

# Anava Baruch

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## Introduction

I have a 1st class BA Hons in Occupational Therapy, an MSc in Ergonomics, and am a Bond Solon/Cardiff University accredited expert witness (accommodation and equipment). I am registered with the HCPC and a member of BAOT and COTSS Specialist Housing Section. I am the Managing Director and Clinical Lead of Design for Independence. I am regularly asked to speak at national conferences.

## April 12 - current

### Clinical Lead and Managing Director

Design for Independence Ltd

I act as an **accommodation and equipment expert witness**. I provide a unique service combining equipment and accommodation needs assessments in one report, thus giving a holistic view of a client's needs. I have assessed cases involving spinal injury, brain injury, loss of limbs and visual impairment. I have been instructed by defence and claimant lawyers, and have worked in the UK and abroad. I am regularly commended for my ability to 'think outside the box', a skill which is especially useful for clients wishing to stay in their current accommodation. I trained with Bond Solon/ Cardiff University.

I specialise in **designing home environments** for people of all ages with spinal and brain injuries; deteriorating neurological conditions (including Alzheimer's); restricted mobility; visual and cognitive impairments. I am highly experienced at interpreting complex medical conditions into architectural designs; I work on a daily basis with leading architects and other construction professionals in the field.

I **audit plans** for new builds, large extensions and adaptations in residential homes, retirement schemes and supported living solutions. I support other businesses to comply with relevant legislation.

I review and **interpret accommodation expert witness reports and OT expert witness reports** into designs for suitable accommodation.

An important part of my work is to provide advice on **specialist equipment, furniture and fittings**, to increase independence and safety. I am on an advisory board for an assistive technology company and write expert reports on products available in the market. I also work with product developers to explore potential solutions for people with disabilities.

I advise on **posture and seating**, including specialist wheelchairs and supported seating systems.

I am qualified at IOSH Train the Trainer level in **People Moving and Handling**. I lead tailor-made in-house training courses for formal and informal carers, for those who are completely new to manual

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handling and those needing a refresher course. As a manual handling expert, I understand the size rooms need to be in order to ensure care tasks are completed safely. I am also best placed to ensure the internal layout of a property will meet a client's manual handling needs.

I have an in depth understanding of how **local authorities** operate with regard to funding, including the Disabled Facilities Grant and provision of equipment.

I manage a team of OTs working on behalf of Design for Independence: I oversee all projects, helping and guiding where necessary.

A large proportion of my work includes providing services for solicitors, insurance companies and case management agencies who deal with personal injury and medical negligence clients. I work very closely with the Blind Veterans UK, Epilepsy Action and the MOD. I lead a discharge planning service for patients at Broomfield Hospital, Essex. I regularly work with housing associations and home improvement agencies.

## **Aug 09 - April 2012**

### **Senior Occupational Therapy Practitioner**      Adult Social Services, Essex County Council

As a senior OT practitioner I had two main roles: managing the occupational therapy function across West Essex and acting as the Assistant Team Manager for the social work function across Uttlesford District Council.

As the OT manager, I provided professional support to three OT teams and supervised five qualified occupational therapists. I was regularly involved in resolving cases of complex need. I was also the equipment lead for West Essex. This involved deciding which equipment should be kept in stock and which should be purchased in special circumstances. I also scrutinized equipment requests from health OTs and supported them to reduce risk to patients at home.

In my role as assistant team manager for the social work function across Uttlesford District Council, I provided care packages, reablement services, and services to ensure the safeguarding of adults.

## **Jul 05 - Aug 09**

### **Occupational Therapist**      Adult Social Services, Enfield, London

As an OT based in the community, I worked with adults with disabilities, and their carers, to help increase their independence and safety at home. During my time in this post I worked with more than 600 clients, 30 percent of whom were adults with deteriorating neurological conditions and brain injuries.

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My role included recommending equipment and home adaptations (based on my risk assessments and task analysis); recommending major adaptations to improve access to buildings; liaising with company representatives and grant surveyors from the private sector; liaising with care agencies, housing associations, professional health providers, council surveyors, and other relevant council services.

**Feb 07 - Jan 08**

**Housing Occupational Therapist**

Adult Social Services, Enfield

During my time at Enfield I was asked to undertake the senior role of sole housing OT to cover maternity leave. My main responsibilities in this role included undertaking housing assessments; liaising between the OT Department and the Housing Department; providing professional support to ensure new builds met accessibility requirements, including auditing plans and taking part in site meetings; visiting empty properties to identify different aspects of accessibility and potential; ensuring service users had suitable equipment.

**Apr 05 - Jul 05**

**Occupational Therapist**

Social Services, Watford

I helped to increase the independence and safety of children with disabilities and their carers at home.

**Jan 05 - Apr 05**

**Occupational Therapist**

Side by Side Independent Special School, London

I trained school and nursery staff on improving pupil's coordination and fine and gross motor abilities.

**Oct 01 - Jul 03**

**Occupational Therapist**

Maison du Sacre Residential Home, Haifa

I trained staff looking after children and adults with profound learning difficulties and undertook research.

## EDUCATION

<b>2016</b>	Expert Witness	Bond Solon/Cardiff University
<b>2013</b>	Train the Trainer, People Moving and Handling	IOSH
<b>Sept 03- Oct 04</b>	MSc in Ergonomics	Loughborough University
<b>Oct 02 – Mar 03</b>	Assistive Technology module on Occupational Therapy MSc	Haifa University
<b>Sep 98 – Jan 02</b>	Bachelor of Arts in Occupational Therapy 1st Class Honours	Haifa University
<b>1991- 1994</b>	Matriculation (A-level equivalent) Yirony Alef High-school	Haifa