook.com/intentionalteachingsolutions>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/trisha-thompson-13a848183/>



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Anna Chimenti

What keeps me grounded....

- I am happiest when engrossed in learning and applying something new, or when out walking, ideally somewhere high up with a view.
- I have learnt recently that very loud music with the bass turned up is the quickest way to make myself feel grounded!
- I love reading and usually have my kindle to hand.

A quote or wisdom I live by..

"What if it all works out?"

A little bit about me...

- I'm a children's Speech and Language Therapist and parent of two neurodivergent children.
- I worked for the NHS Speech and Language Service for 15 years before moving into independent practice in 2025.

My role...

- I run All Join In Speech and Language Therapy, an independent Speech and Language Therapy service in Bristol.
- We provide Speech and Language Therapy services to two large nurseries and a primary school, deliver EHCP funded SLT provision and carry out therapy funded by individual families.
- I also run online and in-person training.
- I work with children who need support to develop and use their speech, language and communication skills, including autistic children and children with Down's Syndrome.
- I initially got involved with Diverse Pathways to contribute to Communication Identities for autistic children.

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

At the heart of my work is the desire to help families and educators see children's strengths, find ways to connect meaningfully and experience joy from seeing children develop as more confident communicators.

I am the go-to person in my home and work life for organising people, things and events!



Follow my work...

- Website: www.alljoininspeechtherapy.com
- Instagram: @alljoininspeechtherapy
- LinkedIn: Anna Chimenti



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Dr Abigail Wright

A little bit about me...

- I'm an Educational Psychologist who feels deeply connected to the Early Years and to creating spaces where children, families and professionals feel understood, valued and included.
- My work is grounded in caregiving relationships, early development and diversity, play, belonging and inclusion – the foundations that support children's opportunities and development.
- I'm also a mum to two brilliant, differently imaginative and creative little girls who keep me playful, who continually encourage me to do my best to keep 'present', and rooted in joy.
- I'm energised by policy, systems thinking and the way ideas ripple outward into practice and real change – something I've leaned into time and again across my roles.

My role...

- Specialist Senior Early Years Educational Psychologist, leading practice across the Early Years within a Local Authority in South Wales and supporting teams to create diverse, compassionate, inclusive environments.
- Educational Psychology Lead for Wales with the British Psychological Society, contributing to national conversations, shaping strategy, and amplifying the voices of EPs. supporting professional development, guidance, and events.
- Project lead and facilitator – I have experience initiating, shaping and guiding specific pieces of work that make a difference to children and their supporters
- Creator of @PsychEdMum, over on Instagram, where I aim to share more accessible, warm, low-pressure psychology content with families and supporters of babies and young children.
- For the collective – I'm delighted to contribute as a reviewer, sharing ideas from the perspective of an educational psychologist and learning from the group in ways that continue to shape and strengthen my practice.



A quote or wisdom I live by...

"Strive not to be off success, but of true value" - Albert Einstein.

What keeps me grounded...

Playful and imaginative moments with my daughters – moments that highlight the importance of connection, presence, and psychological safety. Their fresh perspectives often teach me something new, and those shared discoveries become opportunities for us to grow together.

I also find grounding in the arts and physical activity. Live country music, musical theatre, and comedy bring me joy and creative energy, while CrossFit helps keep me balanced – and ensures psychology isn't the only thing I talk about. (My family appreciates this... most of the time, ha!)

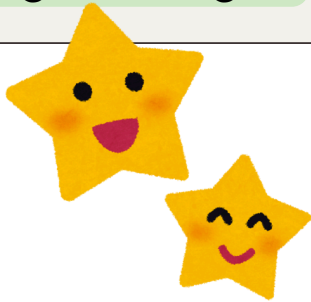


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Dr Abigail Wright



My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

- I return again and again to playfulness, creativity, curiosity and connection – key ‘ingredients’ that help people feel safe and open to growth.
- I’m at my best when I can bring people together to reflect, imagine possibilities, and understand systems in compassionate ways.
- I’m fuelled by little rituals: coffee, cake, colour, community and spontaneous fun with my children.
- And always, I’m drawn toward the question: How do we create environments where every child – and every adult – can belong and can do their best?

What I offer

- A warm, relational, values-led approach to Early Years Psychology that centres communities, families, celebrates strengths and honours lived experience.
- A passion for systems-thinking and supporting teams and services to reflect, collaborate and create meaningful change.
- Leadership experience in shaping and guiding projects with clarity, creativity and care.
- Compassionate mentoring for aspiring, trainee and experienced EPs.
- Contribution to policy conversations and professional strategy across Wales, advocating for early accessible and equitable support, wellbeing and psychologically informed practice.
- Content that aims to be creative and accessible helps “give psychology away” in joyful, human ways. And hopefully with a touch of humour – I like to imagine a life where I’d make a great comedian or actor as well!

Follow my work...

- LinkedIn: <https://uk.linkedin.com/in/abigailwrightedpsych>
- Instagram Hobby Page: @PsychEdMum

What keeps me grounded...

