

# TOP<sub>is ...</sub>

a supportive package delivered by qualified, experienced and friendly staff who work in local TOP teams (see over for county lists).

Each team is supported through regular supervision, training and county-wide liaison to ensure high quality service delivery. The teams use a variety of techniques and interventions which are researched and specifically aim to support children with social communication difficulties or on the autistic spectrum.

## How is TOP delivered?

TOP can be offered to help the child learn in all settings: in the home, pre-school and then transition to school (first term, Year R only). The exact pattern of the programme will depend on the child's individual needs; this may include:

- visits to the child's home to work with the child and their parents
- visits to the pre-school to help the pre-school meet the child's needs
- visits to school to work with school staff to prepare and support the child's transition

Time will be allocated with flexibility about the proportion of time spent in the home and in the setting. The initial involvement of TOP will usually be for three months and then reviewed after this time.

# TOP

## For whom is TOP suitable?

Children who would benefit from TOP would be:

- pre-school age
- attending (or planning to attend) a local pre-school and likely to transfer to their local mainstream school (TOP is not available to children attending a specialist pre-school setting)
- experiencing difficulties with social communication

Children do not need:

- a formal diagnosis
- an Education, Health and Care Plan

## What teaching interventions are used on TOP?

All teaching interventions used are tailored to match the individual needs of each child.

Common approaches include:

- visual structure in the child's environment e.g. 'TEACCH' approach
- visual support to develop the child's spontaneous communication e.g. PECS
- developing play through child centred methods e.g. 'special time' or directive methods e.g. 'play scripts'; 'identi-play'
- teaching new skills through structured learning and behavioural approaches
- working on social interactional skills

- developing self-help independence and life skills
- developing self-control through the use of behaviour plans.

In consultation with everyone involved with the child targets are drawn up in an agreed plan/Individual Education Plan (IEP) between home, pre-school/school and TOP staff.

Teaching strategies are carefully negotiated with parents and pre-school so that they can be used to effectively support the child throughout the day in pre-school and at home.

All teaching strategies are modelled by TOP staff. The key person in the pre-school/school and parent(s) follow these strategies when with the TOP worker and try them out alone with the child, in between TOP sessions. This way the child gains consistency of support in all settings with all the people in their lives.

## What next?

Please also see the local offer information at: [http://www.hantslocaloffer.info/en/THOMAS\\_Outreach\\_Programme](http://www.hantslocaloffer.info/en/THOMAS_Outreach_Programme)

If you want to find out more about TOP or make a referral then please contact your nearest centre (see over for details).

# TOP

Centres

For more information please contact:

## **Bushy Leaze Children & Families Centre**

Eastbrooke Road

Alton

GU34 2DR

Tel. No. 01420 87675

## **Farnborough Grange Nursery and Infant Community School**

Moor Road

Farnborough

GU14 8HW

Tel. No. 01252 541879

## **Forest Park School**

Ringwood Road

Totton

SO40 8EB

Tel. No. 02380 864949

## **Haven Nursery School & Children's Centre**

Harris Road

Bridgemary

Gosport PO13 0UY

Tel. No. 01329 232095

## **Lanterns Nursery School & Children's Centre**

Bereweek Road

Winchester

SO22 6AJ

Tel. No. 01962 860393

## **Maple Ridge School**

Maple Crescent

Basingstoke

RG21 5SX

Tel. No. 01256 323639

## **Norman Gate School**

Vigo Road

Andover

SP10 1JZ

Tel. No. 01264 323423

## **Riverside Community Special School**

Scratchface Lane

Purbrook

Waterlooville

PO7 5QD

Tel. No. 02392 250138

## **TOP County Co-ordinator:**

Nikki Bouvier

Educational Psychologist

Childrens' Services Department

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Farnborough Road, Farnborough

Hants GU14 7JU.

Tel. No. 01252 814729



## **Thomas Outreach Programme**

# TOP

**A flexible early intervention service for  
young children with social  
communication difficulties  
or on the autism spectrum**

15094922

[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)



**Hampshire**  
County Council