

Amira Okonkwo

SEN Teaching Assistant

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Childhood Studies graduate from the University of Wolverhampton with specialist experience supporting pupils with autism, ADHD, and dyslexia across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Completed **over 180 hours** of SEN placement experience in both mainstream and specialist settings. Trained in Team Teach, Makaton (Level 1), and Zones of Regulation. Confident working with EHCPs, contributing to annual reviews, and adapting learning resources to meet individual targets. Enhanced DBS checked and Safeguarding Level 2 certified.

EXPERIENCE

SEN Support Volunteer (Placement), Broadmeadow Special School, Wolverhampton *Jan 2025 – May 2025*

University placement in a special school for pupils aged 4 to 11 with severe learning difficulties and autism spectrum condition.

- Provided one-to-one support for **3 pupils with EHCPs**, following individualised targets for communication, social interaction, and self-care
- Used **PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System)** and **Makaton signing** daily with non-verbal pupils to support choice-making and requests
- Implemented sensory regulation strategies including **sensory circuits, weighted blankets, and movement breaks** for a pupil with sensory processing difficulties
- Contributed written observations to **2 annual EHCP reviews**, documenting progress against outcomes

One-to-One Support Assistant (Part-Time), Woodthorne Primary School, Tettenhall *Apr 2024 – Dec 2024*

Part-time role supporting a Year 3 pupil with a diagnosis of ADHD and anxiety in a mainstream classroom of **29 pupils**.

- Used a **visual timetable and Now/Next boards** to reduce anxiety around transitions, resulting in a **40% reduction** in escalated incidents over one term
- Applied **Zones of Regulation** techniques to help the pupil identify and communicate emotional states
- Adapted class worksheets and tasks in collaboration with the class teacher to maintain curriculum access
- Recorded daily behaviour and engagement observations in the school's **CPOMS system**

Saturday Club Volunteer, Wolverhampton Autism Support Group, Wolverhampton *Sep 2023 – Mar 2024*

Volunteered at a Saturday social club for autistic young people aged 8 to 14.

- Supported **12 to 15 young people per session** across structured activities including arts, cooking, and outdoor games
- Built trusting relationships with **4 regular attendees** who initially found group settings overwhelming
- Completed the charity's **autism awareness and positive behaviour support training**

EDUCATION

BA (Hons) Childhood Studies in Childhood Studies, University of Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton Sep 2022 – Jul 2025

Graduated with Upper Second Class Honours (**2:1, 64% average**). Dissertation on *the effectiveness of sensory-based interventions for autistic pupils in mainstream primary schools*, graded **68%**.

- Modules: SEND and Inclusive Practice, Child Development, Safeguarding Children, Psychology of Learning, Research Methods
- Completed **180+ hours** of placement across one special school and one mainstream primary school
- Received a placement commendation for "consistent, thoughtful support that enabled pupils to make real progress"

SKILLS

SEN Support (Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia), EHCP Targets and Annual Reviews, Makaton (Level 1), PECS Communication, Zones of Regulation, Visual Timetables and Social Stories, Team Teach (Level 1), Sensory Integration Strategies, Behaviour Observation and Recording (CPOMS), Safeguarding (Level 2)

CERTIFICATIONS

Enhanced DBS Certificate , Disclosure and Barring Service	Aug 2024 – Aug 2024
Team Teach Level 1 (Positive Handling) , Team Teach	Jan 2025 – Jan 2025
Makaton Level 1 , The Makaton Charity	Oct 2024 – Oct 2024
Level 2 Safeguarding Children , EduCare	Sep 2024 – Sep 2024

LANGUAGES

English - Native, Igbo - Conversational

REFERENCES

Mrs. Joanne Hartley, SENCo and Deputy Head, Broadmeadow Special School, j.hartley@broadmeadow.wolves.sch.-uk, +44 1902 558 312

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Student Representative, Childhood Studies Course Committee Sep 2023 – Jun 2025
Represented the student body on the university course committee for two academic years.

- Gathered feedback from **85 students** across all three year groups and presented findings at **6 termly meetings**
- Advocated for increased SEN placement options, resulting in **2 new partner schools** being added to the placement programme