

# Charlie van der Stap

Speech and Language Therapist

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL043434

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists registration number: RC0041000

#### **Personal Profile**

I am a passionate and highly motivated Speech and Language Therapist who is dedicated to supporting my clients to achieve the best of their abilities. I adopt a patient-centred approach in my practice, placing the individual at the heart of every decision and intervention. This means tailoring therapy to each client's unique strengths, needs, preferences, and goals. In my therapy, I prioritise supportive and respectful therapeutic relationships, aiming to create an environment where clients feel heard, valued, and actively involved in their own progress. By fostering collaboration, promoting independence, and celebrating each milestone, I strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those I work with, helping them communicate with confidence and thrive in their everyday life.

### **Professional Qualifications**

September 2022 – July 2025: Manchester Metropolitan University - Speech and Language Therapy Bsci – First Class

### **Employment History**

#### ATtherapy, Speech and Language Therapist · July 2025 to present

In this role, I work alongside multidisciplinary teams and senior therapists to support clients in accessing learning and communication. The role involves creating personalised therapy plans and writing comprehensive reports that reflect each client's unique strengths and interests.

Key responsibilities include:

- Developing and implementing personalised therapy plans that reflect the client's communication goals, cognitive profile, and personal interests
- Conducting detailed assessments and writing comprehensive reports that inform clinical decision-making and support funding applications
- Supporting clients across a range of settings—including homes, schools, and community environments—to ensure therapy is functional and meaningful
- Collaborating with families, educators, case managers, and other professionals to ensure a holistic and consistent approach to intervention

My therapy prioritises effective communication through the joint exploration of my client's preferences and strengths. As leading specialists in Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC), ATtherapy supports access to a range of communication tools, equipment and strategies. I strive to take into consideration the wider factors of a person's life, ensuring that clients are supported in their communication throughout settings and situations in their life.

# Voyage Care (Reading), Support Worker · December 2019 to January 2021

In this role I assisted service users with their daily needs including self-care, and recreation. In a leadership role, I managed a team of up to four carers. My training supported me to support clients with multiple and varied needs, including dysphagia. This role taught me valuable skills in caring for individuals with complex needs, including utilising alternative communication styles, providing medication and effectively using a hoist.

Mayfair Community Centre - Church Stretton, Volunteer Worker · September 2018 to September 2019 In this role I volunteered in several areas including the café, 44B's, and the creche.

- The 44B's is a supportive and fun group for individuals with learning disabilities. I supported individuals with recreational activities like cooking and computer skills.

- In the creche I provided childcare and helped to maintain the space.
- In the café I supported food preparation for customers with a range of eating requirements.

# **Shadowing and Placement**

# The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, May 2024 - June 2024

In this role I developed my knowledge of dysphagia and the impacts of Head and Neck cancer. I observed several videofluroscopic clinics, took a lead role in client interaction during AHP clinic and provided client feedback. In a personal project, I created patient information leaflets for IDDSI guideline and understanding taste changes. Finally, I created an audit for the hospital's restaurant, working with catering staff to ensure that IDDSI guidelines were upheld.

## Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, June 2023

In this role, I shadowed SLTs in joint dysphagia and communication assessments and attended a neuro-rehabilitation MDT meeting where I was commended for my input.

### Barts Health NHS Trust, November 2018 to October 2019 (intermittent)

In this role I shadowed a senior SLT in paediatric and neonatal wards. I volunteered during the AHP day and Kangaroo Care Day, promoting skin-to-skin contact. I also attended an SLT training day and Dental Hygiene training

### **Areas of Interest**

I have a great personal interest in neuroscience and brain injuries, looking to continue expanding my knowledge and skills within this field. When working with clients who have sustained brain injuries, I will learn how clients are affected by their injury, looking to adapt my therapy to adapted specifically for that person, incorporating emotional, sensory and physical needs into therapy, since brain injuries often have wide impacts beyond communication and swallowing.

I also have a deep interest in dysphagia and find it greatly rewarding to work with and support clients with altered swallowing. Eating and drinking are greatly social activities, and I hope to undertake my dysphagia training and build my skills in this area to support clients to experience increased quality of life and enjoyment of tasting if desired by the client.

# **Additional Skills**

I am a creative and active person who loves drawing, painting, and creating. I speak English and Dutch and wish to learn Makaton and British Sign Language. In my spare time I enjoy dancing and am a very energetic person.

In my practice I strive to display reflective skills, constantly developing my practice, knowledge and approach to practice. I use evidence-based learning, ensuring the work I do is supported by the latest research and will continue developing this to stay up to date with the latest research.

Within previous roles I have been commended for my interpersonal skills and strive to develop good working relationships with my client, their families and the wider multidisciplinary teams.

# <u>ATtherapy</u>

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