I always aim to lead with kindness, curiosity and creativity, grounded in a wholehearted belief in people’s capacity to ‘do well’ when they can and it’s aligned with what is meaningful to them. I’m endlessly fascinated by the ‘why’ beneath the ‘what’ – the stories, patterns and possibilities that shape our experiences.



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Harriet Brettell

A little bit about me...

My name is Harriet and I am a mum of 3 wonderful children, I live in the Greater Manchester area and love reading, gardening and crafting. My favourite thing in the world is spending time with my children and my husband - just being silly and having fun - that's what brings me pure joy!

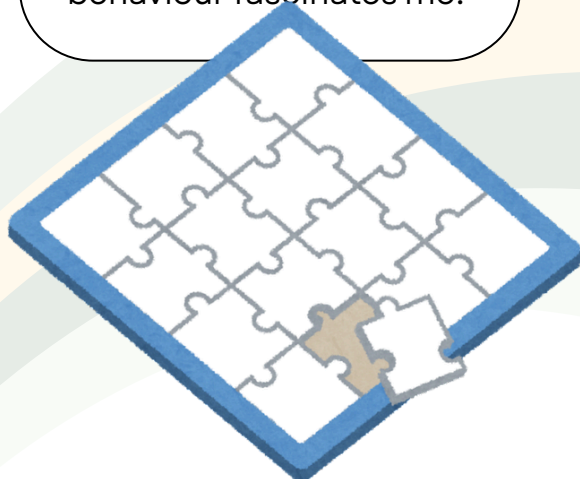
My roles in the world...

My role(s) in the world... (inside and outside Diverse Pathways) I work as a freelance Education Consultant across the Greater Manchester area, primarily focusing on Early Years. My role as a mother led to me to fantastic work of Kerry as I navigated raising neurodivergent children and wanting to make sure I was providing a neurodiverse-affirming approach to parenting as well as knowing how to challenge deficit-based approaches in early years settings that did not feel right to me when it came to advocating for my children's needs and rights. This weaves into my role as Education Consultant where I guide and support schools and settings to reflect more on their inclusive practice and make positive changes to support neurodivergent children within their care. Inside Diverse Pathways, I contribute with my insights as a parent as well as what I've experienced in my role as an educator. I've loved every minute of working on his incredible project.

Play Patterns

My garden is my haven. I love spending time, watching from my window, the activity of the birds every day and the changes in the trees and plants with the season. It grounds and calms me! I also love to do jigsaw puzzles and get arty with some collage or colouring-in. I love to organise and categorise - whether this is my book collections, the children's toys or colour coding the online calendars.

Organisation is my love language! My guilty pleasures are binge watching reality TV shows like MAFS and At Home with the Furry's - people's behaviour fascinates me!



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Harriet Brettall

A quote, poem, lyric, or wisdom I live by...

All you need is love, love is all you need. And, recently I read the book *There are Rivers in the Sky* by Elif Shafak and this quote really stuck with me, '...people fall into three camps: those who hardly, if ever, see beauty, even when it strikes them between the eyes; those who recognise it only when it is apparent to them; and those rare souls who find beauty everywhere they turn, even in the most unexpected places.'

My favourite trait or characteristic...

My kindness. And, my colour coding skills!



What I offer...

A supportive approach to reflecting on practice, bringing expertise in Early Years and Senior Leadership in a school to the leading and management of schools or settings. What people come to me for... I am approachable, positive and passionate about everything I do.

Follow my work...

As I am starting to grow my business, feel free to reach out by email: harrietbrettall@gmail.com



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Jo Gray

A quote or wisdom I live by...

“Play is the sunlight, the water and the soil that nurtures every child to bloom in their own rhythm, their own shape, and their own magical, beautiful way.” - my own quote



My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

- Bringing playful pedagogy into KS1+, where research shows it strengthens outcomes, motivation and wellbeing.
- Reimagining curriculum and leadership so that schools can move from “school-like performance” to child-centred learning cultures.
- Designing learning spaces where all children, especially neurodivergent children, feel safe, valued and able to explore.
- Helping adults reconnect with the power of play for thinking, problem-solving, belonging and joy.

A little bit about me...

- I’m Jo, a play advocate who believes childhood never stops at EYFS.
- ADHD adult, parenting two brilliant neurodivergent boys (one autistic, one ADHD) they fuel my mission for play which honours authenticity, creativity, and nervous-system safety.
- Head of Educational Development at One Education, working in the North West and beyond to support educators to be the best they can be for themselves and our children with a focus on leadership, curriculum, inclusion, literacy and play.
- Passionate about supporting schools and settings to grow psychologically safe, joyful, developmentally-aligned learning environments.

My role...

- Educational leader, author, coach, speaker and consultant specialising in play, literacy, leadership, curriculum and inclusion.
- Founder of the Play in Education network - connecting educators who believe in the transformative power of play.
- Advocate for rethinking the education system, considering play beyond EYFS, into KS1 and across the whole primary phase.
- Mum to two neurodivergent children who teach me daily about curiosity, autonomy, regulation and joy.

My learning

- How to shift whole-school cultures towards playful, research-informed practice within the realities of current accountability systems.
- Slowing down and choosing intention over urgency (often a challenge for an ADHD brain).



