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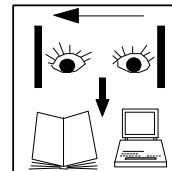
ISBN: 0-9550568-2-9

## **New Horizons in Special Education**

**Evidence-based practice in action**

***Edited by Barry Carpenter and Jo Egerton***

***With a foreword by Roy McConkey***



Sunfield Research  
Institute

We are entering a new phase in learning about childhood disabilities. We have found out much of what we need to know about their causes and aetiology. In the future, solutions to many of the challenges will come from the evidence base held by practitioners.

While ideally placed to carry out 'real world' research, practitioners often need support in carrying out setting-based inquiry. This book discusses the role of practitioners as researchers, addresses the development of a research culture within a special school and presents research projects carried out within a school for young people with severe and complex learning disabilities.

Over the past seven years, staff at Sunfield have carried out research and development work with these young people, particularly around communication and self-advocacy, community access, health and mental health, family inclusion, curriculum development, psychology and therapies and the Arts. These research projects have generated evidence which has guided the school's development, and the transdisciplinary approach has encouraged involvement in research from many staff in diverse professions throughout the school including therapists, team leaders and assistants from care and education, catering staff and others.

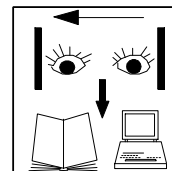
The value of practitioner research has been recognised by government ministers and the General Teaching Council of England. Practitioner research will enable us to understand the new challenges and change in order to go forward, and to continue to meet the changing needs of the children and young people with a range of complex and diverse special needs.

If you would like to purchase this book please complete the form overleaf and return it to Tracey Deeley, Publications Officer, at the address shown overleaf.



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Tracey Deeley, Publications Officer, Sunfield, Woodman Lane, Clent, Stourbridge, DY9 9PT  
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