

# Andrea Sharples

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL03887

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists  
registration number: RC0011394



## Personal Profile

I am a Clinical Director at ATtherapy which was set up in 2012. I have led our team to grow and expand and am now very proud of our team of over 15 staff including therapists, assistants and AAC mentors. I have extensive experience as a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist working with individuals who require augmentative / alternative communication systems (AAC) and assistive technology (AT). I have worked for the Ace Centre as part of the assessment and training team and managed several projects there. I have also worked for Access Summit as an Assistive Technology assessor for students who require both personal support and assistive technology to complete their degree and / or post graduate degree training. I have provided training for modules on AAC at a number of Universities and have also provided AAC training to parents and professionals both nationally and internationally. I am also a regular speaker at national and local AAC training events. I am a registered trainer for AAC software implementation and work with all the leading AAC companies to consult on and develop new products and resources. I have high expectations of all individuals and believe that positive relationships are the key to success.

## Professional Qualifications

1990 – 1993 Leeds Metropolitan University - BS (Hons) Clinical Language Sciences

## Training Provided:

- International School of Brussels (ISB): AAC training and implementation support
- AAC multidisciplinary training provided to AT and AAC professionals in Hong Kong
- Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) across UK
- Development of a LAMP certified professional scheme UK
- Annual presentations at Communication Matters conference
- Units developed by Ace Centre and accredited by Manchester Metropolitan University at under graduate and post-graduate levels in AAC (alternative / augmentative communication) and AT (assistive technology)
- Regular training of other professionals on a variety of courses, including Grid 3 software, implementation of AT to support recording in schools, introduction to AAC, AAC assessment and implementation, good practice in young children with complex communication difficulties.
- Presented at national and international conferences including Communication

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Matters, ISAAC, AAC CEN, Autistic Spectrum Disorder (NW) CEN meetings, Autism Today Conference, and ACE Network Days.

- Exhibit and speak at major events around the UK, e.g. The Autism Show
- Contribution to undergraduate Speech and Language Therapy courses at several universities

### Training Received:

- Bond Solon Civil Law and Procedure training
- LAMP training received in Texas, US (Center for AAC and Autism)
- LAMP trainers meeting and training, Arkansas, US (Center for AAC and Autism)
- LAMP Certified Professional: AT therapy are the only UK based LAMP Centre of Excellence.
- Specialised multi-disciplinary AAC assessments (ACE Centre)
- AAC software e.g. Grid 3 Expert, Snap plus Core, Compass, Communicator, Unity, Easy Chat, Words for Life
- Communication Matters Conference attendance annually
- International Symposium for AAC (ISAAC): Barcelona, Washington and Dublin
- PECS (Lori Frost and Andy Bondy, Pyramid Consulting)
- TEACCH (Inscape House, Gary Mesibov)
- AAC and Literacy (Karen Erickson)
- Attendance at AAC CEN NW
- Attendance at ACE Centre Network days (ACE Centre)
- Safeguarding training
- Intensive Interaction
- British Sign Language (Level 1)
- Makaton

### Work Experience

#### ATtherapy - 2012- present

Clinical Director.

ATtherapy was set up in 2012. I initially combined working independently with my ACE Centre and University roles. I now have a mixed clinical/management role and support a range of individuals in various settings. I lead the team in clinical skills and carry out regular supervision to ensure a high-quality service to all individuals and their families. We have a range of service level agreements in schools (mainstream and specialist) and a caseload of varied individuals, from parental referrals to highly specialist medico legal cases.

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#### Access Summit – 2009 – 2014

Assistive Technology Assessor.

My role as a specialist assessor was to provide support and assistive technology equipment recommendations to students with complex disabilities to support them in the completion of their degree or post graduate degree qualification.

#### Ace Centre North – 1999 - 2014

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist.

Specialist multi-disciplinary assessment and training team, ACE Centre North. Here I gained extended experience of working with children and also adults with a range of needs such as complex physical impairment and acquired neurological conditions such as strokes and MND. I carried out large scale training events and supported development and dissemination of the accredited AAC/AT modules. I managed ACE Centre's involvement with several national projects.

#### Pennine Care NHS- 1999

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (AAC)

Supporting children who had profound and/or complex needs such as Cerebral Palsy, Motor Speech Disorders, Autistic Spectrum Disorders and individuals with learning difficulties. I also supported a range of clients with acquired communication difficulties following traumatic brain injury.

#### Together Trust – 1998 – 1999

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist.

Providing support for students with autistic spectrum condition.

#### Tameside and Glossop NHS Trust – 1994 – 1998

Speech and Language Therapist

Working in special schools, mainstream schools and with adults with acquired and learning disabilities.

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Sandwell NHS Trust – 1993 – 1994

Generalist Speech and Language Therapist

Working in community clinic, special schools and with adults with learning disabilities.

### Additional Skills

I am passionate and enthusiastic with excellent interpersonal communication skills. I believe in supporting all individuals to reach their full potential.

I enjoy training others and ensure that that this is a core element of my role.

I believe in the importance of positive outcome measurements with individuals to ensure therapy is effective. I believe that knowledge of current thinking and research is key to effective outcomes for individuals. I am also passionate about providing assistive technology to meet individual's needs and so keeping current knowledge about technology is a vital part of my role. I have skills in leadership and management. Supporting the team positively is a key to success for the individuals we support.

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