



<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	Occupational Therapist
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Remote working with travel flexibility
<b>ACCOUNTABLE TO:</b>	Clinical Lead
<b>RESPONSIBLE TO:</b>	Clinical Director
<b>DURATION:</b>	Permanent
<b>HOURS OF WORK:</b>	Full time/Part Time
<b>SALARY / GRADE:</b>	£43,471 (pro rata for part time)



## KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

- Clinical Director and PATH Clinical Lead
- PATH team
- AUK staff
- Children and adults accessing our services
- Referrers and external agencies as appropriate

## PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

The Occupational Therapist (Sensory & Attachment) will deliver high-quality, trauma-informed occupational therapy assessment and intervention to families with a history of adoption, kinship care and long-term fostering. The postholder will bring advanced expertise in sensory processing/sensory integration and the impact of early adversity, attachment disruption and developmental trauma on regulation, participation and family life.

The role will work as part of a multidisciplinary team (MDT) within PATH, contributing to formulation-led support, practical strategies and therapeutic approaches that strengthen safety, connection, and everyday functioning at home, school and in the community.



## MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide specialist assessment and intervention where sensory processing differences interact with attachment needs, developmental trauma, neurodiversity and emotional/behavioural presentations.
  - Co-produce practical, strengths-based support plans with parents/carers and, where appropriate, the child/young person; provide clear strategies that are realistic for family life.
  - Deliver evidence-informed interventions (1:1 and group-based as appropriate) including sensory-based regulation strategies, activity adaptation, routine design, environmental modification and caregiver coaching.
  - Integrate attachment- and trauma-informed principles (e.g., PACE/connection-based approaches) into OT recommendations, ensuring strategies support safety, relational connection and felt security.
  - Contribute to MDT formulation and case discussions, offering an occupational therapy perspective on function, participation, sensory-motor development and regulation
  - Prepare high-quality written outputs including assessment summaries, recommendations, letters and reports suitable for families and professionals; contribute to documentation required for commissioning/regulated service evidence as needed.
  - Support families to understand the sensory, neurodevelopmental and trauma/attachment factors that may underpin behaviour and distress, and to implement strategies safely.
  - Maintain accurate, timely records in line with organisational policies, data protection and confidentiality requirements.
  - Contribute to the development of resources (e.g., guides, webinars, workshops) that translate specialist OT knowledge into accessible tools for families and professionals.
  - Contribute to delivery of training in your specialist area (sensory processing, regulation, sensory-attachment interface) internally and externally.
  - Actively manage a caseload, prioritising risk and complexity, and working within agreed service pathways, timescales and outcome measures. .
- 

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

## Knowledge and experience

- Significant experience working with children and young people and their parents/carers.
- Experience delivering assessment and intervention for sensory processing differences and regulation needs.
- Experience delivering remote/online OT interventions and caregiver coaching.
- Experience of group work (parents/carers and/or young people).
- Experience of working with adopted children, previously looked-after children, kinship or long-term foster families (or closely related settings).
- Strong understanding of attachment, developmental trauma and the impact of early adversity on regulation, behaviour and participation.
- Ability to integrate sensory strategies with relational/attachment-informed approaches.
- Training/experience in DDP, PACE, NVR, therapeutic parenting or other attachment-informed models.
- Expert knowledge of sensory processing and sensory-based regulation strategies.
- Ability to differentiate sensory needs from (and understand overlap with) trauma responses, anxiety, and neurodevelopmental differences.
- Sensory Integration training (e.g., postgraduate modules) and/or recognised competency frameworks.
- Knowledge of neurodevelopmental profiles (e.g., autism, ADHD, DLD, FASD) and how these can interact with trauma/attachment and sensory processing.
- Ability to provide accessible psychoeducation to families and partner professionals.

## Qualifications and Education

- Degree/diploma in Occupational Therapy.
- Current HCPC registration as an Occupational Therapist. Postgraduate training/qualification relevant to sensory integration, sensory processing or advanced paediatric OT practice.
- Evidence of continuing professional development (**Essential**)
- Training in a range of therapeutic modalities e.g. DDP, Theraplay, BUSS model, Sensory Attachment Intervention (**Essential**)

## Skills and Abilities

- Experience of working within an MDT and contributing an OT perspective to shared formulations and plans.
- Leadership and support skills
- Group work skills
- A reflective and empowering approach
- Strong application of theory
- Creativity and innovative approach to service delivery
- A commitment to the voice of children and families

## Accountability

- Consultant Clinical Psychologist
- Responsible for maintaining own professional standards
- Responsible for delivering practice within the policies and standards of the charity

## Behaviours

- Demonstrates commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of role at all times.
- Contributes to an open and honest culture
- Supports, encourages, and motivates colleagues.
- Encourages challenge, creativity and innovation.
- Leads by example.
- Values transparency and consistency.
- Understands the role of individual and collective accountability.
- Actively contributes to Adoption UK's mission.
- Has a clear understanding of other colleagues' roles and responsibilities
- Shares skills and knowledge.
- Promotes Cross Functional team working.
- Offers outstanding service to members.
- Takes pride in Adoption UK and promotes its values in all interactions with external stakeholders.
- Identifies and uses the most appropriate form of communication.
- Communicates clearly, seeking clarity when unclear and valuing the opinion of others.
- Treats colleagues and other stakeholders with respect, honesty, fairness and courtesy
- Is responsive to colleagues, third party professionals and service users.
- Takes pride in own development.
- Enthusiastic and committed to achieving high standards and meeting agreed objectives.
- Takes an active interest in recognising professional and personal development needs and priorities within Adoption UK.

## Timetable:

The closing date for this role is 17th April 2026. However, Adoption UK reserves the right to end the application period sooner so we would recommend you complete the application form as soon as possible,

Shortlisting will be carried out within 2 weeks of the closing date and you should be notified of an outcome within fifteen working days of the closing date.

The panel will shortlist based on those applicants who best meet the criteria for the role. The date(s) scheduled for interviews is w/c 4th May. These dates may be subject to change and applicants will be advised in advance should this happen.

## Queries:

If you have any queries on any aspect of the recruitment process please contact People Services either by email [peopleservices@adoptionuk.org.uk](mailto:peopleservices@adoptionuk.org.uk) or telephone 01295 752253.

If you would like additional information or an informal discussion with AUK Clinical Director, Dr. Julie Elliott please contact [peopleservices@adoptionuk.org.uk](mailto:peopleservices@adoptionuk.org.uk).

## Key Dates:

<b>CLOSING DATE:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>SHORTLIST DATE:</b>	Commencing mid April
<b>INTERVIEW DATE:</b>	w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> May