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Jo Gray



What I offer

- Expertise in play-based learning beyond EYFS, supported by research, school improvement experience, and national programme design.
- Calm, grounding leadership, especially in systems where play feels radical.
- Clear, evidence-informed guidance that helps leaders feel confident shifting from traditional to playful pedagogy.
- Translating complex theory (neuroscience, child development, leadership research) into practices staff can actually use.
- Coaching with kindness, clarity and neurodivergent-affirming principles.



Follow my work...

- Linktree: [jograyeducation](#)
- Instagram: [@jograyeducation](#)
- Facebook: [@JoGrayEducation](#)



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Lorna Ellis
(They/Them)

A little bit about me...

Hi! I'm Lorna [they/them]. I've worked in education for almost ten years, and most of that time has been spent supporting children and young people with lifelong developmental differences and disabilities. I myself am autistic and was diagnosed in 2023. Since then, I've been on something of a journey of learning, unlearning, and self-discovery - as well as learning more about autism in general - in order to understand myself better and be an advocate for other autistic people, getting involved in research projects and opportunities, as well as sharing insights from my own lived experience. Outside of work, I love to read, travel, cook, and am a big fan of musical theatre - I try to go and see a show as often as I can!

My role...

- Early Years practitioner (soon to be a Level 2 Early Years apprentice)
- Lived-experience advocate
- Neurodiversity researcher and writer
- I'm also an aspiring author of queer historical and contemporary fiction, and am currently working on my first novel!

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

- Greek mythology
- Marvel films
- Taylor Swift
- Audrey Hepburn films

My favourite trait or characteristic

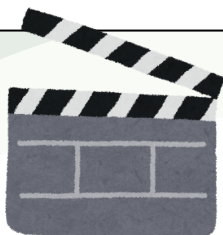
A steaming cup of tea, a fuzzy blanket, and a good book.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat: "we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."
"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.
"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

What I offer

I work with early childhood settings, schools and specialist services to develop their neurodiversity-informed pedagogies and practices. I deliver training and consultancy, along with being a critical ally to those who work within/against the SEND system.



Follow my work...

- www.linkedin.com/in/lorna-ellis



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Helen Edgar

A quote or wisdom I live by...

"I dreamed about a culture of belonging. I still dream that dream. I contemplate what our lives would be like if we knew how to cultivate awareness, to live mindfully, peacefully; if we learned habits of being that would bring us closer together, that would help us build beloved community."
– bell hooks (2004)



A little bit about me...

I am Helen Edgar. Late identified AuDHD (Autistic and ADHD). I am a parent to two neurodivergent children. I worked as an Early Years/ Primary teacher in SEND settings for those with profound and multiple learning disabilities for 20 years near Birmingham UK. I have 4 cats and a huge golden doodle dog!

My role...

I am an Autistic advocate and offer neuro-affirming family/professional training and resources through my website Autistic Realms, which I founded in 2022. I work closely with Thriving Autistic, GROVE Neurodivergent Mentoring and Education, NeuroHub Community and Stimpunks Foundation.

My work is grounded in lived experience and the theory of monotropism, exploring Autistic attention, flow states, and burnout. My writing draws on neuroqueer theory and posthumanist thought to reimagine well-being, learning, and relational support beyond normative paradigms.

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

- I am deeply interested in the theory of monotropism and everything autism related. I am constantly working to reframe deficit-based narratives to support Autistic and neurodivergent thriving.
- I get hooked into deep flow when I am reading and writing.

What I offer

- Affirming neurodivergent, disabled and human rights based support, training and resources.
- Creativity and bringing communities together.

What keeps me grounded...

Pretty lights and being wrapped in my weighted blanket

Follow my work...

- Website: <https://autisticrealms.com>
- My social media handles:
- <http://www.facebook.com/autisticrealms>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/helen-autistic-realms-827273254/>
- <https://bsky.app/profile/autisticrealms.bsky.social>
- <https://www.instagram.com/autisticrealms/>



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Julia Rose

A little bit about me...

I'm Julia, a mum to two and a former Early Years educator. I'm autistic, as is my older son, and we are a multiply neurodivergent household. I live in Denmark.



My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

I'm a treasure hunter. I love searching through a flea market, looking for sea glass at the beach, or finding the most interesting stick in the forest. Word origins are fascinating to me, and I love how languages develop over time.

I also love thinking, troubling, and talking through ideas and problems.

What keeps me grounded...

Twiddling with my hair.

My favourite trait or characteristic...

I don't really experience stage fright or camera-shyness (that's pretty useful for my job!)

My role...

My main job is Early Education Editor at Famly, the Early Childhood Platform and co-presenter of the Tiny Chair Podcast. Basically, reading, writing, and talking about the Early Years.

My learning

Anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice.

What I offer

- Because I love to work through ideas by talking, I'm always up for a conversation to trouble something through.
- I share Early Years experience as an educator and leader, and now as a parent of two young children too.

A quote or wisdom I live by...

Take a deep breath before you speak.

Follow my work...

- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/julia-rose-a1175a125/>



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Liz Pemberton



The Black
Nursery Manager



A little bit about me...

