

Francesca Sephton

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
registration number: RC0030916

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL30695



Personal Profile

I am a highly motivated and enthusiastic Speech and Language Therapist specialising in the field of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). I lead the mentoring service at ATtherapy which aims to provide additional support to children, young people and adults with disabilities, mainly who are learning to use a communication aid.

Professional Qualifications

2008-2012 [The University of Sheffield](#) - 1st class degree in Speech Science, Tracey E Cox Memorial Prize for achievement.

2015 - Manchester Post Basic Dysphagia Training Course

Training

I regularly attend AAC clinical excellence networks, AAC meetings with differing specialist departments, conferences such as Communication Matters and information days and roadshows. ATtherapy also meet regularly with different companies to learn about their new hardware and software developments.

- Safeguarding
- Talk Tools
- PROACT SCIP (behaviour support and physical intervention)
- Text based voice output communication systems course at the ACE centre
- PODD (Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display) training
- Supporting early communication skills in readiness for voice output course at the ACE centre
- Grid 3 Expert training day
- LAMP training day
- Level 5 Chartered Management Institute Training
- Mental Capacity Act Training
- Acquired Brain Injury Training (Headway)

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- Colourful Semantics Training
- Intensive Interaction Training, one by Phoebe Caldwell and one by Graham Firth
- Talking Mats Training
- Approach and Team Teach Training
- Clinical Practice Educator Training
- Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP)
- Signalong Training
- Makaton training, enhanced
- Picture Exchange Communication System training

Work experience

[ATtherapy - 2016-present](#)

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Independent company providing specialist support. In my role at ATtherapy I provide specialist assessment and intervention for people who need AAC including low-tech means (e.g. eye pointing, using sign, communication books), mid-tech devices (e.g. a communication tool operated with batteries which gives a voice output) and high-tech communication aids accessed by a range of methods e.g. switches and eye gaze. I am experienced in setting up Assistive Technology to ensure the individual can access their AAC to support them not only to communicate but develop their independence and assert control over their environment. I work with clients within the home, at school/ college and often out in the community with the AAC mentor service to ensure the individual is able to communicate effectively across a range of settings. At ATtherapy I work with a number of client groups including individuals with an acquired/developmental brain injury, autism and learning difficulties and enjoy working with people who have challenging behaviour and feeding difficulties. I have set up a speech and language therapy service in a number of schools at ATtherapy.

[Bridge college - 2014 – 2016](#)

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist,

A specialist college for young people with a range of complex communication difficulties. This role involved; developing Outreach services, writing and delivering staff training, presenting at Clinical Governance forums and conferences (Communication Matters and National Teachers Conference at Manchester College), participating in service evaluation and AAC pathway development, working with individuals with dysphagia and supervision of junior members of the team and AAC volunteers. I was secretary of the North West AAC CEN and I

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sit on the committee for the North West RCSLT Hub. I also have sat on the committee for 1Voice as I set up a branch.

[Speechwise - 2013-2014](#)

Private speech and language therapy service, Speechwise

I worked as a speech and language therapist with two children, one learning to use LAMP.

[Landgate School for children and adolescents with ASC and Willow Grove School for primary school aged pupils with social, emotional and mental health - 2012-2014](#)

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Part of my role at Landgate involved participating in some research of the efficacy of yoga and Lego therapy intervention with this client group.

[Time Specialist Support Services for children, adolescents and adults with ASC - 2011-2013](#)

I worked as a support worker and provided some voluntary speech and language therapy as part of a project entitled the 'Communication Project'.

[Arbour Court Care Home - 2010](#)

In this role, I worked with adults with dementia and eating and drinking difficulties in a healthcare assistant capacity.

At college, I worked on a voluntary basis in Wargrave House School, specialist school for children with ASC.

Additional skills

[Communication skills](#) – I currently work within a Multidisciplinary Team and I have good team-working skills to enable me to work in the best way with an individual to ensure they achieve the best of their potential. I can write comprehensive reports to support onward referral or provide detailed information for parents/carers and other professionals.

[Innovative Assessment and Intervention](#) – I have experience of combining theoretical knowledge with various assessment methodologies and interventions and I feel I am skilled at employing innovative ways to gather assessment data and deliver input for those individuals with complex communication needs.

[Reflective](#) – I am continually reflecting on my practice and engage in frequent activities to continue my professional development.

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Interpersonal Skills – I am skilled at communicating sensitive information to others and modifying my communication to ensure that what I am saying is accessible (for parents/carers, staff or the individual with a communication difficulty). This supports me when delivering training.

Motivated – I am motivated to work as a speech and language therapist and provide the best possible communication solution for an individual using a person-centered approach.

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