

“It keeps me on my toes and is always new, enjoyably challenging and very rewarding”

Introduction

I work with a team of Educational Psychologists and Trainee Educational Psychologists with qualifications, knowledge and experience in the fields of psychology, education and special educational needs. We deliver strategic support to a range of schools, alternative education settings and businesses across Devon and other local authorities. As part of Babcock LDP we are commissioned by Devon County Council to support the most complex and vulnerable groups of children and young people. We also trade with schools, offering a wide range of support packages & training for staff.



Image: **Pierre Court**, Educational Psychologist – Babcock Education

How did you get started in your career?

I first completed a degree in Psychology & Counselling at University. Then I spent a number of years working within the education sector directly with secondary aged pupils. To train to become an Educational Psychologist I had to apply to University again, completing a Doctorate in Educational, Child and Community Psychology at Exeter University.

Can you outline a typical work day?

The morning would usually start with appointments in a school, where I would meet with staff, parents and children. The work can vary widely, I could be involved in consultation, staff training, therapeutic work or the use of a number of psychological assessments. In the afternoon it is common to be involved in multi-disciplinary work which may involve meeting with Teachers, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Community Paediatricians, Clinical Psychologists, Inclusion Officers and various other professionals involved in the community. I would also have some time for report writing and admin tasks during the day.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the wide range of ages that I work with, from 0 – 25, which can mean I spend a morning working in a nursery and then a college in the afternoon. It keeps me on my toes and is always new, enjoyably challenging and very rewarding.

What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

Skills/Personal Attributes: Self-motivation, drive and energy excellent communication skills both written and verbal, analytical approach to problems with a focus on solutions, effective team worker, emotional intelligence and good organisational skills and diary management.

Qualifications:

- Honours degree in psychology
- Recognised professional qualification in educational psychology (doctorate level)
- Experience of work with children and young people in the 0 – 25 years' age range

What career progression opportunities are available in your business/sector?

You can progress to a Senior Psychologist position within your team, or Principal Psychologist in your area, having responsibility for how the psychology service is delivered across the county. You can publish work in journals/books and follow a career in research & publication. You can also teach at Universities.

Why is it important for your sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

The new entrants to the profession allow for fresh thinking and a variety of personal/social backgrounds which add to the value to their work. The new entrants to the profession bring new knowledge and ideas to further support the continuing professional development of already qualified psychologists.

What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants

I predict there will be a growing need for more Educational Psychologists throughout the country, there will be lots of future work based around supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of clients.

Further contact/information

If you are inspired by Pierre and would like to get in touch with him, please email inspiringsouthwestncs@prospects.co.uk with your enquiry and we will pass on your contact details.