

Name: Rujul Desai

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Professional Title/Occupation: H.O.D Special Education

Organisation: Bodakdev School for Children

Address of Organization/Practice:

Professional Qualifications:

B.Com, B.Ed, M.A. in Developmental Psychology,
P.G. Diploma in Special Ed.-ASD & Learning Difficulties (Due August 2022)

Courses undertaken in Play Therapy:

Play Therapy as a Counselling Tool (ongoing)
Play Therapy for Children with Special Needs (ongoing)

Details of any other relevant qualifications/courses taken in the field:

Advanced Autism Certificate from IBCCES,
Verbal Behaviour for early and intermediate learners online course,
Diploma in Education Management,
Recognising and Supporting Children with Special Needs- CACHE endorsed program

Currently undergoing supervision in current practice: No

Ages catered for: 3-12 years

Services offered:

Education and skill development in a school setting which includes pre-academics, academics, social skills, functional communication, behaviour management, and activities of daily living as required in a school setting. Currently, we serve children with autism as their primary diagnosis with comorbidities such as ADHD, sensory issues, developmental delays, or learning difficulties.

Personal Profile:

Currently, I serve as the head of a special division we run within a mainstream pre-school school. I restructured and designed the approach of how this section functions when I joined as the head. We have three hours session for each child, wherein it is both individualised instruction and small-group instruction setting. My work includes planning and supervising implementation of individualised educational and behaviour plans for our learners. Before we can begin formal learning, we need to be equipped with certain skills to facilitate the learning process. Therefore, our focus is mainly to impart these skill first before moving onto academic concepts. We use eclectic approaches from various evidence-based sources to achieve our learning targets. We accommodate and modify not only the coursework but also the strategies we use with each child. My work also includes training educators in various aspects required to achieve the goals effectively and efficiently. We also carry out continuous assessments and

have regular parent meetings to understand the expectation and needs of the parents. I feel play is the most natural way in which we can build a rapport with the child, work on their motivations, and impart skills training. It is a developmental approach which caters to young learners that we work with. Play therapy will provide a structured approach in which we capitalise on our individual and small group settings to provide trainings in behaviour skills, socio-emotional, socio-communication skills, as well as functional language development.