

Joining BEAS

Who is BEAS for?

- * Any child aged 2 ½ years to 4 years who meets the following criteria:
- * He or she has been identified as having complex social communication needs indicating, or who is diagnosed with, autism spectrum
- * The child's parents or carers feel that they are able to participate fully in the support programme
- * An Educational Psychologist and a core member of the BEAS team agree that this is an appropriate intervention
- * No other specialist interventions are in place. This applies to both council services as well as to those funded by parents themselves.

Contacting the BEAS Service

- * The first step is a referral to the Educational Psychologist with parental agreement. This can be done by a Health Visitor, Community Paediatrician, GP or Speech and Language Therapist.
- * Requests to the Bexley Early Autism Service are usually made by a Bexley Educational Psychologist or Specialist Speech and Language Therapist
- * (Leaflet **ED23** describes Educational Psychology services in Bexley)

Programme Supervisor

Joan Ratcliff

07814 156588

Joan.ratcliff@bexley.gov.uk

**Advisory Teachers for Autism
Specialist Advisory Teaching
Service
London Borough of Bexley
Civic Offices
2 Watling Street
Bexleyheath DA6 7AT**

Comments, Compliments and Complaints

We welcome comments and compliments on the services we provide. These help us to judge whether we are providing a good service and how it can be improved. Similarly, if you are dissatisfied with any part of our service, we need to know.

For comments, compliments or complaints, please telephone on 0208 303 7777. Further advice and details of the formal complaints procedure are available on our website at <http://www.bexley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4454>.

Directorate of Children's Services and Social Care
Specialist Advisory Teaching Service



BEAS

Bexley Early Autism Service

Bexley Early Autism Service (BEAS) provides support for very young children who are recognised to be on the autism spectrum. Support is tailored to individual children and families and is delivered by members of a trained and experienced team in the home and / or pre-school or nursery setting.

In Bexley we believe that:

- * early intervention is crucial for the social, emotional and educational development of young children with complex social communication difficulties
- * the most influential people in the child's life are his or her parents and carers and therefore, providing information and support directly to parents and carers underpins the service
- * intervention should be practical: by this we mean it should help families develop skills to support their child with everyday skills and adaption to family and social life
- * direct work with individual children and families in their home and with staff in the pre-school setting is highly effective in supporting the child's whole development

*Between 2½ and 3 ½ yrs families may receive a support programme adapted to the very young child depending on availability.
(Please see inset)

How the BEAS Partnerships works

The commitment of parents/carers is to:

- * provide a suitable area where the sessions can take place at home
- * continue the programme by working with their child towards agreed goals
- * apply successful strategies in their everyday lives with their child
- * work with the support team in the best interests of the child
- * attend relevant workshops and / or Early Bird Parent Course as available
- * Attend review meetings relevant to their child's programme

The commitment of the BEAS team is to:

- * provide a programme of support for the family, their child and the pre-school/nursery
- * provide an agreed number of sessions each week with a specialist BEAS team member
- * adapt the support for parents and carers to meet the needs of each family and their child
- * adapt the programme to meet the child's needs
- * incorporate advice from specialist speech and language therapy and occupational therapy assessments
- * convene regular casework meetings to monitor the programme, review the child's progress and to set new targets
- * provide specialised teaching materials and all relevant information and reports
- * work with families in the best interests of the child

What we aim to do

Children

- * provide an individualised programme that focuses on developing communication, attention, early learning and play skills
- * provide trained specialist support assistants to work both directly with you and your child at home and collaboratively with pre-school staff in the pre-school / nursery
- * model effective strategies and approaches for you to follow on in your day to day life with your child

Parents

- * provide information to further your understanding of autism spectrum
- * enable you to develop effective strategies to address your child's daily needs
- * support your role in promoting communication, attention, early learning and play

Nurseries / pre-schools

- * provide training and support for staff to enable them to further their knowledge and skill in working with children on the autism spectrum
- * work regularly and collaboratively with preschool / nursery staff to achieve consistency across settings
- * support communication between home and educational settings
- * support the child's transition to Reception at the appropriate time