Matthew Davidson

Speech and Language Therapist

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL045161

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists registration number: RC0047700

Personal Profile

I am a compassionate and person-centred Speech and Language Therapist committed to helping children, young people and adults to communicate with confidence and pursue their aspirations. I am dedicated to building trusting, collaborative relationships and creating environments where individuals feel safe, understood and supported to develop independent communication. My practice is grounded in evidence-based approaches and enriched by dynamic creative methods that aim to adapt therapy to each person's interests, promoting engagement and active participation in their progress. I believe in a holistic approach focused on working collaboratively with my clients, families, educators and multidisciplinary teams to develop communication goals that reflect a person's strengths, needs, aspirations and lived experiences. I strive to make an impactful difference to my clients' lives by focusing on building richer lives through communication.

Professional Qualifications

Manchester Metropolitan University (2024 - 2026) – MSc Speech and Language Therapy, *Distinction*

Italia Conti Academy (2014 - 2017) – Level 6 Diploma in Musical Theatre, *Distinction*

Employment History

ATtherapy, Speech and Language Therapist · October 2026 - Present

Within my role I work with a mixed paediatric and adult caseload to support clients with communication difficulties following acquired brain injury, this can include supporting clients in accessing and developing skills to use both paper-based and electronic Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) methods. I work with clients in varied community settings and support with providing person centred therapy, including creating personalised therapy sessions to include a client's communication goals, clients' interests and areas of focus following observation and assessment. I complete comprehensive assessments and develop personalised targets and reports which support clients to reach their highest communicative potential. I collaborate with families, teaching staff, case managers, assistive technologists and other healthcare professionals to create a holistic integrated approach for clients.

Makaton Tutor · 2023 - Present

Within my role as a Makaton Tutor, I have delivered Core Vocabulary and Taster Workshops to a range of theatre venues, companies, casts and professionals. My aim has been to raise awareness of the Makaton communication programme and support theatre practitioners to create more accessible and inclusive artistic experiences.

I-ASC Explanatory Model of AAC Decision Making, Manchester Metropolitan University, Assistant · 2026

I supported the redevelopment of the I-ASC website and resources (now ASC for AAC), guided by feedback from AAC users, families, students, academics and professionals. The project aimed to create a more dynamic, accessible and empowering resource that supports collaborative best-practice decision-making for symbol communication aid recommendations, shaped by collective lived experience.

Twinkleboost, Speech and Language Therapy Assistant · 2022 - 2025

I designed and delivered weekly sensory play-based sessions, both groups and 1:1, to support early language development, social communication, SEMH and communication skills for children and young people aged 0–14 and their families. These sessions formed part of a universal and targeted approach to speech and language therapy for individuals experiencing difficulties in accessing mainstream therapy services. I also developed and delivered training for parents, forest school leaders, specialist teachers and teaching assistants on embedding communication strategies through sensory stories or within everyday play.

The Therapeutic Forest, Speech and Language Therapy Assistant · 2023 - 2025

I worked alongside a speech and language therapist to deliver trauma-informed outdoor-based therapy sessions for children (0-5), young adults (13-17) and care home residents (60+). The sessions focused on building social communication, SEMH and AAC skills to support individuals' development and/or regulation, as well as supporting and coaching their communication partner(s).

Climbing Calm, Speech and Language Therapy Assistant · 2023 -2024

In this role, I supported a speech and language therapist to deliver weekly rock-climbing sessions in Manchester. These sessions supported young people aged 7–17 with social communication, SEMH and communication skills.

Theatre Practitioner · 2017 - 2026

I trained in musical theatre and have worked professionally as a performer and theatre practitioner for over 9 years, focusing on meaningful access for individuals with communication differences. This included delivering sensory theatre performances in specialist schools, children's hospices and hospitals. I also supported adults (17-60) with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and communication differences to access theatre as audience members, performers and creatives. This included a research project specifically exploring how AT and AAC can support meaningful access to theatre.

Clinical Placements:

During my time at university, I have gained clinical experience working within both adult and paediatric populations across hospital, clinic, school and community settings. I have supported comprehensive formal and informal assessments, contributed to differential diagnoses and capacity assessments as well as producing detailed reports for and in collaboration with medical professionals, teaching staff and families. My placements have provided me with opportunities to work alongside families and teaching staff to implement speech, language, communication and swallowing strategies as well as delivering therapy sessions. Throughout my placements I have had the joy of working within many different clinical areas including AAC, Autism, ADHD, Attachment, Audiology, Aphasia, Cerebral Palsy, Complex Needs, Dementia, Dysarthria, Early Language Acquisition, Language Development, Multi/Bilingualism, Neurorehabilitation, Paediatric and Adult Dysphagia, PDOC, PMLD, Palliative Care, Stammering, Social Communication, Speech Sounds Disorders, Tracheostomy and Voice.

Training

- Communication Matters Conference, Sept 2025 and 2026
- Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) Workshop, 2025, Liberator Ltd
- The Super Sensory Lexiconary, 2025, Jo Grace
- The Certificate in Therapeutic Skills for Outdoor Leaders, 2024, The Therapeutic Forest CIC
- Makaton Levels 1-4 and Tutor Training, 2023, The Makaton Charity