



We were delighted to hear that DEdPsy course member **Rebecca Ashton** recently won the **BPS Division of Neuropsychology pre-qualification award**, which is described by the Division of Neuropsychology as follows:

"This award promotes and encourages the contribution of pre-QiCN clinical neuropsychology work and research to developments in clinical neuropsychology practice. Examples of excellence could include: obtaining a distinction on a DoN accredited degree programme; advancing knowledge in the form of a published article, chapter or outstanding research thesis; proposing and implementing an innovation of practice; using neuropsychological models to benefit a particular group or the public in general.

Nominees should have started the work for which they are nominated whilst they were at pre-QiCN level, although it is possible to make the nomination within the first two years of qualification when the outcome of the work has been realised. Both scientific and evaluated clinical neuropsychology work is eligible."

The DON's Qualification in Clinical Neuropsychology has three strands: knowledge, research and practice. It is a very rigorous process, by which qualified clinical and educational psychologists can achieve the QiCN and be on the Specialist Register in Clinical Neuropsychology. So far Rebecca has completed the knowledge strand in 2010, gaining a Distinction in the only DON accredited course for child neuropsychology which is run at UCL. Rebecca is currently working on her Doctorate in Educational Psychology which will fulfil the research requirements. The practice element will be more difficult for Rebecca to achieve because she works in community services rather than in a specialist neuropsychologist role, which means that she will take longer to cover enough cases with a neuropsychological aspect and that it will be difficult to find supervision from someone who is already QiCN qualified. She'll cross that bridge when she comes to it!

Rebecca is engaged in neuropsychology practice in a number of ways. Firstly, she brings a neuro perspective to casework within her Local Authority role. This includes working with children with brain injuries or neurological conditions when they happen to be in her link schools, thinking about neuropsychological aspects of formulation for other children and supporting colleagues with their casework. She also works privately as an Associate for Recolo, which is a company that specialises in psychological rehabilitation for children following brain injuries. In addition Rebecca teaches at Manchester University and UCL, giving a practitioner perspective on educational neuropsychology. She jointly co-ordinates the north-west interest group for child neuropsychologists, which provides a forum for educational and clinical psychologists to think together about topics in neuropsychology. It's good to feel that there is a peer group in the region, especially when you might be the only one in your team with a particular interest in this field. She tries to do some writing in between all that, having published an article on shaken baby syndrome and written a book chapter on educational psychologists' contribution to neuropsychology.

Dr Jane Hood proposed Rebecca for this award. Jane is also an educational psychologist, who moved into neuropsychology some years ago via the NHS and now private practice. Jane is pictured with Rebecca at the award ceremony, above.

Rebecca sincerely hopes that, by giving this award to an educational psychologist, the profile of Educational Psychologists will be raised within the neuropsychology community where they are very much in the minority compared to clinical psychologists. She also hopes that other EPs will consider turning an interest in neuropsychology into an accredited specialism, which can bring an extra dimension to EP work.