



Tom McDonald

Assistive Technology Consultant

An Assistive Technology Consultant at access: technology since September 2021, based in Thirsk, specialising in communication strategies in educational settings.

Contact



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Employment

Assistive Technology Consultant

access: technology
(2021-Present)

Special Needs Teacher

The Dales School (2019-2021)

Special Needs Teacher

Hob Moor Oaks School (2015 – 2019)

Trainee Teacher

Castle Hill School (2014 – 2015)

References on request.

Personal Profile

- A qualified primary teacher with 6 years' experience teaching children and young adults from ages 2 to 19 with special educational needs and disabilities.
- An Elklan tutor, delivering courses in supporting children and adults using AAC.
- Particular interest in communication and interaction using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) strategies and aids. Confident Makaton user.
- Experienced in initiating and leading innovation relating to child-centred and holistic strategies and practices concerning assistive technology.
- Certified Apple Teacher since 2018.
- Paediatric first aider.
- Tom has twin boys, one of which has cerebral palsy and communication difficulties.

Education & Qualifications

Level 3 Safeguarding

Sayers Social Care (2023)

PGCert Education

University of Huddersfield (2015)

QTS (Qualified Teacher Status)

Kirklees & Calderdale SCITT (2015)

CELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (2012)

BA (Hons) Culture, Media and Communication Studies

Lancaster University (2006)

Tom McDonald - Current Caseload:

Supporting multiple clients:

- between the ages of 3-21
- located across the UK
- with acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy, autism, sensory impairments, PMLD, SLD, behavioural and social/emotional difficulties
- at home and in both mainstream and special education settings

Responsibilities:

- Carrying out initial assessments of need in clients' home and school environments
- Compiling personalised recommendation reports and costings for Assistive Technology solutions, intervention, development and training
- Attending and contributing toward EHCP review processes and MDT meetings
- Set up and ongoing maintenance of recommended AT solutions
- Parent/staff/carer/school training
- Development and delivery of bespoke intervention sessions designed to ensure clients' confidence and efficiency in using AT solutions
- Regular review of AT provision to support the client in the achievement of current goals and to offer solutions to any anticipated/current barriers to access, independence, learning or entertainment as they arise

School Support:

- evaluating their assistive technology provision
- offering advice and guidance regarding both software and hardware solutions pertinent to the effective education of all pupils
- delivering bespoke staff training

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