Hellooooo, I'm Liz and I use the pronouns she/her. I'm a proud Brummie who was raised by Jamaican-born parents which makes me a second-generation Black British woman and I can't overstate the importance of these identity markers in terms of how it positions the work that I do as an early years anti racist educator.

I've recently been catapulted into the mind-boggling world of motherhood...I say recently, at the time of writing my son is 3 years old, but in that 3 years I have also collided with a new version of myself that is all things mid 40's coded. Basically, the Perimenopause which has been a very interesting (read wild) turn of events emotionally, physically and psychologically! Particularly poignant for me is how this has impacted my energy and tolerance for BS. for the most part, I had always felt very committed to the amount of energy I put into this work. One thing that I am more certain of now is how much energy I redirect into replenishing myself because navigating society both locally and globally is absolutely exhausting! My thing is, if I'm going to be the best, most soft, patient and loving version of myself then I have to start by making a very conscious and present choice to do this every minute of every day...otherwise I think I'd definitely just throw everything in the air and *insert expletives here*. LOOOOOOL

A quote, poem, lyric, or wisdom I live by...

"If you like it - great stuff! If you don't like it- great stuff!" It always makes me chuckle because it's something my husband said when we were discussing work and I've always thought since, it's such a fitting mantra for where I am right now!

What keeps me grounded...

Being with my two sisters

My favourite trait or characteristic...

My ability to connect ideas together from the most random, seemingly incompatible of experiences but I always seem to find links!

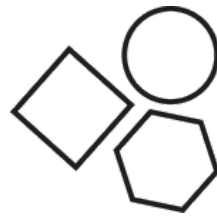


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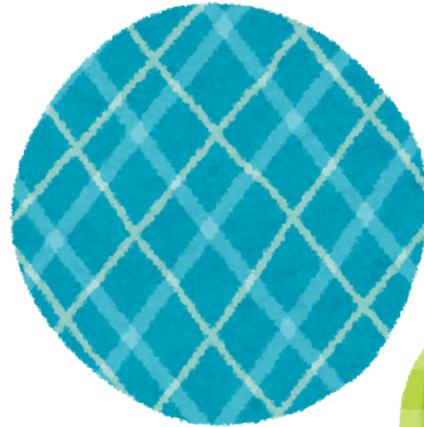
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Liz Pemberton



The Black Nursery Manager



My roles in the world...

I used to be a nursery manager- that was for about 16 years. It was part of a chain of nurseries that my mom set up in the eighties and it felt like really important legacy building, particularly as my mom arrived in the country at age 14. At the beginning of lockdown I decided that enough was enough. I'd got married in 2019 and then the nursery had a really bad experience with the regulatory body, Ofsted because a deeply anti-Black inspector came in and quickly determined that our previously Outstanding setting was now Inadequate because the (predominantly Black children) weren't sitting nicely for breakfast when she came in amongst some other subjective observations....anyway, that's a story for another day or a book. Needless to say, I challenged her and Ofsted, wrote them a strongly worded letter and took all of the practice that me and my teams had developed over the years about what a safe and secure early years environment that centres Black joy looks like. I set up my early years anti-racist training and consultancy business in 2020, The Black Nursery Manager, and it's been the best professional move I've made... (sidenote, I also found out from a little birdie that, that particular inspector no longer works for Ofsted, so that's great news for the sector!)

Follow my work...

- @theblacknurserymanager- instagram
- Liz Pemberton - LinkedIn
- The Black Nursery Manager - Facebook





Warda Farah

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A little bit about me...

I'm Warda Farah, a Capricorn from Deptford. I love beaches in the caribbean, I love reading and I love playing vinyls!

My roles in the world...

I'm a story teller who enjoys learning new things about

A quote, poem, lyric, or wisdom I live by...

"NOT NOW BERNARD!"

My favourite trait or characteristic...

my healthy optimism and pettiness go hand in hand a perfect mix of being good and naughty!

Favourite song / book / poem

Lisa Lisa and the cult Jam: I wonder if I Take you home/ Can't You See Me" by Roy Ayers

What I offer...

Culturally and linguistically affirming Speech & Language Therapy
Interesting training sessions on a range of topics related to early childhood until adolescence

One thing that helps me feel grounded...

sitting on ground, stimming ,
playing music, walking
through woods

A moment of joy I want to name...

Hugging my bestfriend

A current passion or special interest...

The grenada revolution

Something I am learning, unlearning, or practising

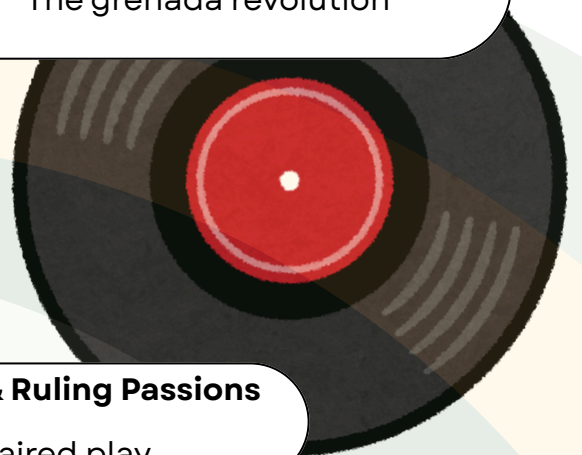
To say thank you... I'm learning to take compliments

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

doodling , paired play

Follow my work:

Linkedin , <https://bsky.app/profile/wardasworld.bsky.social>



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David Cahn

A little bit about me...

