

DR LUISA FERNANDEZ-FORD

Principal Clinical Psychologist

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Dr Luisa Fernandez-Ford is a HCPC-registered Clinical Psychologist with over 20 years' experience in the NHS, specialising in the assessment and support of children and young people with mental health difficulties, learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental disorders. She has extensive expertise in diagnosing autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in both children and adults, with broad clinical experience addressing a range of issues including anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, emotional dysregulation, OCD, and behavioural challenges, with expertise in supporting neurodivergent children and young people with anxiety disorders. She currently provides psychological input to a specialist residential school for children with moderate to severe learning disabilities and autism. Dr Fernandez-Ford also delivers Expert Opinion to the Court, undertaking psychological assessments for personal injury and family law cases, and is experienced in evaluating parenting capacity, attachment, and family dynamics. She offers training, consultation, and supervision to professionals working with children, young people and families.

EXPERIENCE

- 08/2018 - Current ***Independent Practice***
- Assessment and treatment of children, young people and adults with a range of mental health difficulties, including neurodevelopmental conditions.
 - Psychological assessment and consultation within a residential school for young people with moderate/severe learning disabilities and autism.
 - Psychological assessment for personal injury civil cases for children, young people and adults.
 - Expert Witness assessments of children and parents in Care Proceedings and Pre-Proceedings.
 - Diagnostic assessment of ASD and ADHD in children, young people and adults within a multidisciplinary team.
 - Group work on chronic sorrow with parents of children with learning disabilities within an NHS Service.
 - Providing specialist supervision to a clinical psychologist within an NHS role.
- 12/2015 – 08/2018 ***Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Gloucestershire***
- Specialist assessment of children with neurodevelopmental conditions, including ASD and ADHD within a CAMHS service.
 - Expert Witness assessments of children and parents in Care Proceedings, Pre-Proceedings and consultations to Social Workers within a CAMHS/Social Care joint funded role.
 - Group work on chronic sorrow with parents of children with learning disabilities within an NHS Service.
- 10/2003 – 11/2015 ***Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Gloucestershire***
- Specialist assessment of children with neurodevelopmental conditions, including ASD and ADHD within a CAMHS service.
 - Assessment and treatment of children and young people with a broad range of mental health difficulties within a CAMHS service

09/2000 – 09/2003 **Trainee Clinical Psychologist, Surrey Oaklands NHS Trust.**

- Worked with the four main client groups of older adults, working age adults, adults with learning disability and children and adolescents.
- Completed two specialist placements; one working with adolescents aged 14-25 and one with children and adolescents with developmental disorders, including autism.

QUALIFICATIONS

2003 **Doctor of Clinical Psychology**
University of Surrey

1994 **Bachelor of Science Honours**
Manchester Metropolitan University

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- ACE interview for Children and Adults (September 2024)
- Autism Diagnostic Interview- Revised (ADI-R) (March 2024).
- Courtroom Skills (November 2023). Bond Solon.
- Excellence in Report Writing (September 2023). Bond Solon.
- Anxiety in Children and Teenagers (July 2023). (1 day).
- CFT for Adolescents (June 2022)
- ACT for Adolescents (February 2022)
- Civil Law and Procedure (January 2022). Bond Solon.
- Civil Litigation for Registered Psychologists (May 2021) (Expert Witness Institute) (*Issues of diagnosis in personal injury/Common themes and concerns in personal injury*)
- Cross Examination and Courtroom Skills (December 2020)
- Skills in Preparing Joint Statements (December 2020) Skills in Report Writing (December 2020) (Festival Training Series)
- Role and Duties of an Expert Witness (December 2020)
- Assessment and Management of Clinical Risk (1 day)
- Story Stem Assessment Training (Anna Freud Centre) (3 days) (Nov 2016)
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) Training (June 2016)
- Trauma in Children and Adolescents (April 2012) University of Bath
- Advanced Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for Depression, Anxiety and OCD (April 2009,) Oxford Cognitive Therapy Centre.
- Attachment, Relationships and Brain Development (2006) In House training.
- Webster Stratton Parent Training Programme (April 2005), Webster Stratton Parent Training.

KEY SKILLS

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| • Anxiety & Emotional Needs | • ASD & ADHD Diagnosis & Support | • Bereavement & Loss |
| • Emotional Regulation & Anger | • Family & Relational Difficulties | • Trauma & Abuse |
| • ACT, CBT, IPT | • Systemic Support | • Family & Civil Court |

PUBLICATIONS

‘Making Sense of Autism: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis of Sibling’s Perceptions and Experiences of Autism’ - A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Clinical Psychology, University of Surrey, 2003.

Wisley, J., Hare, D, J. and Fernandez-Ford, L. (2002) A Study of the Topography and Nature of Self Injurious in People with Learning Disabilities, *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities*, 6, 61-71.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), registration number: PYL06174
- Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (BPS)
- Member of the Division of Clinical Psychology (BPS)
- Member of the Child, Young People and their Families Faculty (BPS)
- Member of the Special Group for Independent Practitioners (BPS)

REFERENCES

- References available on request