

Kirsten Klaissle  
Marie Heinekenplein 509  
1072 ML Amsterdam

**AAOF**  
**Kon. Marinelaan 53**  
**2251 BA Voorschoten**  
**Nederland**

**Date: 18/03/2010**

To whom it may concern at the AAOF

Having recently moved to Amsterdam, after half a year in Hamburg (Germany) and 7 years of living and working in a therapeutic residential school in Scotland, I am now looking for an English speaking post here in the Netherlands, preferably Amsterdam or The Hague area.

I have a BA in Curative Education, which is a multidisciplinary professional activity dedicated to the care, educational and therapeutic needs of young people with additional support needs. The degree course was practice based and delivered by the University of Aberdeen in cooperation with the Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools in Scotland. This means I now have a strong theoretical foundation as well as 7 years of practical training and experience of working with a wide range of children and adolescents with moderate to severe levels of support needs.

At least half of these young people were diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder and I worked with them in a variety of settings: learning support in the classroom, key carer in the residential setting, therapeutic support and finally as a unit coordinator. I very much enjoyed my work and my training and hope to continue in this line of work despite having moved to the Netherlands and not yet mastering the dutch language. I was positively surprised to hear of the AAOF and although I do not expect you to provide me with a job I would like to become involved in the AAOF if this in any way would be of interest to the organisation.

I have attached my CV to this letter and if you as an organisation (ie in any of the functions you suggest in your online questionnaire) or if you know of organisations, families, children or individuals who could use my experience and assistance please do contact me. I am willing to travel, learn new approaches or take up further training and happy to assist children and families in any way possible – respite care, daily help and support in the house, learning support in the school, or by accompanying a family on days out so parents can have more time for siblings/friends/relatives etc.

During my seven years in the residential school I was engaged in some specific challenges faced by some of the pupils in my care, these include: sleeping disorders, eating difficulties, obsessive compulsive behaviors, different levels of communication difficulties and self injurious behavior. Although I am not an expert in any of these fields, I have professional experiences and in-depth knowledge I am happy to share and use to support children and families dealing and living with these challenges.

I hope to hear from you and thank you for taking your time to read this.

Kind Regards,  
Kirsten Klaissle

[attachments](#)

# Curriculum Vitae

Kirsten Klaissle  
Marie Heinekenplein 509  
1072 ML  
Amsterdam

Tel. 0625337959  
Email: k.grant@gmx.co.uk

Date of Birth: 1. April 1984, Viborg  
Nationality: Danish  
Family status: Married



## Work experience:

### **2002-2009 Ochil Tower School, Scotland ([www.ochiltowerschool.org.uk](http://www.ochiltowerschool.org.uk))**

Ochil Tower School is a Residential (Camphill Rudolf Steiner) School for children and young people with a wide range of moderate to severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviors. The school has 35 pupils between the age of 6 and 18. Throughout my 7 years of employment I worked both in the residential unit and as learning support in the classroom.

#### **07/2007-07/2009 Joint Coordinator/team leader of a care unit + teaching assistant**

Responsibilities: daily running and organization of a care unit with 6 residential pupils and 3 additional pupils attending during the school day. Short and longterm planning of individual learning aims and support needs. Communication and collaborative working with Parents, social workers, educational psychologists, medical and health care professionals.

#### **01/2005-07/2007 Practice based training focusing on the provision of therapeutic care**

Emphasis of training: creation of a therapeutic environment, support and supervision of care workers, planning and execution of personalised learning and support plans, collaboration with parents and external professionals,

#### **08/2003-12/2004 Practice based training focusing on the direct care and support of young people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviors**

Emphasis of training: Care and support of one to three young people in the residential home as well as in the classroom setting as learning support provider. Training encompassing the creation of healthy rhythms and routines encouraging independence and empowering the individuals participation, use of therapeutic activities, identification of risks, learning and support needs, daily recording.

#### **08/2002-07/2003 Residential Voluntary Year**

Responsibilities: Key-Carer for one pupil under the support and supervision of the care unit coordinator and classroom support in a class of five pupils.

## Professional Education and Qualifications:

### **08/2003-07/2009 BA Curative Education**

The Ba in Curative Education is a practice based training delivered in partnership between the Aberdeen of University and the participating Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools, Aberdeen. Both qualifications were achieved through the BA in Curative education course:

07/2008 **Diploma in Curative Education** awarded by the Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools, Aberdeen (UK) in affiliation with the Goetheanum, Dornach, CH

07/2009 **BA Curative Education** University of Aberdeen, School of Education

**08/2000-07/2002 HF-studenter examen** (Danish A-level qualification). TH Langs HF Kursus Silkeborg (DK)

## Other relevant qualifications:

**12/2008 Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Certificate** Crisis Prevention Institute, Inc.

**08/2008 Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate** Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS)

## Other information:

### **Social Research project:**

- A social research project on “How to understand and care for young people with severe intellectual and communication disabilities presenting with obsessive compulsive behaviors” was carried out as part of the BA. The project provided me with insight into Social Research Methods as well as the Mental Health and wellbeing (including therapeutic working) of individuals with a learning disability.

### **Languages:**

- Danish and English: Fluent
- German: Good comprehension and understandable verbal communication
- Dutch: Very little, at present doing a language course two evenings a week

### **Personal interests:**

- to continue to develop my knowledge and understanding of the experiences, limitations and needs of children and young people with complex needs
- painting and felting
- running and outdoor activities

### **Youth Activities:**

- Participant and assistant trainer of gymnastics and synchronised swimming groups

## References:

### **Margaret Snellgrove**

Joint Coordinators of Ochil Tower School  
and Co Unit Coordinator

### **Neil Snellgrove**

Joint Coordinator of Ochil Tower School  
and Teacher

Ochil Tower School  
140 High Street,  
Auchterarder  
PH3 1AD  
Scotland, UK

Email: [office@ochiltowerschool.org](mailto:office@ochiltowerschool.org)

Telephone 9 am - 1 pm : 0044 1764 662416  
other times: 0044 1764 660425

### **Norma Hart**

Programme Director of the BA in Curative Education

School of Education  
University of Aberdeen  
MacRobert Building  
Kings College  
Aberdeen  
AB24 5UA  
Scotland, UK

Email: [n.m.hart@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:n.m.hart@abdn.ac.uk)

Telephone: 0044 1224 274682