I run Free to Learn Childminding with my wife Jennifer Fletcher in Leeds. I've worked in early years since 2007. We try our best to be a place where all children can be themselves, especially kids who might now quite "fit in" in mainstream settings. I'm ADHD, got diagnosed in my mid 30s after never suspecting it.

A quote, poem, lyric, or wisdom I live by...

"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

James Baldwin

What I offer... (skills, practice, ways I show up, what people come to me for)

I'm good at helping worried adults make space for risky play and explaining why kids move around so dang much (and why it's our job to make space for them to do).

I can talk all the education and neuroscience jargon and also break it down in a more accessible way.

Follow my work...

<https://www.instagram.com/freetolearnleeds>

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Mel Yates-Boothby



A little bit about me...

My name is Mel Yates-Boothby and I love spending time with my utterly amazing children and my slightly crazy Cocker Luna (and my husband of course).

I'm an avid runner and enjoy mindful moments of solace where I can soak in the scenery, especially at Cannock Chase.

I enjoy a challenge and have run marathons and ultra marathons... mostly just because I can.

My role...

I am an early childhood leader & educator, SENCO, and researcher with a focus on neurodiversity-affirming and trauma-informed practice.

In my work, I support children, families, and educators to move towards more relational, inclusive ways of being.

I believe in the importance of creating safe space for reflection on practice, where it is ok to question when something doesn't quite sit right.

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

I am a naturally 'glass half full' kind of person, and someone who will quietly question things like sticker charts... and then set about finding alternatives that feel more altruistic and affirming.

Anyone can grow and look after a plant, even those who claim they cannot only keep a cactus alive, it just needs the right care and environment.

Nothing beats standing outside at dusk or dawn, listening to bird song. It's just magical.

My favourite trait or characteristic

I care deeply, and I'm no longer afraid to sit with the complexity of that. (Also, I will absolutely make myself laugh, even if no one else does.)

One thing that helps me feel grounded

Quiet time to think, write, and make sense of things slowly



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Mel Yates-Boothby

A quote / wisdom I live by...

I am inspired by David Attenborough:

“No one will protect what they don’t care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced.”

And from Margaret McMillan:

“The best classroom and the richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky.”

Things that annoy me...

- People who speak negatively about others
- Sticker charts (you knew this was coming)... and fake praise
- When children are misunderstood instead of listened to

What I offer

I work with Early Years settings, schools, and practitioners to develop more inclusive, neurodiversity-affirming approaches to practice. I offer:

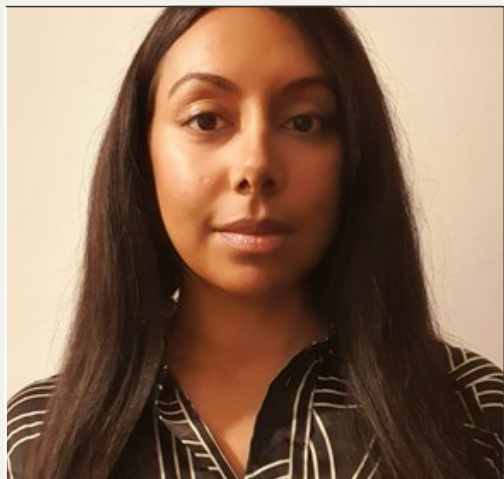
- Thoughtful, reflective support that doesn’t overwhelm
 - Practical ways to move beyond reward systems and behaviour charts
 - Mentoring that values the complexities of being human, not performative
 - A calm presence when things feel like trying to get spaghetti through a sieve... or like a domino run
- I am often the person people come to when something doesn’t quite feel right, and they’re ready to explore why.



Follow my work..

- https://substack.com/@melyatesboothby?utm_campaign=profile&utm_medium=profile-page
- www.linkedin.com/in/melanie-yates-boothby-37a313146





Dr Abi Miranda

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My background

My name is Dr Abi Miranda. I have been working in education and psychology since I graduated from university, as I strongly feel that every child deserves an educational experience that sets them up for future success and happiness. This is a ruling passion of mine, alongside anti-racism and social justice. I am an Educational and Child Psychologist, and a mother of two children. My youngest is autistic and has ADHD. Thinking about how best to parent him has encouraged me to re-parent myself, as through his diagnosis I began exploring my own neurodivergence.

My ruling passions...

- I love creating - drawing, painting, decorating, dancing, making music, and I have a special talent for recognising songs within the first few seconds of them playing.
- One of my favourite writings is 'on children' by Khalil Gibran. He reminds us that our children are not us, they do not belong to us, and that our role is to nurture and guide them.
- My youngest child is trans, and being from a racially minoritised community, it has been refreshing to see people come to me to share their own thoughts and feelings of how to break from pressures to conform when parenting a child who is developing outside of societal norms.
- To best do this, I have an interest in research, policy, practice, and living experience, as I believe all of these aspects influence and support each other. This has meant my experiences have been as diverse as meeting with individual children and families to conducting research, attending policy roundtable events, being an expert witness at tribunals, and designing national programmes for children and families.

