

## ADOS-2 Training

I completed ADOS-2 training to the level of Clinical Reliability on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. I also have a BSc (with Honours) in Psychology and a MSc in Applied Child Psychology.

My current role is as an Assistant Psychologist for a small psychological service spread geographically across the country. I assist with expert witness reports for Child and Family Courts. I have helped to set up and to run a new private Neurodevelopmental Clinic based in Sutton Coldfield in Birmingham. I have a direct role in Autism, Cognitive and ADHD assessments.

I am extremely grateful for Foundation for Professionals Supporting Adolescents as it has provided me with access to a course in ADOS-2 training that I may otherwise not have access to, especially in a cost of living crisis.

The training was delivered online across 4 days by Dr Carol Stott (Beginning with A). Carol has a brilliant way of articulating her thoughts into simple language for all to understand, especially as some trainees were overseas with a high fluency of English. One aspect of the course that was extremely helpful was that we would score a recording of an ADOS assessment and our scores were compared to Carol Stott's in an automated report. We then had the opportunity to ask questions and raise concerns about differences between scores. It was beneficial to see how the difference in scores could impact the algorithm and the overall classification.

This has really helped me within my role as I now have a deeper understanding of Autism, the characteristics and traits associated with Autism, and how the ADOS-2 measures and picks up on these. This has had a direct impact on the adolescents I have worked with as I find it easier to be 'present in the room' and pick up on the masked behaviours portrayed by the young person. I have also applied to the Clinical Psychology Doctorate and believe this training can help with my application.

I would recommend FPSA and Beginning with A to anyone else who would like access to ADOS training or similar trainings to have a direct impact on understanding an individual's presentation and needs.