

Professional Background

Rhian Hicks brings over a decade of clinical expertise in occupational therapy, focusing on paediatric care and neurological conditions. Initially working with brain injuries and other neurological disorders in adults, Rhian transitioned into paediatric occupational therapy, specialising in cerebral palsy and neurodiversity among children and young adults. Her mastery includes handling complex conditions that merge physical disabilities with sensory processing issues, utilising her advanced training in sensory integration to enhance therapeutic outcomes. Rhian's clinical practice is rich with experience in managing intricate cases that require detailed care planning and coordination. She has successfully managed cases of young children to young adults under 21 by addressing both their physical and mental health needs. This includes crafting customised care packages for children with multiple health needs, considering their environments and ensuring that care strategies are comprehensive and sustainable.

Rhian has demonstrated significant competency in leading multidisciplinary teams, ensuring collaborative approaches to patient care that involve occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, and educational psychologists. Her ability to manage complex rehabilitation schedules and integrate services from various sectors, including education and healthcare, makes her an effective leader in paediatric healthcare settings. Rhian's coordination extends beyond healthcare professionals; she has adeptly managed relationships with local authorities and private agencies to secure necessary adaptations and services for her patients. Her work ensures that all interventions are tailored to individual needs and are delivered seamlessly, from hospital discharge to community-based care and education integration.

Dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of professional practice, Rhian engages in continuous learning and development. She has completed advanced courses in posture management and sensory integration, which are critical to her speciality in paediatric neurodevelopmental disorders. Her commitment to professional growth is further evidenced by her participation in relevant professional bodies, including the Royal College of Occupational Therapists.

Rhian is fully trained in the Civil Procedure Rules, including relevant revisions as they arise. She actively maintains her continuing professional development via a range of training opportunities.

Specialism

- Neurological conditions & injuries
- Mental health & learning disability
- Cerebral palsy
- Genetic disorders
- Sensory impairment
- Environmental/housing adaptations
- Specialist equipment provision
- Spinal cord & peripheral nerve injury

Age group

- Children
 - Young Persons
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Career history

- Specialist Resilient Families Occupational Therapist April 2023 – present
The Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr
- Paediatric occupational therapist (Band 6) June 2019 – April 2023
Paediatric community services in Powys
- Occupational Therapist (Band 6) October 2017 – 2019
Discharge planning and stroke rehab
Neath Port Talbot Hospital
- Occupational Therapist (Band 5) June 2014 - 2017
Discharge planning and stroke rehab
Brecon Hospital Wales
- Health Care Support worker 2004- 2013
Glangwili Hospital Carmarthen

Qualifications

- Masters module in sensory integration
Sheffield Hallam University, 2023
- Bachelor degree, Occupational Therapy
Cardiff University, 2013
- Masters (MBA), Trinity University
Carmarthen, 2008
- Bachelor degree: Business/tourism
Trinity University: Carmarthen, 2006

Professional Memberships

- RCOT
 - HCPC
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