My learning

I am learning to love the way my brain bounces around different ideas and that I have such a thirst for knowledge, as I feel that this has enabled me to do all the things in my career. My proudest moment was completing my doctorate which I started when my children were 3 months old and under two respectively. I feel that this set me up for parenting my children.

One thing I continue to learn to practice putting myself out there more and coping with people disagreeing with or not liking what I say!

On Children by Khalil Gibran...

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, Speak to us of Children.

And he said:

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;

For even as He loves the arrow that flies



Follow my work at www.drmiranda.co.uk.

One-Page Profile

COLLECTIVE MEMBERS



Katie York

A little bit about me...

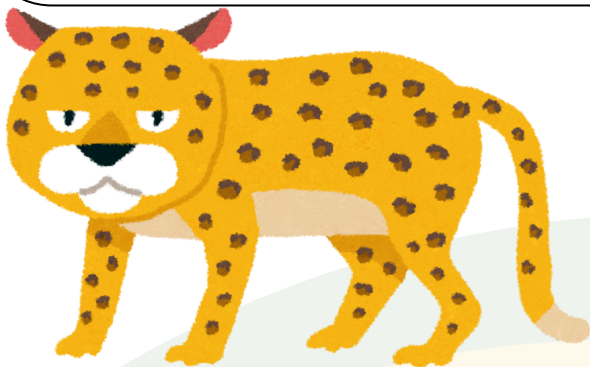
I spend my days as an Early Years teacher and I'm fortunate enough to manage my own charity preschool'. I love my job, working with children is a privilege and in recent years of parenting, self discovery and teaching I have learnt so much about neurodevelopmental differences. This knowledge has shaped my teaching for the better, and my strong sense of justice enjoys being part of change.

A quality I enjoy about myself...

A quality I enjoy and like about myself is how direct I can be, why fluff around when you can get straight to the point?

Professionally, I have an understanding of early years development, Gestalt Language Processing, and neurodevelopmental differences.

I like to use my personal experiences as an undiagnosed neurodivergent, my psychology degree, special interests, strong sense of justice and early years knowledge to support others / practitioners in understanding differences within practice and settings. We shape the environment, not the child.



My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

I love random! Leopard print, loud music, Peter Schmeichel (my idol growing up, bizarrely I'm not a football fan) pickles, sharks, the colour blue, cats and knitting. When I was younger I loved playing countdown with my sister. Oh, I love a spreadsheet too!

Follow my work...

- I share information and insights, usually with a GLP I have the pleasure being in my life. You can find me on Instagram: @neurod.eyteacher



One-Page Profile

COLLECTIVE MEMBERS



Claire Prosser

A little bit about me...

My name is Claire Prosser, I am a mum, a wife, Educational Psychologist, and founder of Spectropolis – Pay it Forward. Within my professional role and charity work I am passionate about supporting children and families to access neuro-affirming information and resources which help them to better understand themselves and those who they care for. I hope that the Diverse Pathways work helps communities to view development differently, to acknowledge that development does not take place in a linear fashion and how we measure development has significant impact on children and their life experiences.

Favourite Song

‘Finally’ by CC Peniston.

A moment of joy...

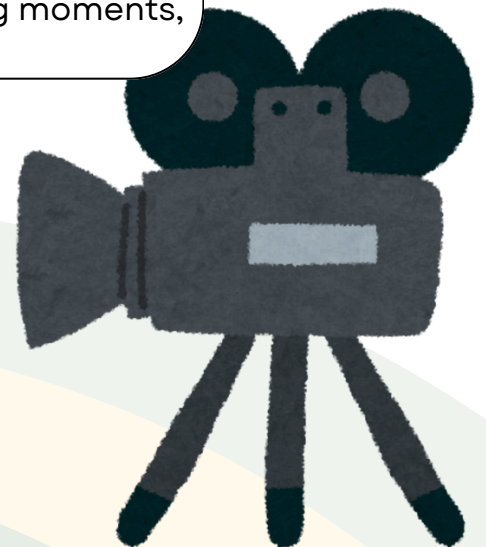
spending time watching movies with my son and husband; these simple and regulating moments, count!

My Learning...

- I am currently enjoying learning about ‘all things Disney’, Winnie the Pooh and voice acting, kindly supported by my son, who is a self-proclaimed “Disney Nerd”.
- I am currently also learning more about Gestalt Language and Cognitive Processing and what this means for understanding development and supporting children and families.

Follow my work...

- Website - [Home | Spectropolis - Pay it Forward - www.spectropolis.co.uk](http://www.spectropolis.co.uk)
- Facebook - [Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/Spectropolispayitforward/](https://www.facebook.com/Spectropolispayitforward/)
- Instagram - [Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/spectropolispayitforward/](https://www.instagram.com/spectropolispayitforward/)



One-Page Profile

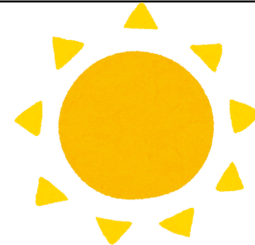
COLLECTIVE MEMBERS



Karen Massey

A little bit about me...

