

## **Final Report - Cathy Hand**

### **1. Professional development activity undertaken**

The activity that I undertook was to research the signs and symptoms of common S.E.N disorders and produce a booklet for all class teachers outlining these. The need was identified when I recognised my own inadequacy in identifying these among the children that I was teaching.

### **2. The outcomes in terms of improved practice by the teacher.**

As a result of carrying out this activity I am now fully aware of the most common S.E.N disorders that are present in children in mainstream classrooms. I have a deeper understanding of what each disorder involves and also what signs and symptoms are associated with each one. I have also learnt of practical steps that can be taken to enhance the teaching and learning of any pupil with any of these disorders. I have discovered the importance of gathering evidence in order to successfully facilitate a diagnosis of a S.E.N disorder.

### **3. The outcomes/benefits of the activity in terms of improvement in pupils' learning experiences.**

The improvements in pupils' learning experiences as a result of this activity will become apparent when a pupil who has a S.E.N disorder which has not been identified is placed on the S.E.N registrar as a result of a teacher or myself using the booklet that was produced. Once a particular S.E.N disorder has been identified suitable teaching strategies can be put into place in order to teach the pupil in the way that they learn. As a result of this the pupil's learning experiences will be improved and they will begin to progress in areas that prior to that point they were underachieving in.

### **4. Evaluation of the success of the professional development activity**

To date the success of the activity has been evaluated through feedback from the class teachers who received the booklet. All of the 30 teachers have commented that the booklet is a great resource and one that will be very useful and practical in aiding them to help identify a S.E.N disorder in a pupil who has one.

### **5. How the experiences, skills and knowledge gained have been shared with other teachers.**

As a result of this activity I produced a booklet outlining the signs and symptoms of common S.E.N disorders and distributed one to each teacher in the school. The booklets were distributed at a short presentation and a general explanation of what the booklet involved and how the teachers could use in their classrooms in order to enhance the learning experiences of the pupils in their classrooms was given.

### **6. Reflection by the teacher on the value and effectiveness of the activity.**

At the end of this activity I can confidently say that the value of this activity is great. I have enhanced my own knowledge and that of other teachers of S.E.N disorders and we now know what signs and symptoms are attributed to certain S.E.N disorders. I will now be able to identify a S.E.N disorder quicker and be able to gather the necessary evidence to support a referral.

**7. Future plans/suggestions for further development.**

As a result of carrying out this activity I have identified the need for a booklet detailing some of the practical teaching strategies needed to teach children with a S.E.N disorder. Due to the lengthy wait for a referral and an even lengthier wait for a diagnosis I feel that a resource that contains useful teaching strategies for a child with a suspected S.E.N disorder would be of great benefit to the learning experiences of all pupils.