

Nicola Dutton

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL30488

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
registration number: RC0032881



Personal Profile

I am an enthusiastic and highly motivated speech and language therapist whose special areas of interest include Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), complex needs, and the use of adapted LEGO®-based Therapy to develop communicative competence in paediatric AAC users.

Professional Qualifications

2018-Present: (Manchester Metropolitan University) PHD – ‘Understanding the Application and Value of Adapted LEGO®based Therapy in Developing Communicative Competence in Paediatric AAC Users with a Developmental Disability’

2017-2018: (Manchester Metropolitan University) Postgraduate Certificate with Merit in Augmentative and Alternative Communication

2008-2012: (Manchester Metropolitan University)
Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology and Therapy

2012: A Levels in English Language, English Literature, History, Art and Religion and Philosophy

Training

I currently have an article due for publication in the Communication Matters journal in summer 2019 around my PHD research topic.

Training completed

- Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) ATtherapy
- Bricks for Autism - LEGO®-based Therapy training (led by Gina Gomez De La Cuesta)

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- Picture Exchange Communication System training (PECS) - 2 days
- Grid 3 Expert training day
- Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support (SCERTS) training -2 days focusing on assessment
- Intensive Interaction training day (led by Graham Firth)
- Best Practice for Proloquo2Go 4 training session at the ACE Centre
- Makaton training
- Elklan Tutor training (license still held)
- Team-Teach training
- Sensory Integration training
- Clinical Practice Educator training
- CELF-5 training
- Raven's 2 training
- Access and Engagement for Special Education information day (Inclusive technology)
- Revolutionising Assessment and Access with Eye Gaze information day (Inclusive Technology)
- ACE Centre training days on developing high tech communication skills and iPad accessibility
- Safeguarding
- Level 2 The Prevent Duty
- Level 2 Child Neglect
- Mental Wellbeing in Children and Young People

I am a member of the North West AAC and SEN school's clinical excellence networks and have good links with companies including Smartbox, Inclusive Technology and Techcess. I have attended and presented at conferences and SEN meetings including Communication Matters, the British and Irish Orthoptic Society and the Association for Simulated Practice in

Work Experience

July 2019 Starting work with ATtherapy as a band 7 highly specialist speech and language therapist. My caseload will include children with complex needs and autism.

September 2012 – July 2019: Lansbury Bridge School and Sports College
Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Lansbury Bridge is a Local Education Authority funded SEN school for pupils aged 3-16. My

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role as the only in-house therapist entails me managing a caseload of pupils with a range of disabilities including Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, PMLD and other developmental and acquired disabilities.

The majority of my caseload use a total communication approach ranging from no tech to high tech methods of communication, and I enjoy leading AAC assessment teams in considering potentially successful high tech devices for pupils to develop their functional communication further. I provide both 1:1 and group assessment and intervention in my role as well as supporting class teams and parents to facilitate development across both home and school environment.

I regularly run training courses for parents, school staff and agencies such as respite centres, social care teams and student teachers/SALTs. I deliver six accredited Elklan training courses per academic year including Supporting Children and Adults Using AAC, as well as providing informal training sessions on topics including total communication, LEGO®-based Therapy, aided language stimulation, Colourful Semantics and effective communication partners.

I regularly work with other professionals including occupational therapists, physios, social workers, educational psychologists and therapists from the ACE Centre, the local NHS provision and other SEN schools.

January 2019 – Present: Pearson Assessment Psychological Tester – Child and Adult Workforce

As a result of my participation in the CELF-5 standardisation project I was asked to take part in Pearson's latest standardisation project for the Raven's 2 assessment. This includes recruiting participants and collecting and collating data for the standardisation of the updated version of the original assessment.

May 2016 – August 2017: Pearson Assessment UK Standardisation Examiner – Child and Adult Workforce

As a local examiner I recruited participants and collected and collated data for the standardisation of the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (CELF) 5 assessment. This involved assessing young people with the new assessment pack, scoring their completed assessments and returning this data to Pearson.

August 2008 - September 2012: Warrington Disability Partnership Personal Assistant

Whilst studying I took on the role of Personal Assistant to two young people with Autism; supporting them both within their homes and within the wider community. My role involved supporting the young people to access the local community and engage within social groups such as local disability playschemes. Supporting in this way enabled to gain an

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understanding of the challenges many AAC users face in communicating with different people in different environments and in communicating functionally in environments such as the swimming baths where access to preferred methods of communication may be logistically challenging.

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