

THE ROLE OF THE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

There are several different types of psychologist. Sport psychologists work with teams and individuals to help improve their performance, Occupational psychologists work with businesses to help them to be more effective employers, and Clinical psychologists work with people with mental health difficulties.

Educational psychologists tend to work in schools, preschools, colleges and universities, helping children and young people to achieve their potential. They also work with adults who are experiencing barriers to education or employment.

The route to becoming an educational psychologist starts with a degree in psychology followed by a number of years working with children and young people. Many choose to become qualified teachers at this stage. After this professional experience it's necessary to return to university and gain a postgraduate qualification in educational psychology, which is a PhD level combination of research and practical work with children and young people.

Educational psychologists use different techniques such as observations, interviews and tests to find out about people's strengths and difficulties. They will try to find the causes of behaviour or learning difficulties so that they can make suggestions to improve progress.

Sometimes this might be more support at school or college, training for staff or support for the family at home. It might also mean that the person themselves needs to change their behaviour in some way. Regardless of who employs them or pays for their time, the educational psychologist's main duty is to help improve outcomes for children, young people and adults they work with.

Educational psychologists work with children, young people and adults. They carry out assessments that are often focused on learning, behaviour and people's thoughts and feelings. They use tests and other materials that are based on psychological research. The aim of their work is usually to find out what additional support a person needs to be successful in education, employment or training.

