
DR JACQUELINE BLYTH



CONSULTANT CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
CHARTERED CLINICAL AND HEALTH PSYCHOLOGIST
BSc. MSc. ClinPsyD. CPsychol. AFBPS

Blyth Associates Ltd
Child & Adult Psychology Services
503 King Edwards Wharf
Sheepcote Street
Birmingham
B16 8AB

Mobile: 07876 553759
Email: DrJBlyth@aol.com
Fax: 0121 2709606

Academic Qualifications:

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, University of Birmingham
MSc Health Psychology, City University, London

BSc (Hons) Human Psychology, Aston University, Birmingham
Chartered Clinical Psychologist BPS
Chartered Health Psychologist BPS

Background:

I was born and raised in Zimbabwe, lived, and worked in Africa and the Middle East, and have been working in the field of psychological assessment and intervention with children and adults since 1994. During this period, I have practised in a variety of areas including adults and children with acquired brain injury, chronic and enduring illness, drug and alcohol addictions, mental health problems, and parents with learning disabilities. Prior to my clinical training, I worked as a Health Psychologist with a Head Injury Team and then as a wing-based psychologist in a maximum-security prison.

Independent Practitioner & Expert Witness

I have had my own clinical practice as a Consultant Clinical Psychologist since 2005 and regularly provide therapy for both children and adults. In 2008 I established my own limited company – Blyth Associates Ltd, Child & Adult Psychology Services. I am also a trained and qualified Expert Witness and am regularly instructed by solicitors, barristers, judges, and the CPS to assess both children and adults to provide Court reports for the Family, Civil and Criminal Courts and for the National Crime Agency following my assessment of children as witnesses to crime and where children as young as three have been sexually abused. I have significant experience of working with children and families in public and private law cases where I am usually instructed as a single joint expert. Cases include parents involved in domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, child sexual, emotional and physical abuse and neglect, non-accidental injury, and child murder. My most recent case was a risk assessment of a young prolific child sex offender.

I have given evidence as an expert witness in various Courts on over fifty occasions and am due to evidence in the Royal Courts of Justice in March 2020 following my assessment of a mother charged with murdering her seven-week old baby. As a result of my assessment the charges against her were dropped and the father was convicted of murder and sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment. I am experienced in medico-legal work involving adults and children diagnosed with medical conditions such as factional illness or following medical procedures for paediatric, neurodevelopmental and congenital conditions.

Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital (BCH) NHS Foundation Trust

From October 2001 until I retired in September 2018, I was employed by the Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust, where I provided a specialist service to Pediatric Cardiology and Solid Organ Transplant services. I have a sound understanding of child development (including neurodevelopmental disorders such as ADHD, ASD & Autism) and the problems often encountered by parents who have children

with medical or mental health needs, or parents who have these difficulties themselves. I also provided a general Paediatric Psychology service to children in the West Midlands with a variety of other significant health related problems including, Cystic Fibrosis, Diabetes, Haematological disorders, Inherited Metabolic Diseases, Neuromuscular and other Neurodegenerative disorders, Chromosomal and Genetic disorders, Cancer, Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury, Cleft Lip & Palate, Stem Cell Transplant, Nephrology, Cardiac Gender Dysphoria, Complex Care and children on long-term ventilation. My specialist areas were in the Role of Attachment in Sick Children, which I was invited to present at several international conferences around the world. I remain particularly interested in the impact of serious medical conditions, poor nutrition, and failed attachment on an individual's developing brain.

Research

I have been a collaborator on a number of research projects, including an EPSRC funded grant with Aston University Department of Neurosciences; and an international study to develop a Quality of Life measure for children with heart problems. Publications include several articles in peer reviewed professional journals and three book chapters; I have presented papers nationally and internationally on neuropsychological functioning in children with cardiac disease; following liver and small bowel transplantation; and the role of attachment in sick children. I am also a reviewer for the Journal of Pediatrics.

Continuing Professional Development

I have been awarded the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness certificate and also attended the Institute of Psychiatry Court Training Programme. I regularly attend other training events relevant to Court work and my specialist interests, which include attachment disorders, sexual abuse, PTSD, and complex trauma.

I have completed the Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy Training (DDP) course and I am trained in Filial Therapy, the Solihull Approach, and various other models of intervention with both adults and children. I have a special interest in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), and how these profoundly influence children's neurodevelopmental, emotional, social, cognitive, and physiological functioning. Because ACE and Developmental Trauma have the potential to affect children quite differently, I consider it essential to adapt any form of psychological intervention accordingly in order to promote mental and physical healing.

Teaching & Training

I am an honorary lecturer at Birmingham University where I regularly teach on the MSc Paediatric Palliative Care course. I am often invited to present at international conferences on the subject of attachment disorders and their effects on brain development and psychosocial functioning.

