



Rachel Edwards

Speech and Language Therapy Assistant

Personal Profile

I am a highly motivated and driven individual who has worked with young people who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology (AT) since 2016. I strive to continue to develop my skills and knowledge to be the best speech and language therapy assistant that I can be.

Professional Qualifications

Bangor University: 2012- 2015 – BA Childhood Studies- 2nd Class.

In addition to my core modules, I studied and researched further into PMLD, Autism and the importance of communication within an array of educational settings. I was also the course representative in my second and third year, I attended regular meetings with the director of education, course director and tutors. Along with this I was also a course mentor, where I supported current and new students. Whilst in my final year, I volunteered in Romania through a charity called Teams4u, where I went to 3 different villages to provide literacy and wellbeing support.

Deeside College: 2010- 2012 – BTEC National Diploma Level 3 in Childcare, Learning and Development- MMP

Employment History

ATtherapy, Speech and Language Therapist Assistant · July 2021 - Present

I deliver regular face to face, remote and community sessions to support the clients under the direction of the lead speech and language therapist. Alongside sessions I edit programmes and create resources to be accessible and client centred. Have regular contact with multidisciplinary teams to build richer lives through communication.

Saint David's High School, Learning Support Assistant · September 2016 – July 2021

In this role, I supported pupils who had Cerebral Palsy and communicated through an AAC system and individuals with acquired brain injuries (ABI). My duties included, assisting around the school and classrooms, attending multidisciplinary team meetings, writing risk assessments including personal emergency evacuation plans, policies and procedures for inclusive practice and providing differentiation within the curriculum to eradicate barriers.

Diagnosing and fixing software and equipment malfunctions. I worked closely with several external agencies which included speech and language therapists.

National Autistic Society, Support Worker · January 2016 - July 2016

I supported individuals who all had a diagnosis of Autism and other learning difficulties. I assisted them with daily tasks such as, personal care, cooking, cleaning, finances, medication, accessing the community and education.

Two of the young adults I supported had communication devices, one accessed this via a switch and one through a pointer. I encouraged them to use their devices and ensured that they were set up correctly whilst providing support in fixing problems when they arose. Complying with all policies and procedures, I ensured that all paperwork was accurate and completed for handovers. This was essential so the transition of staff never affected the individuals we were supporting.

Excell Supply, Teaching Assistant · May 2014 - January 2016

I worked throughout the counties of Flintshire and Wrexham, within a range of educational settings. Placements varied from one day supply to long term, often working with statemented individual pupils.

Childline, Counsellor - October 2013 – June 2014

I completed a 6-month training course to become a counsellor for Child Line. I developed the skills needed to offer comfort, support and practical advice to the children and young people who contacted the service via online chat and telephone. The training was extensive and continued throughout, this was to adhere to the NSPCC policies and to provide up to date information for each young person who made contact.

Training

- Talking Mats training- 2nd September 2022 and 12th October 2022
- Brick by Brick Programme (Play Included) - 16th August 2022
- Makaton - Beginners, Level 1 and 2, Revisit Taster- September 2021
- Paediatric First Aid- 2-day training- November 2019
- National Autistic Society- Full Autism training 2015 - 2016
- Safeguarding Adults- 24th May 2022
- Safeguarding Children- 30th May 2022
- Welsh speaker- GCSE- 2010 and Welsh language Teaching Assistant qualification – 2012

Additional Skills

- Brass Musician- I have previously run workshops, sessions and tutored in the local mainstream and specialist primary schools. I have seen firsthand how music can help develop many skills such as turn taking, social skills, regulate breathing, behaviour, and communication.
- Passionate about ensuring that all reach their communicative potential.

ATtherapy

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