I live with my family just outside Manchester. I enjoy time outside in the sun, nice coffee, walks in nature and having fun!



My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

I love to bring speech and language into play that is fun and often multisensory. I am passionate about helping to include all children in therapy, and believe everyone's voice should be heard.

My role...

I co-own All About Speech Therapy and Sensory Speech Box, trustee of Mikey's Wish Foundation charity, and generally spend working hours delivering speech therapy, writing about speech therapy, or campaigning for more access to speech therapy for all.

My favourite trait or characteristic

Spotting the positives and not giving up.

What I offer

I offer insight and understanding into early speech sound development, navigating complex presentations, helping all children to discover and use their voice. I bring belief and a positive mindset to my work with children and young people who are not talking, or talking clearly, yet. I offer supervision to other speech therapy clinicians in the area of Autism and Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS).

Favourite book:

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey



Follow my work...

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/empoweringspeechconsultant/> <https://www.amazon.co.uk/stores/author/B09NV5755T/>



One-Page Profile

COLLECTIVE MEMBERS



Beth Styles

A little bit about me...

- Early Years Lead and Play lead in a special school in Staffordshire.
- For the past 15 years I have been lucky enough to teach the amazing children at Rocklands school.

My role...

At Rocklands school, I lead a team of play ambassadors to embrace and celebrate child-initiated play, following Diverse Pathways Play Patterns.

I feel very privileged to have the job I do, and believe that all children should have the right to play and have the same opportunities and experiences.

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

Every little step and achievement should be celebrated.

Never underestimate what children understand or can do.

A quote, poem, lyric, or wisdom I live by...

"In a world where you can be anything be kind."

Something that keeps me grounded...

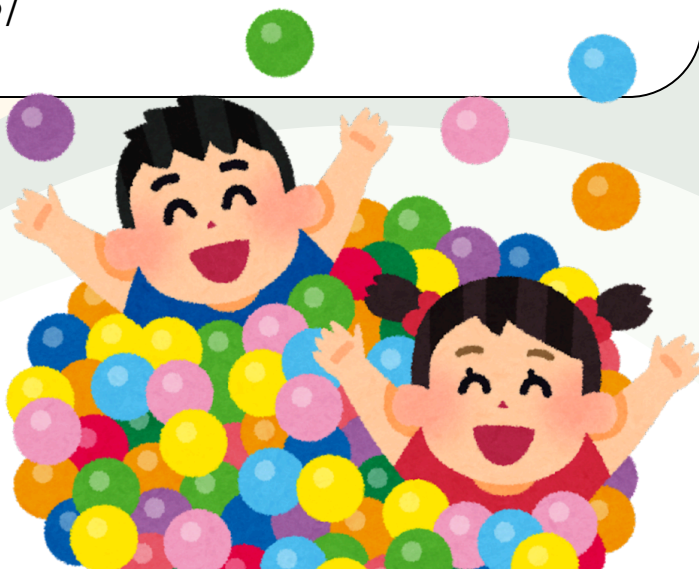
My family (both home and at school)

What I offer...

Making connections with children, families and professionals.

Follow my work...

Beth Styles - LinkedIn
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/beth-styles-3a4a7b3a9/>



One-Page Profile

COLLECTIVE MEMBERS



Cathy Shilling

A little bit about me...

I'm a passionate Speech and Language Therapist, still in love with my partner of 30 years, a parent of two gorgeous human beings, I was born limb different and am Neuro divergent

My role...

i work as a Speech And Language Therapist supporting Neurodivergent children and young people in preschool, schools and at my base the Speech Den. My role involves training In schools and preschools

A quote I live by...

people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel

My favourite trait or characteristic...

My curiosity and humour

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

My time with my cockapoo dog, Evie, Walking with her outside, and just being next to her, My passion for good coffee, is a big one, and finally dancing- this encompasses all my sparkles

What I offer

I've 30 years experience as a Speech And Language Therapist and feel so passionate about communication in all aspects.

These include Gestalt Language Processing, Neuro diversity affirming supports across the curriculum, AAC, communication and sensory supports, speech and language needs.... the list continues

I can offer both face-to-face and online training. Training is an active process, allowing people time to process information, relate to their experience and go away with information and ideas that are relevant to their schools and settings.

Favourite book/song:

Good Feeling - Flo rida
Good morning- just kidding remix
MaxFrost

Follow my work...

@thespeechden
instagram
Facebook
Linkedin

Gimme 5 podcast



THE
SPEECH
DEN





Eleanor Forbes

One-Page Profile

COLLECTIVE MEMBERS

My role...

I am a SENDCo and Lead Teacher of an Additional Resource Provision. I support young children with additional needs to access education in ways that work for them, while also guiding families with care and clarity. Beyond this, I see myself as someone who advocates for inclusion and helps create spaces where people feel understood and valued.

A quote or wisdom I live by...

"There is no such thing as small acts of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end."

Scott Adams

My favourite trait or characteristic...

My integrity—I value being honest, grounded, and true to what I believe is right.

