Find out more about joining the Specialist Section for Children, Young People & Families

Journals; Email Bulletins; CPD opportunities; Website forums; Network With Specialists; Events; Newsletters;

www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/CYPF
Specialist Section

Children, Young People & Families

The College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families is a branch of the College of Occupational Therapists (COT). The membership includes occupational therapists (OTs) from a variety of backgrounds, such as occupational therapy (OT) staff and students, educators, and researchers, who have an interest in or are working with, children, young people and their families in a wide range of practice settings. There are close links to service users, carers and associated organisations.

The Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families promotes and contributes to the development of high standards of professional practice in children’s OT. It acts as an advisory body on issues of national significance for the development of occupational therapy for children, young people and their families.

The Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families is led by a national executive committee (NEC) made up of volunteers elected from the membership at the annual review meeting (ARM). Members support fellow members at local and national levels across the United Kingdom (UK). All Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families members must also be members of the British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT).

Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families members can work in a variety of settings: acute hospitals, children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS), children’s centres, community services, education/schools, independent practice, learning disability teams, local authority social services, university educators, wheelchair services and the voluntary sector.

There are networks and forums within the Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families, which meet and offer support, advice, and learning to children’s OTs in specific areas of practice. These include:

- OTs working in an acute setting
- CAMHS
- Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Neonatal and early intervention forum.
A comprehensive network of regional groups also offers support to our members on a local basis, providing information through informal meetings as well as organising and running training events and courses.

**Aims of the Specialist Section**

- To support members and develop and maintain good communication channels across the UK.
- To provide national learning events and an annual training event.
- To provide expert opinion in improving standards within children’s services across health and social care.
- To identify a group of clinical advisors who can provide clinical advice and support to members.
- To share and demonstrate best practice.
- To raise the profile of OTs working with children.
- To provide resources and information via social media, webpages and newsletters.

**Membership Benefits**

- **Journal** – The journal is published twice a year and features articles, book reviews, reports and up-to-date information relating to all areas of OT for children, young people and families. Members are encouraged to contribute to the journal as a way of sharing current practice and new service developments.
- **e-newsletter** – The Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families publishes a bi-monthly e-newsletter that is sent to all members, a sample of which can be found on the website.
- **Research** – The Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families offer advice and guidance to members wishing to undertake research for children and young people. Members are encouraged to carry out clinical research and develop and share evidence-based practice.
- **Website and social media** – The Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families webpage has up-to-date information of forthcoming events. Research, regional groups and specialist subgroups are included to enable networking and sharing of information. In addition, current NEC, their contact details, and roles are available. The Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families is actively involved developing the use of social media, including Facebook and Twitter, to communicate with members and share information and best practice.
**Joining information**

Q: How do I join Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families?

A: Please visit [www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/CYPF](http://www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/CYPF) and download our membership form.

For more information about the Specialist Section - Children, Young People & Families please visit our website: [www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/CYPF](http://www.COT.org.uk/specialistsections/CYPF)

Or contact:

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