

Emily Walsh

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL33654

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
registration number: RC0035331



Personal Profile

I am committed to, and thoroughly enjoy working on the design, development and successful implementation of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) methods for people with complex communication needs. I am proud to work in the field of AAC and am consistently inspired by the children and young people that I have the pleasure to work with.

I am experienced in working with children and young adults with severe and profound learning disabilities, physical disabilities and Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC). I am positive, upbeat and strive to be the strongest clinician that I can be. Being self-reflective and an advocate for a Total Communication approach enables me to achieve functional and rewarding communication goals with clients. I work hard with families to achieve consistency and establish AAC across all environments. I am passionate about creatively enabling others to communicate with as much independence as possible, because I believe that communication is an empowering, essential element of everyday life and should be enjoyed by all.

I value the experience and skills involved with multidisciplinary team (MDT) work – sharing knowledge and best practice in order to encourage reflection and evaluation. The world of AAC is diverse and fascinating – I enjoy discovering new things and thinking holistically about every individual I work with!

Professional Qualifications

[University of Sheffield \(2015\)](#) 2: 1 degree in Speech Science

[Holy Cross College \(2011\)](#) A Levels in Psychology, French, English from grades A*-B

Training

British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 – Signature

Elklan total training package for professionals – Elklan

Speech and Language Support for Pupils with Severe Learning Disabilities - Elklan

Talking Mats training foundation course– Talking Mats Ltd

Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) – Liberator

Grid 3 expert training – Smartbox

Developing low tech AAC – Ace Centre

Dynavox devices and software – Toby Dynavox

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Liberator devices and software – Liberator
Communication Matters – two day conferences
Total Communication 5 day co-ordinator course – Salford Royal NHS Trust
Basic Signalong training – Salford Royal NHS Trust
Active Support – Association for Real Change
ProACT SCIPr- UK – Behaviour support team at Seashell Trust
Mental Capacity Act – Seashell Trust
CHARGE syndrome; training for professionals – national conference
Safeguarding (including online safety, female genital mutilation, Prevent, Channel and basic safeguarding) – Seashell Trust
Epilepsy training – Nursing team at Seashell Trust
Sensory Processing Disorders – Occupational Therapy team at Seashell Trust

Work Experience

- **July 2019 – present**

ATtherapy Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

At ATtherapy I am working with a range of children and adults with a wide range of complex needs. I also support individuals within a specialist school and college. I Provide specialist assessment and therapy programmes for children and young adults with a variety of complex communication needs including ASC, multisensory impairment, challenging behaviour, physical disabilities and profound learning disabilities. I Maintain and support a varied caseload, reviewing my own practice in relation to the current evidence base.

- **August 2018 – July 2019**

Band 6 Specialist Speech and Language Therapist at the Seashell Trust

Member of the award-winning SaLT Team (Shine A Light Awards, March 2019). Award given for championing best practice in AAC.

My responsibilities included:

- Providing specialist training and guidance to residential, college and school staff in relation to individual person-centred approaches as well as specific training on Intensive Interaction, PECS, Elklan support for pupils with SLD and 'Being a Good Communication Partner'. Management of staff within training sessions, adapting my approach to suit the needs of my learners appropriately.
- Delivering four, ten-week Elklan courses to both internal and external professionals. These courses covered in-depth, specialist strategies, theory and practical activities to promote successful communication of young people with severe and complex learning disabilities.
- Liaising with senior professionals at the Seashell Trust to enhance service improvement and consistently evaluate quality of interventions.
- Participating in service evaluation projects; I have co-presented at national conference Communication Matters and delivered a seminar at Manchester Metropolitan University.
- Writing objective, accurate case notes in a timely manner. Write clear, factual reports and

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provide evidence of consistently appropriate clinical reasoning.

- Carrying out clinical educator duties to support and supervise student Speech and Language Therapists.
- Line management and direct supervision of Band 5 Speech and Language Therapists and Therapy Assistants.
- Liaising with Therapy Assistants, delegating tasks and therapy sessions appropriately to manage time and demands of the caseload in the most efficient manner possible.
- Demonstrating a good understanding of hi-tech AAC systems and the relevant processes involved with local and national commissioners and awareness of funding sources.
- Inputting into target setting and providing specialist contributions to EHC Plan meetings and annual reviews.
- Commitment to continued professional development and attendance at relevant professional networks, conferences and training courses. I was the secretary of the North West Special Schools Clinical Excellence Network for two years.
- Demonstrating an excellent understanding of safeguarding legislation, national practices and government policies (including SEND reforms).
- Promoting awareness of and adherence to clinical guidelines as recommended by the RCSLT and HCPC (Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct).
- Demonstrating strong IT skills; experience using Windows, Microsoft, Apple and a range of AAC software (including Boardmaker online, Grid 3, LAMP).
- Demonstrating excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Working cohesively with the MDT; specifically OTs, physios, nurses, audiologists, social workers, care managers and educational staff.

January 2016- August 2018

Band 5 Speech and Language Therapist at the Seashell Trust

See responsibilities listed above. As a band 5 therapist, I was not responsible for line management of junior staff, more in-depth service evaluation and delivery of presentations at conferences and university.

Sept 2015 –December 2015

Volunteer Speech and Language Therapist at Salford's community-based MDT Adult Learning Disability team.

I worked alongside Psychologists, Social Workers, OTs and Physios with a small number of adults with learning disabilities. My main responsibilities involved the trial and implementation of various hi-tech AAC systems within different residential settings. During this time, I attended specialist Total Communication training and supported local Total Communication co-ordinators to campaign for greater awareness throughout the local community.

Sept 2011- July 2015

Student Speech and Language Therapist at the University of Sheffield.

Clinical placements in a variety of settings. One block placement working within an educational paediatric

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learning disability team. One block placement working within a community SaLT team with adults with learning disabilities. Clinical experience in supporting with difficulties in eating / drinking, two weeks observing videofluoroscopy assessments.

During this time, I also volunteered in mainstream primary schools supporting children with Special Educational Needs to access SaLT interventions.

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