Press release

# Could this revolutionise Special Needs support in the classroom?

By Richard Curtis

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For Immediate release

Southampton, Hampshire – National school improvement and special educational needs support service, The Root Of It has developed a telephone and email support service for classroom staff.

Support services available for schools and teachers have suffered over the last few years due to the cuts in local authority budgets. Schools can struggle to find the professional support required to increase teacher’s confidence when tackling behaviour. “Teachers can feel undermined and devalued when facing these problems, with some feeling like failures as they struggle to control their classes. They have often put in many hours of their free time to create the content of their lessons and feel frustrated by behaviour, meaning sometimes it is easy to overlook some of the classroom basics,” says Richard Curtis.

They are increasingly turning to services, like The Root Of It, set up by child behaviour expert Richard Curtis in 2013 to help schools identify the root causes of the difficulties and address them. Richard says “Teachers have less and less support and can feel embarrassed or worried about going to their head teacher always asking for help. School leaders are wanting to support their staff, but with the local authority cuts, are having to find new ways of providing that support without overloading their already stressed workloads.”

The team, who have recently been named Best New Business at the 2014 National Entrepreneurs Convention, are so concerned about this they have extended their successful email support service offered to schools, to include a national telephone line for teachers in schools to talk through how to address classroom issues.

Richard continues the story “I feel this could revolutionise practice in the classroom. As a school get access, we allow every member of their staff team to access the phone line and the email support service, plus the online learning that comes with it. Imagine the impact this could have in classrooms across the country, teachers and unqualified staff can just ask their questions with the confidence of knowing there will be a qualified SEN professional answering their queries!”

OfSTED recently reported on the number of hours lost in classrooms across the country due to low level disruption. “This could dramatically reduce these lost hours. There are over 24,000 schools in England, if only 10% were to access our support system, that 2,400 schools, which means the impact could be felt by hundreds of thousands of children. That type of scale means that the kind of support we are offering really could cause huge reform in practice in classrooms.”

Nicky Morgan, Secretary of State for Education was recently quizzed about special needs training for teachers “"We have been looking at how we best support students with special educational needs and how the schools system and the health system are working together, so that we are identifying problems earlier.

"What we want is any issues to be identified and pupils to be supported. It will take a little while to get there but we are determined people get the right support." (http://www.dorkingandleatherheadadvertiser.co.uk/Dorking-12-year-old-questions-education-secretary/story-25762523-detail/story.html#ixzz3N03Wt3aX)

Richard feels that teachers and other staff working with children across the country do not have adequate training to deal with special needs effectively in the classroom. “I frequently talk to newly qualified teachers who report only studying for one of two hours on how to help children with special educational needs. They feel guilty for not knowing how to nip problems in the bud, but embarrassed to ask for help as they are supposed to be ‘qualified’. How many classroom staff are there who are not asking for help early because they feel it is a statement about their professional ability?” asks Richard. “There should be no fear about asking for help and The Root Of It Vine is a telephone and email support line to help without adding extra workload to senior leaders.”

Schools or individual teachers can sign up for support through the team’s website at www.rootofit.com.

The Root Of It provide school improvement and special needs professionals to schools and run a national email and phone support line to help staff in schools meet children’s needs, plus give advice on inclusion and special needs.

Richard Curtis is on a personal mission to change the lives of millions of children, founding not only The Root Of It, but also a professional networking site for headteachers, Headschat and also works with parents as The Kid Calmer. He has had three books published 101 Tips for Parents, 101 More Tips for Parents and 101 Behaviour Tips for Parents.

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**About The Root Of It**

The Root Of It was founded in April 2013 to help schools with their improvement issues and children with complex needs and disabilities succeed and was named Best New Business at the 2014 National Entrepreneurs Convention. Richard Curtis has brought together a team of professionals to provide a wrap-round service for schools that includes Clinical Psychology, behaviour advice, Social Work, family support work, Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Play Therapy, Counselling and support for low attenders. Richard says “Poor behaviour is a symptom of an underlying difficulty, just like good behaviour is a symptom that a child's needs are being met. The Root Of It work as a team to address the underlying difficulties.” The Root Of It provide support to schools, families, early years settings and organisations. For more information, please visit <http://www.rootofit.com>.

**About headschat**

Richard Curtis has spent years supporting and working with school leaders across the country. Through these discussions it became clear that they were keen to seek the opportunity to be able to liaise with peers and share the good practice they are developing in their school, in addition to getting fresh ideas and perspectives from colleagues around the globe. Headschat.com launched in December 2014 and is free to join.

<http://www.headschat.com>

**About the Kid Calmer**

Child behaviour expert, Richard Curtis, helps families around the world with his no-nonsense approach to parenting online, through the media, his books and by giving presentations. He has published three books, 101 Tips for Parents, 101 More Tips for Parents and 101 Behavior Tips for Parents, plus also recorded hundreds of pieces of advice and techniques in The Kid Calmer Zone, a membership website for parents. He has been featured on various radio stations, in numerous publications and is developing television concepts for his work.

<http://www.thekidcalmer.com>

**Contact for articles, comment and interviews**

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