



Tiffany O'Donnell

Speech and Language Therapy Assistant

Personal Profile

I have many years of experience working as a teaching assistant in a special educational needs school. I have supported young people of all ages and with a range of learning abilities.

During my role working as a teaching assistant, my focus was embedding Speech Therapy targets set for young people I was working with, into their daily routine. I have always been focused on giving young people the opportunity and chance to communicate.

In 2022, I became a communication lead for the school, alongside working as a teaching assistant. I was able to work with the NHS Speech Therapists, support staff to use Augmentative and Alternative Communication equipment and audit the school environment to keep it communication friendly for the young people.

I will always look towards building a good and positive relationship with the young people and adults I work with.

Professional Qualifications

Warrington Collegiate – Children's Learning and Development, Level 3 Qualification

Sign Supported English Language – Level 1

Work experience

ATtherapy – Speech and Language Therapy Assistant · April 2023 - Present

I currently work as a Speech and Language Therapy Assistant at ATtherapy. In this role I:

- Assist young people and adults with a range of learning abilities.
- Implement Speech and Language Therapy aims into sessions to achieve outcomes with clients.
- Use varied access methods such as Eye Gaze, Wobble Switch, Smoothie Switch.
- Prepare and create resources for therapy sessions.
- Provide feedback on sessions to Speech and Language Therapists.

Teaching Assistant, Level 3 (SEN) · 2013-2023

I worked as a teaching assistant for nearly 10 years. I had the opportunity to work with young people in EYFS to Year 9 students. In this role I:

- Assisted young people with a range of learning abilities, including ASC, ADHD, SEMH, VI and PMLD.
- Helped teachers with lesson plan development, class preparation and student mentoring.
- Assisted students to reach social development milestones.
- Prepared additional learning resources and aids such as communication boards to promote inclusivity in learning.
- Attended Speech and Language Therapy sessions to support individual pupils.
- Supported teachers in managing challenging behaviour, contributing to multi-disciplinary meetings to provide feedback, raise concerns and recommend appropriate action.

Communication Lead (SEN) · 2022-2023

I was a communication lead for 1 year in the SEN school I worked at as a teaching assistant. I was both a teaching assistant and a communication lead in a week. In this role I:

- Worked with colleagues, NHS Speech and Language Therapy team and other professionals to coordinate a consistent communication approach throughout the school.
- Supported colleagues with creating and implementing AAC equipment.
- Maintained files in both electronic and hard copies.
- Created AAC resource packs for parents.
- Audited AAC equipment.
- Audited the school on environmental walks with an ASC Lead.
- Held communication meetings to improve AAC around the school.
- Created resources for colleagues such as vocabulary mats, symbols, picture cards, and colourful semantics.
- Supported the NHS Speech and Language Therapy team with High Tech AAC devices.
- Assisted colleagues with all AAC devices such as; BIGmack, communication boards and switches.
- Recording of SaLT referrals and reports.

Training

- Grid 3
- Widgit Online
- Boardmaker Editor/Student Centre
- Attention Autism
- Proloquo2Go
- AAC Building Blocks
- ATtraining - webinars
- Access Methods: Eye Gaze
- Access Methods: Voice

Areas of Interest

I am highly driven and strive to have the opportunity for continuing my professional development.

Whilst working as a communication lead, I realised how passionate I was about giving young people the opportunity to communicate, so I decided I want to become a Speech and Language Therapy Assistant. This job role will allow me to continue supporting young people and adults with communication difficulties and expand my knowledge as I do so. I look forward to working with and supporting all my clients.

ATtherapy

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