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

I love being creative and finding different ways to express that creativity. I'm also deeply connected to time spent around horses—I always make space to visit them when I'm back in Northumberland. I am a long-standing volunteer with the Riding for the Disabled Association, which reflects both my passion for horses and my commitment to supporting others.

One thing that helps me feel grounded...

Taking time to notice the small things that bring joy in a busy world—whether that's a quiet moment, something in nature or noticing a kind gesture from one stranger to another.



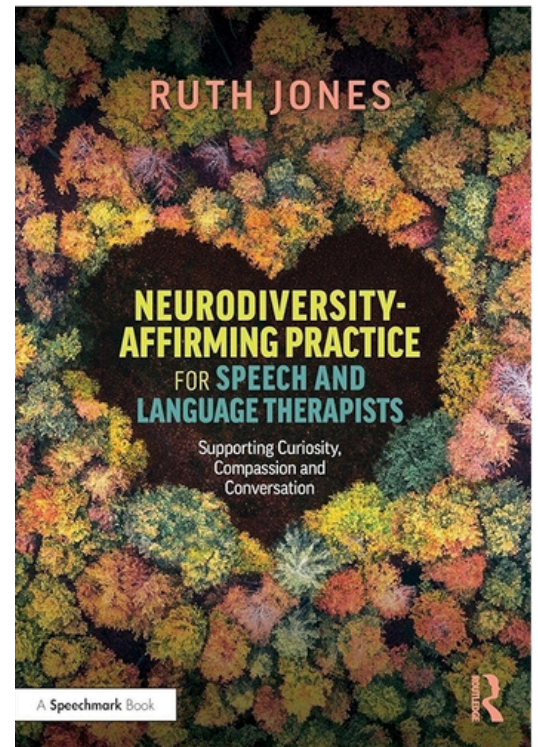
One-Page Profile

COLLECTIVE MEMBERS



Ruth Jones

A quote or wisdom I live by...
Do the best, until you know better, then when you know better, do better (Maya Angelou)



A little bit about me...

My name is Ruth; I live in Wiltshire with my husband and two kids. I love blue skies, sunshine and the snow. My happiest place is with my family on holiday, either in the snow or with our tent - or in a full of joy therapy session!

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

- Communication is grounded in safety, connection and shared joy.
- Kids do well when they can (Ross Green)

My role...

I am a Mum, Speech and Language Therapist and also volunteer in my local area on a pre-school committee. I am also an author and the co-founder of the Attuned Goals Framework.

What I offer

- Neurodiversity affirming speech, language and communication practices.
- Purposeful curation of spaces that allow adults to explore how they can integrate shifting practices in their support of neurodivergent children and young people.

My learning

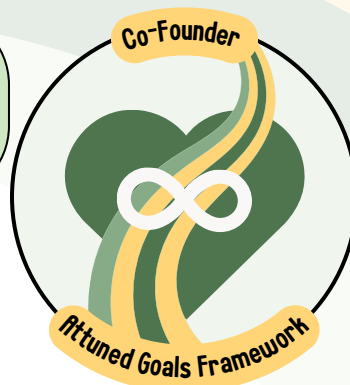
Anti-racist and anti-oppressive practice.

What keeps me grounded...

Fresh air, blue skies and natural light.

Contact me

- Instagram/Facebook: [ruth_jones_slt](#)
- Website: www.ruthjonesslt.com



One-Page Profile

COLLECTIVE MEMBERS



Kerry Murphy

My Play Patterns & Ruling Passions

Swimming is sanity for me. I am also a collector (Tanuki's, Labubu's, Monchhichis, Russian Dolls, Travellers Notebooks, Stickers, Moomin stuff). I love Japanese stationary. My special interests are the Titanic, Pre-Raphaelites, Yoshitomo Nara and Ai Wei Wei. I also love the American Office and re-watch it every summer. Oh and i love Japanese and Koren dating shows.

What I offer

I work with early childhood settings, schools and specialist services to devleop their neurodiversity-informed pedagogies and practices. I deliver training and consultancy, along with being a critical ally to those who work within/against the SEND system.

Follow my work...

- www.diversepathways.org
- Instagram: @earlyyears_diversepathways

A little bit about me...

My name is Kerry and I am the founder of Diverse Pathways. I love adventures, walking around and staring at stuff and hanging out with my chihuahuas (and husband).

My role...

I am an early childhood educator and lecturer with a passion for neurodiversity-informed pedagogy, disability justice and neurodiverse play. I am doing my doctorate in the impact of neuroaffirming professional development on early educator activism.

A excerpt from my favourite book...Who will comfort Toffle by Tove Jansson. I also had this as a reading when I married my husband:

So off they sail, two special guests
on Fillyjonk's red boat.
The whompse wave and cheer
to see the happy pair afloat,
And Miffle knows, and Toffle knows,
that both have seen the end
Of fear and fright and long, dark night,
now each has found a friend.



Co-Founder

Attuned Goals Framework

Diverse
Pathways

FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD



- **The Early Childhood Neurodiversity Affirming Collective**
- **Website:** www.diversepathways.org
- **Email:** queries@diversepathways.org
- **Instagram:** [diversepathways_earlyyears](https://www.instagram.com/diversepathways_earlyyears)