

## Practice strategies for working with children with disability



**Bec Edser**

**Child and family partner, SA**

Bec Edser is a Child and Family Partnerships Coordinator with

Emerging Minds, but her main job is being a mum and step-mum. Bec's neurodivergent six-year-old son has been teaching their family about how they can support and nurture his amazing abilities as well as negotiate the challenges that he faces. Bec aspires to support and advocate for the diversity of needs and identities within her family.

Bec has shared her experience as a parent navigating the many challenges that confront a family who are travelling the path to understanding a new diagnosis in Emerging Minds' online courses, [Child-centred and family-focused practice with children with disability](#), and [Child-centred and communication-focused practice with children with disability](#); and has described this journey in the Emerging Minds' podcast episode, [The team around the child: A mum's story of her son's neurodiversity](#).



**Dr Erin Bulluss**

**Clinical Psychologist, SA**

Dr Erin Bulluss is a clinical psychologist with a particular passion for

working therapeutically with Autistic people through online telehealth platforms. She feels strongly about honouring neurodiversity in the pursuit of wellbeing and was diagnosed with Autism herself in her mid-thirties. She brings together her personal and professional understandings of Autism in her therapeutic approach, aiming to build a strong, collaborative therapeutic relationship based upon understanding and acceptance. Erin places the needs of the individual at the centre of her therapeutic approach so the experience of therapy is different for each and every individual.

Erin completed both her honours and PhD theses in the area of autism, and has published articles and presented workshops about her approach to therapy with Autistic individuals. She hopes to promote acceptance of Autism through contributing to the development of therapeutic approaches that genuinely embrace neurodiversity and do not place neurotypical expectations on neurodivergent individuals. Erin also co-authors a Psychology Today blog which aims to provide information about Autism from the perspective of late-diagnosed Autistic professionals.

Erin also has two Autistic children and aims to create an authentically Autistic family life.

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**Kate Headley**

**Speech Pathologist,  
NSW**

Successful communication is key to our quality of life. It is a means through which we connect with others, understand our experiences and express our thinking. Across my career I have had a passion for assisting people to be heard. This always involves working with the person with communication support needs and with their communication partners across their everyday activities and environments.

As service providers working with children with disability, we become a communication partner. This may require us to modify our own communication style, learn new communication skills and think about different ways to create shared meaning. I am looking forward to sharing and collaborating on ideas for how we can support children's communication in order to maximise their participation in therapeutic relationships.



**Facilitator:  
Jacquie Lee**

**Communications  
Officer, SA**

Jacquie Lee is a writer, editor and communications officer at Emerging Minds. Jacquie's role as editor is founded on a robust knowledge of the issues that affect infant and child mental health, and the practices that support positive and safe outcomes. She plays a lead role in liaising with internal and external authors to produce content that is evidence-based, innovative and accessible to all practitioners.

Prior to joining Emerging Minds, Jacquie worked with some of South Australia's leading arts organisations, including the Adelaide Fringe and Adelaide Festival of Arts. After nearly a decade in the arts, she decided to switch gears and began working towards a new career in clinical psychology. She completed a Graduate Diploma of Psychology in 2021 and has just commenced her fourth-year studies at Deakin University. Jacquie has a particular interest in practice approaches that provide innovative, empowering and non-stigmatising engagement opportunities for disadvantaged children and their families.