



Ellie Smith

Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL36523

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists registration number: RC0038162

Personal Profile

I am a dedicated and innovative Speech and Language Therapist with a wide range of experience working with children and young people with complex communication, sensory and health needs. I am extremely knowledgeable and experienced in working with children with autism and their families. Having a younger brother with autism myself, I feel I have first-hand experience of being a family member and also, a professional. I believe my interpersonal skills and solution-focused ideas are my biggest strengths, maintaining a positive outlook whilst facing challenges. I strongly believe in having high aspirations for all of the children, young people and adults I support.

Professional Qualifications

2014-2017 [Leeds Beckett University](#) - BSc Hons Speech and Language Therapy 2:1

2022 Manchester Post Basic Dysphagia Qualification

Employment History

[ATtherapy, Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist](#) · April 2025 - Present

I have just begun my role at ATtherapy which is an independent company providing specialist SaLT and AT support. I am based in Cheshire and am able to work with clients across the North of England. Within my role, I will be offering assessment and intervention to children, young people and adults supporting their communication skills. The support offered is bespoke to each client and we work as a team to identify the most appropriate means for our clients to communicate, including a variety of AAC methods. This includes paper based AAC, midi tech devices and powered communication aids. Our clients at AT therapy are supported to find their easiest way to access communication such as using their eyes, direct access and switch placement.

I work with clients at their homes and at their educational placements. This involves supporting families, carers and educational staff to understand and embed useful communication strategies to enhance the effectiveness of the therapy we provide. Our clients have a variety of skills, and I am able to support individuals that are at different stages of their communication journey from our sensory learners to our proficient AAC users. I am also involved in supporting our clients to have safe and enjoyable mealtimes, providing assessment of eating and drinking skills and creation of guidelines to facilitate this.

[Seashell Trust, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist](#) · 2019 - 2025

My post at Seashell Trust helped me develop and demonstrate many skills. I was involved in managing my own caseload of children with complex communication needs. This involved assessment, planning of intervention and implementation. I have gained experience working with children and young people with a variety of diagnosis including Autism Spectrum Condition, Multi-Sensory Impairment and Down Syndrome. With these children I have enhanced my skills in the assessment and implementation of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems. I have completed training courses in adapted AAC, intensive interaction, social stories and MSI. Within my role, I am experienced working with a variety of professionals and children's families to achieve the best possible outcomes for the children we support. I feel that throughout my time at Seashell, building relationships with others is a skill that has dramatically grown, and I feel my intervention is positively affected by this.

As a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT), I was also involved in the management of others. This has included SaLT assistants and newly qualified SaLT's. I have been able to support therapists with their clinical rationale and decision making, as well as being able to offer warmth and emotional support when needed.

I regularly designed and delivered training to groups of people as part of my role and constantly reflected on how to improve the outcomes of our training and make it as accessible as possible.

[Little Voices Speech and Language Therapy, Specialist Speech and Language Therapist · 2024 - 2025](#)

I began my own private practice as a Speech and Language Therapist in my local area to enable me to build upon additional skills outside of clinical practice. Building my own service has been a valuable learning experience and has supported me in understanding service provision and external offers. Through my own venture, I learnt about marketing, outlining my service offer, financial considerations, record keeping and website developing. These were new skills that I had not yet explored in my career. This venture helped me develop additional confidence in my own practice as a Speech and Language Therapist as this involved working with children with different skills and needs as those I had previously worked with. I was able to develop my knowledge of early years assessment and intervention as well as utilizing my knowledge of speech sound assessment and intervention. My role also involved nursery visits whereby I could coach staff in methods to support the children's communication skills and work upon their targets whilst they were at nursery.

Training

- Social Stories
- Intensive Interaction
- Intervenor
- SignAlong
- Working with and Supporting Pathological Demand Avoidance Children
- Using AAC to Play – ACE Centre
- North West AAC CEN
- MSI CEN
- Communication Matters Conference
- Communication Partner Training – AssistiveWare
- Using Paper Based AAC – ACE Centre
- Raring2Go Management
- Post Basic Dysphagia
- Adapting AAC
- Descriptive Talking with Pre-Literate Children Using AAC
- Autism a Hands on Approach Conference
- Safeguarding Children and Adults
- PROACT-SCIPr Positive Behaviour Support
- Prevent Duty
- Sensory Processing

Additional Skills

My working roles so far in my career have enabled me to experience a wide range of communication disorders and methods to support children and adults with these needs. Working within education, care settings and homes has supported me as a therapist to empathise with barriers in each setting and enabled me to identify solutions to support good communication standards in each of these environments. I see embedding therapeutic intervention as a critical part of my role to ensure that each child, young person or adult has the best possible chance to succeed and reach their highest potential. My training and coaching skills have been key to increasing engagement of the team around each child to ensure that therapy is embedded in their daily lives.

In my career, I have been heavily involved in close MDT working. I have a good understanding of roles and responsibilities within the team around a client and know when to seek support from another professional such as OT, Physio, Assistive Technology, Nursing or QTVI.



ATtherapy

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