Memberships

- Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (AFBPsS): Membership No. 38510
 - BPS - Divisions of Clinical, Health, and Neuropsychology
 - Faculty of Children and Adolescents
 - International Transplant Association (ITT)
 - International Xenotransplantation Association
 - International Rehabilitation & Transplant Association (IRTA)
 - International Pediatric Transplant Association (IPTA)
 - Division of Paediatric Psychology
 - Vetted member of The UK Register of Expert Witnesses
 - HCPC Registration: PYL0269
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Publications/Presentations

Hogg, L., Pugh, S., Gupte, G.L., Hartley, J., Jobe, R., **Blyth, J.**, Mears, J., Perera T., Mirza, D.F., Sharif, K. & Beath, S. (2017). Quality of Life (QoL) in Children After Small Bowel Transplantation (SBTx) Using a Validated Generic Scoring System, the Euroqol EQ-5DY. June Transplantation 101: S88.

Blyth, J. (2017). The Role of the Psychologist, In D. Kelly (Ed). Diseases of the Liver and Biliary System in Children, 4th Edition, Wiley Publishers. UK.

Patel, T., **Blyth**, J., Griffiths, G., Kelly, D. & Talcott, J.B. (2014). Moderate relationships between NAA and cognitive ability in healthy adults: Implications for cognitive spectroscopy. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 8(39), 1-9.

Wray, J., Franklin, R., Thomson, K., **Blyth**, J. & Marino, B.S. (2011). Linguistic validation of a disease-specific quality of life measure for children and teenagers with cardiac disease. *Cardiology in the Young*. 21:1-5.

Griffiths, G., Talcott, J.B., **Blyth**, J., Sira, J., Mears, J., van Mourik, I.; McKiernan, P., Beath, S.V.; & Kelly, D. (2011). Polyunsaturated fatty acids and cognitive outcomes in paediatric liver disease. *Pediatric Transplantation*; 15 (S1) 94, 65.

Patel, T., Kelly, D., Beath, S. V., **Blyth**, J. C., Thai, J. N., Sira, J., Griffiths, G. & Talcott, J. B. (2011). Evaluation of brain development using 1H-MRS-Detectable metabolites as biomarkers in children with liver disease. *Pediatric Transplantation*; (S1) 330,121.

Wray, J., Brown, J., Franklin, R., Cassidy, A., Guy, S., Casale, L., Mellion, K., Burger; M., Sage, J. Andersen, C., **Blyth**, J. & Marino, B. (2010). A New Disease Specific Quality of Life Measure for Children and Adolescents in the United Kingdom. *Genetics, Genomics and Congenital Cardiovascular Disorders*.

Taylor, R., Beath, S, Hind, J., Mears, J., Hartley, J., Gupte, G., **Blyth**, J., Kelly, D. (2009). Neurocognitive function in children with intestinal failure: impact of transplantation. IPTA 5th Congress on Pediatric Transplantation, Istanbul, Turkey.

Blyth, J., Mears, J., Sira, J., Clarke, S., Kelly, D.A., Gupte, G., Griffiths, G., Beath, S.V. & Talcott, J.B. (2009). Tracking paediatric cognitive and developmental outcomes following small bowel transplantation: A case study. *International Small Bowel Transplant Symposium, Bologna*. OR98, Page 94.

Patel T., **Blyth** J., Mears J., Sira J., Clarke S., Kelly D.A., Gupte G., Beath S.V., Griffiths G. (2009). Tracking paediatric cognitive outcomes following combined liver and small bowel transplantation: A case study. *XI International Small Bowel Transplant Symposium Bologna, Italy*.

Blyth, J., Mears, J., Lloyd, C., Tin, H., Kelly, D.A., Gupte, G. & Beath, S.V. (2009). Cognitive and developmental outcomes in children following small bowel transplantation (SBTX) from 1998-2009. *International Small Bowel Transplant Symposium, Bologna*. OR#88, Page 52.

Pierre, G., Setchell, K., **Blyth**, J., Preece, M., Chakrapani, A. & McKiernan, P. (2008). Prospective treatment of cerebrotendinous xanthomatosis with cholic acid therapy. *Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease*; Suppl. 2: S241245.

Blyth, J.C., Gordon, G., Patchell, C. & Reed, J. (2008). The Multidisciplinary Team. In D. Kelly (Ed) *Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Systems*, 3rd Edition, Blackwell Publishers.

Blyth, J.C. (2003). Hypoplasia of the Left Heart: Neuropsychological Functioning & Psychosocial Development. Chapter in *Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome* by Robert Anderson, Pozzi, M. & Hutchinson, S. (Eds.), Springer Verlag, (London) Ltd.

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Blyth, J.C. & Kuczmierczyk, A. (1996). Prostate Cancer Screening: The psychological factors associated with attending a screening clinic. *Proceeding: Special Group in Health Psychology, Conference, York*.